

Condensed Rules of Soccer for the AYSO Region 803 / Spring 2025

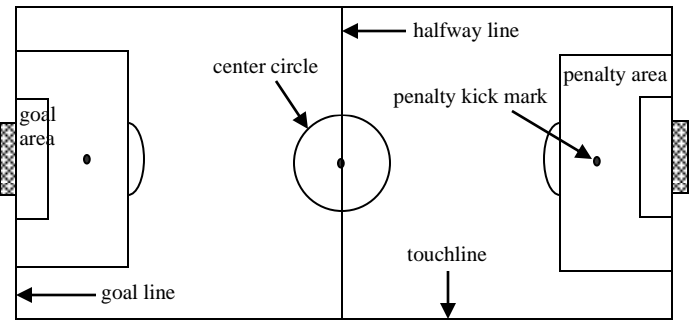
1. FIELD OF PLAY (see diagram)

2. THE BALL

Size 5	U14 & up
Size 4	U9 thru U12
Size 3	U8 & below

3. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

U6	4 per side , no goalkeeper, no referee.
U7&U8	5 per side , no goalkeeper.
U9&U10	7 per side which includes a goalkeeper
U11&U12	9 per side which includes a goalkeeper
U14 & up	11 per side which includes a goalkeeper.



4. PLAYER UNIFORMS

Uniform will consist of a jersey, shorts, socks, shin guards (covered by socks), and footwear. The player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player (jewelry, casts, improper footwear). The goalkeeper shall wear colors that distinguish him/her from the other players and from the referee. Casts (hard or soft) are not allowed in either games or practice.

5. REFEREES

One referee shall be appointed to officiate each match for ages U8 and older. The referee is responsible for control of the game and his/her decisions are final. Registered parents who have taken the referee/linesperson clinic will be asked to act as referee on the field if an official referee is not available.

6. LINEPERSONS

Two linespersons assist the referee by indicating when the ball leaves the field of play and, in such circumstances, which team is entitled to the ball. For most league games, one linesperson is to be provided by each team from parent volunteers.

7. DURATION OF THE GAME

The duration of the game shall be two equal periods of time as shown in the following table, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the referee and both coaches. At halftime, the interval shall not exceed five minutes except by consent of the referee. Quarter breaks will be called at U10 and younger age groups. For U12 and up, quarter breaks will be called if desired and agreed upon by the referee and both coaches.

U14 & Up	35 minute halves	U7 & U8	10 minute quarters
U11 & U12	30 minute halves	U6	7.5 minute quarters
U9 & U10	12.5 minute quarters		

8. THE START OF PLAY

A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal to attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick-off to start the match. Each team must stay on its own half of the field and the defending players must remain outside the center circle until the ball is touched and moves forward. The player that takes the kick-off may not touch the ball a second time until another player touches it first (violation results in an indirect free kick from the spot of the second touch). A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off for ages where this is a goal keeper. After halftime the teams change ends and attack opposite goals. The team that won the opening coin toss takes the kick-off to start the second half.

9. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball is out of play when: (a) the entire ball has crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air, or (b) when the game has been stopped by the referee.

10. METHOD OF SCORING

A goal is scored when the entire ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar. Play is restarted with a kick-off awarded to the non-scoring team.

11. OFFSIDE

Offside position and offside are not the same. A player is in an offside position if they are nearer to their opponent's goal line than the ball, unless (a) they are on their own half of the field, or (b) there are at least two opponents between them and the opponent's goal line.

A player shall only be declared offside if, *at the moment the ball touches one of their teammates*, they are in an offside position, and in the opinion of the referee, (a) they are interfering with play or an opponent, or (b) seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position. A player satisfying neither condition will not be called for offside, even if that player is in an offside position.

An indirect free kick is awarded at the spot of the offside player when the ball was played. There is no offside on a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.

In U10 and below, offside will not be called in AYSO REGION 803 Soccer.

12. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

A "penal" foul is called against a player who (1) kicks or attempts to kick, (2) trips or attempts to trip, (3) strikes or attempts to strike, (4) jumps at, (5) charges, (6) spits at, (7) holds, (8) pushes, (9) tackles by contacting the player before the ball, or (10) intentionally handles the ball. A direct free kick is awarded at the spot of the foul. Penal fouls awarded against the defending team in its own penalty area result in a penalty kick. Less flagrant, or "non-penal", fouls such as dangerous play, offside, obstruction, or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick at the spot of the foul.

Charging a goalkeeper in his/her penalty area is not permitted, nor is any contact with the goalkeeper when he/she is holding or has hand contact with the ball. The goalkeeper shall not be interfered with while attempting to put the ball into play. The goalkeeper has 6 seconds with which to put the ball into play (there is no restriction on the number of “steps”). Upon releasing the ball, goalkeepers may not use their hands again until some other player touches the ball. Goalkeepers may not use their hands if the ball is intentionally kicked or thrown to him/her by a teammate. Violations of any of these rules result in an indirect free kick awarded to the appropriate team.

13. FREE KICKS

Free kicks are of two types: “direct” from which a goal can be scored directly, and “indirect” from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by some player other than the kicker before entering the goal. The referee indicates an indirect free kick by holding a hand in the air until a player other than the kicker has touched the ball. The player taking any free kick cannot play the ball a second time until another player has first touched it. For all free kicks, players of the defending team must remain at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked, except that defenders can stand on their own goal line within the goal area for indirect free kicks awarded in the penalty area.

In U10 and below, all free kicks resulting from a foul (i.e. excludes goal kick, corner kick, and kick-off) will be direct, but we will not award penalty kicks inside the penalty area. The ball is to be moved to the closest point outside of the penalty area.

14. PENALTY KICKS

A foul for which a direct free kick is awarded inside the penalty area for U12 and older shall result in a penalty kick to be taken from the penalty mark. All players except the player taking the kick and the goalkeeper must stay outside the penalty area and penalty arc and behind the penalty mark until the ball is kicked forward.

15. THROW-INS

When the entire ball passes over the touch line, it is put back into play by a player of the opposite team from the one that last touched it before it went out of play. The throw-in is taken from the spot where it went out. The player taking the throw-in must use both hands to deliver the ball from over or behind the head and have some part of each foot on the ground and on or behind the touch line. The ball is in play when it is released, and any portion of the ball is on or over the touch line. If a player fails to perform the throw-in correctly, the other team is awarded the throw-in. In U8 and below, referees may use discretion to allow limited “do-overs” to teach proper technique.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in (a violation results in a goal kick). A throw-in to the goalkeeper of the team in possession of the ball may not be played with the hands (a violation results in an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the foul). Another player must touch the ball before the “thrower” can play the ball a second time (a violation results in an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the foul). There is no offside on a throw-in.

16. GOAL KICK

When the entire ball passes over the goal line after last being touched by a player of the attacking team, it is put back into play by the defending team by a direct kick from anywhere in the goal area. Defenders are free to stand inside the box with the keeper. All players from the attacking team must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is kicked and clearly moves. There is no offside on a goal kick. Use the build out line where available.

17. CORNER KICK

When the entire ball passes over the goal line after last being touched by a player of the defending team, it is put back into play by the attacking team by a direct kick from the corner of the field on the side of which the ball went out. The ball is in play when it is touched. There is no offside on a corner kick.

ADDITIONAL AYSO REGION 803 RULES AND CONSIDERATIONS

SUBSTITUTION RULE: AYSO REGION 803 will allow “free substitutions” throughout the game. Following AYSO guidelines, all players will still play a minimum of 2 quarters of the game. U10 and younger groups are encouraged to substitute at quarters only. Every player shall sit out one quarter before any player sits out a second quarter. Recap of free substitution rule: Either team may substitute between periods, on goal kick, on goal scored, on cautioned player, on player disqualification (but disqualified player is NOT replaced). Only team with possession of the ball may substitute on throw-in or corner kick.

COACHES ON FIELD: AYSO REGION 803 will allow one coach from each team on the field for U6 and younger divisions. That coach may not carry a clipboard or anything else that might present a safety hazard to players. No coaches on field for U8 and older

NO SLIDE TACKLING U10 AND YOUNGER TEAMS! Players on teams U10 and younger are not allowed to slide tackle during games or practices. Slide tackling consists of a player leaving their feet to slide at the ball in the vicinity of an opposing player. This is a dangerous practice that may cause injury. Coaches are to remind a player that this is not allowed if it occurs and referees may whistle an infraction and award the other team an indirect free kick.

IF ONE TEAM IS SHORT ON PLAYERS at game time, the opposing team may play one player more than the team that is short.

FOUL WEATHER POLICY: Only the referee (or coach if no referee is present) on the field at game time can cancel a game. Games must be canceled if spectators, coaches, or players see lightening, or if the sirens go off. In case of extensive rain resulting in poor field conditions, the Regional Commissioner may cancel games. Check our web site www.ayso803.org for cancellation information. Coaches will also be notified via email in the event of cancellation.

OTHER GAME CANCELLATIONS: Coaches, by mutual agreement, may cancel games not less than 48 hours prior to game time. *The scheduling coordinator must be contacted at least 48 hours prior to the game so the referee can also be notified.*