



**SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE LAWS OF THE GAME**  
**MODIFIED FIFA RULES** 08/23/00

**LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY**

**FIFA:** Must be rectangular  
Length: minimum = 100yds, maximum = 130 yds  
Width: minimum = 50 yds, maximum = 100 yds

**S.S.I. :** As per FIFA  
Modified according to age group and available space

**LAW II – THE BALL**

**FIFA:** Must be: spherical  
Be made of leather or other suitable material  
Of a circumference of not more than 28 in. and not less than 27 in.  
Not more than 16 oz., Nor less than 14 oz.

**S.S.I:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under uses a # 4 ball  
7<sup>th</sup> grade and older uses a # 5 ball  
Home team supplies the game ball

**LAW III – NUMBER OF PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

**FIFA:** Maximum number of players on the field is 11  
Minimum number of players required for a match is 7  
Up to a maximum of 3 substitutes may be used  
When a player is substituted for; he becomes ineligible to reenter the match

**S.S.I:** Maximum number of players for a scrimmage:

- 11v11                      11
- 9v9                            9
- 8v8                            8



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Minimum number of players for a scrimmage:

- Teams must play match (even up)
- The only exception is when a player is red-carded and there are no substitutions.

**Substitutions**

A player may be substituted for on any dead ball with permission of the referee. That player remains a player and may be substituted for any other player.

**LAW IV – THE PLAYERS EQUIPMENT**

**FIFA:**

A jersey or shirt

Shorts – If thermals are worn, they must be the same color as the shorts

Stockings

Shin-guards – Must be covered entirely by the stockings

Are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, etc.)

Provide a reasonable degree of protection

Goalkeepers – Must wear colors, which distinguish him from the other players,

The referee and the assistant referee.

**S.S.I:**

As per FIFA

Uniform shirt should be numbered

Goalie helmets and soccer shoes are optional

Baseball and football cleats are not acceptable

\*No player may play while wearing any type of cast, even if it is covered.

\*Players may not wear any jewelry during a match. Earrings **MUST** be removed, They cannot be taped over. This is an insurance requirement, failure to follow this rule may result in cancellation of a players insurance.



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**LAW V – THE REFEREE**

**FIFA:** Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the “Laws of the Game”  
In connection with the match to which he has been appointed.  
The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.  
The referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or, at his discretion, on the advice of an assistant referee, provided he has not restarted play.

**S.S.I.:** Modified as per FIFA  
Home team supplies two (2) referees (whenever possible)  
They must be at least three (3) years older than the players.

**LAW VI – ASSISTANT REFEREES**

**FIFA:** Two (2) assistant referees are appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee  
Are to indicate:

- When the whole of the ball has passed out of the field of play
- Which side is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw – in
- When a player may be penalized for being in an offside position
  
- When a substitution is requested
- When misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee

**S.S.I.:** Modified as per FIFA

- Each team must supply a linesperson, especially when there is only one referee
- They are to indicate when the whole of the ball has passed out of the field of play
- They are not to indicate direction unless otherwise asked by the referee
- They do not indicate entitlement of a corner kick or goal kick
- They do not indicate offside
- They do not indicate substitutions
- They do not indicate misconduct or any other incidents



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### **LAW VII – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH**

**FIFA:** The match lasts two equal periods of 45 minutes, unless mutually agreed between the referee and the two participating teams. Any agreement to alter the periods of play must be made before the start of play and must comply with competition rules.

The half-time interval must not exceed 15 minutes.

Allowance is made in either period for all time lost through:

- Substitutions
- Assessment of injury to players
- Removal of injured players from field of play
- Wasting time
- Any other cause

**S.S.I.:** Modified as per FIFA

The match shall last two equal periods as follows:

- Two (2) 25 minute halves for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger
- Two (2) 30 minute halves for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Two (2) 35 minute halves for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older

The half-time interval shall not exceed five (5) minutes

All games must start and end on time

Game clocks will **NOT** stop for any reason; the scrimmage will be shortened to two equal Halves (where possible).

### **LAW VIII – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY**

**FIFA:** A coin is tossed and the team, which wins the toss, decides which goal it will attack in the first half of play.

The other team takes the kick-off to start the match

The team, which wins the toss, takes the kick-off to start the second half

In the second half of the match, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals

#### **KICK-OFF**

A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play:

- At the start of the match
- After a goal has been scored
- At the start of the second half of the match
- At the start of each period of extra time, where applicable

A goal may be scored directly from a kick-off

A player may not play the ball before a second player has touched it on a kick-off



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### **DROPPED BALL**

A dropped ball is a way of restarting the match after a temporary stoppage in play – such as for an injury or issuance of a warning to a player by the referee.

**S.S.I.:** Modified as per FIFA

There are no extra periods of play. If a scrimmage ends in a tie, that is how it will stand.

## **LAW IX – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

### **FIFA:** The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line whether on the ground or in the air
- Play has been stopped by the referee

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

- It rebounds from a goalpost, crossbar or corner flag and remains in the field of play
- It rebounds from either the referee or an assistant referee when they are on the field of play

**S.S.I.:** As per FIFA

## **LAW X – THE METHOD OF SCORING**

### **FIFA:** Goal scored

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the “LAWS OF THE GAME” has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

Winning team

The team scoring the greater number of goals during the match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals, or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

**S.S.I.:** Modified as per FIFA

There is a five (5) goal differential rule being enforced. Violations will be reported to both club coordinators and the league coordinator. The offending team could be suspended indefinitely.



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**LAW XI – OFFSIDE**

**FIFA: Offside position**

It is not an offence to be in the offside position.

A player is in the offside position if:

- He is nearer to his opponents goal line than both the ball and the second last defender

A player is not in an offside position if:

- He is in his own half of the field of play
- He is level with the second last opponent
- He is level with the last two opponents

**Offence**

A player in an offside position is penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

- Interfering with play
- Interfering with an opponent
- Gaining an advantage by being in that position

**No offence**

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- A goal kick
- A throw-in
- A corner kick

**Infringements/Sanctions**

For any offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infraction occurred.

**S.S.I** – As per FIFA



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**LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

**FIFA: Fouls and misconduct are penalized as follows:**

**Direct free kick**

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following four offences:

- Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.
- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

A direct free kick is taken from where the offence occurred

**Penalty kick**

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above ten offences is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball provided it is in play.

**Indirect free kick**

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, commits any of the following three offences:

- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offences:

- Takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands, before releasing it from his possession.
- Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player.
- Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
- Touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate.
- Wastes time.

The indirect free kick is taken where the offence occurred.



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### **Disciplinary Sanctions**

#### **Cautionable Offences**

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- Is guilty of unsporting behavior
- Shows dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Delays the restart of play.
- Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick.
- Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.

#### **SENDING-OFF OFFENCES**

A player is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- Is guilty of serious foul play
- Is guilty of violent conduct
- Spits at an opponent or any other person
- Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the players goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
- Receives a second caution in the same match

#### **S.S.I.** Modified as per FIFA

A red card is an automatic Two game suspension. Enforcement is the next two scrimmages.

The carded player can be substituted for while the game is still being played.

The referee must file a report with both the league coordinator and the home club's director of referees.

The team playing the red carded player's team next, must be called and told about this player by both teams.

**Fighting** by players will result in an automatic suspension from the league

**Fighting** by adults will result in an automatic suspension for the **whole team**

Slide tackling is not permissible and should be considered a dangerous play

If a player is shown a yellow card, he/she must leave the field for at ***least 5 minutes*** (coach's discretion) and can be substituted for immediately.



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### **LAW XIII – FREE KICKS**

#### **FIFA:** Types of free kicks

Free kicks can be either direct or indirect

For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker does not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.

#### **The Direct Free Kick**

- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents goal, a goal is awarded
- If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

#### **The Indirect Free Kick**

##### ***Signal***

The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising his arm above his head. He maintains his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

##### ***Ball Enters the Goal***

A goal can be scored only if the ball subsequently touches another player before it enters the goal.

- If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents goal, a goal kick is awarded
- If an indirect free kick is kicked into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

#### **Position of Free Kick**

##### ***Free kick inside the penalty area***

##### **Direct or indirect free kick to the defending team:**

- All opponents are at least 10 yds from the ball
- All opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area
- A free kick awarded in the goal area is taken from any point inside that area

##### **Indirect free kick to the attacking team**

- All opponents are at least 10 yds from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- An indirect free kick awarded inside the goal area is taken from the part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point to where the infringement occurred



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#### **Free kick outside the penalty area**

- All opponents are at least 10 yds from the ball until it is in play
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- The free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred

#### **INFRINGEMENTS/SANCTIONS**

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer than the required distance:

- The kick is re-taken

If, when the kick is taken by the defending team from inside its own penalty area, the ball is not kicked directly into play:

- The kick is re-taken

#### ***Free kick taken by a player other than the goalkeeper***

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it touches another player:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken where the infringement occurred

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

#### ***Free kick taken by the goalkeeper***

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball a second time (except with his hands), before it has touched another player:

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken where the infringement occurred

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it touches another player:

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred outside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken where the infringement occurred
- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place the infringement occurred



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### **S.S.I.** Modified as per FIFA

An indirect free kick will be awarded against a player for slide tackling an opponent (non contact)

A direct free kick will be awarded against a player for slide tackling an opponent (if Contact is made). This is a yellow card offence, or at the referees discretion he may issue a red card.

A goalkeeper shall not be considered to be slide tackling if he is challenging an opposing player for the ball (as in a breakaway)

### **LAW XIV – THE PENALTY KICK**

**FIFA:** A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the ten offences for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside it's own penalty area and while the ball is in play

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of periods of extra time.

#### **Position of the ball and the players**

##### **The ball:**

- Is placed on the penalty mark

##### **The player taking the penalty kick**

- Is properly identified

##### **The defending goalkeeper**

- Remains on his goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked

##### **The players other than the kicker are located:**

- Inside the field of play
- Outside the penalty area
- Behind the penalty mark
- At least 10 yds from the penalty mark

##### **The Referee**

- Does not signal for a penalty kick to be taken until the players have taken up position in accordance with the Law
- Decides when a penalty kick has been completed



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#### **Procedure**

- The player taking the penalty kicks the ball forward
- He does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward

When a penalty kick is taken during the normal course of play, or time has been extended at half-time or full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken or retaken, a goal is awarded if, before passing between the goalposts and under the crossbar:

- The ball touches either or both of the goalposts and/or the crossbar, and/or the goalkeeper

#### **Infringement/ Sanctions**

*If the referee gives the signal for a penalty kick to be taken and, before the ball is in play, one of the following situations occurs:*

#### **The player taking the penalty kick infringes on the Laws of the Game:**

- The referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is not retaken

#### **The goalkeeper infringes the Laws of the Game:**

- The referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken

#### **A team-mate of the player taking the kick enters the penalty area or moves in front of or within 10 yds of the penalty mark:**

- The referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is not retaken

#### **A team-mate of the goalkeeper enters the penalty area or moves in front of or within 10 yds of the penalty mark:**

- The referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken



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**A player of both the defending team and the attacking team infringe the Laws of the Game:**

- The kick is retaken

*If after the penalty kick has been taken:*

**The kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:**

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

**The kicker deliberately handles the ball before it touches another player:**

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick is taken where the infringement occurred

**The ball is touched by an outside agent as it moves forward:**

- The kick is retaken

**The ball rebounds into the field of play from the goalkeeper, the crossbar or the goalposts, and is then touched by an outside agent:**

- The referee stops play
- Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where it touched the outside agent

**S.S.I.** As per FIFA

**LAW XVI – THE GOAL KICK**

**FIFA:** A goal kick is a method of restarting play

A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team

**A goal kick is awarded when:**

- The whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10

**Procedure**

- The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- Opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- The kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area



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**Infringements/Sanctions**

**If the ball is not kicked directly into play the penalty area:**

- The kick is retaken

***Goal kick taken by a player other than the goalkeeper***

**If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:**

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

**If after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:**

- A direct free kick is awarded the opposing team, the kick to be taken where the infringement occurred
- A penalty kick is awarded if the infringement occurred inside the kicker's penalty area

***Goal kick taken by the goalkeeper***

**If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:**

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

**If after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:**

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred outside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place the infringement occurred
- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

**For any other infringement of this Law:**

- The kick is retaken

**S.S.I.:** As per FIFA



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**LAW XVII – THE CORNER KICK**

**FIFA:** A corner kick is a method of restarting play

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team

**A corner kick is awarded when:**

- The whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 10

**Procedure**

- The ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner flagpost
- The corner flagpost is not moved
- Opponents remain at least 10 yds from the ball until it is played
- The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and it moves
- The kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player

**Infringements/Sanctions**

*Corner kick taken by a player other than the goalkeeper*

**If after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time (except with his hands), before it has touched another player:**

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

**If after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:**

- A direct free kick is awarded the opposing team, the kick to be taken where the infringement occurred
- A penalty kick is awarded if the infringement occurred inside the kicker's penalty area

*Corner kick taken by the goalkeeper*

**If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball a second time (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:**

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred



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**If after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:**

- A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred outside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place the infringement occurred
- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

**For any other infringement of this Law:**

- The kick is retaken

**S.S.I.:** As per FIFA

### **ADDITIONAL SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE RULES**

#### **INJURIES:**

- If any hurt player is hurt in these scrimmages, the referee **MUST** stop play.
- The injured player must leave the field. (No exceptions!) They can be substituted for immediately.
- Play is restarted with a dropped ball.
- The injured player may come back to play on the next dead ball, with the referee's permission.
- The clock does not stop for injury time.

#### **PROTESTS:**

- These are scheduled scrimmages and no protest will be entertained.

#### **TEAM ETTIQUETTE:**

- Teams, along with their spectators must occupy opposite sidelines
- Coaches are responsible for their spectator's behavior
- Visiting teams will call the home team to verify field location and directions, game time and color of shirts. Note: call should be made at least 48 hours before game time.
- Home team coaches are responsible for canceling scrimmage because of bad weather. Coaches must notify all necessary game officials, other coach and referee at least two (2) hours before game time
- All teams must play all scheduled games listed. No exceptions! Any rainouts and make-ups are to be made up.
- Any problems are to be handled through your club's coordinator