

SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE LAWS OF THE GAME
MODIFIED FIFA RULES **9/01/16**

Friday, September 2, 2016

LAW I – THE FIELD OF PLAY

- FIFA:** The field of play must be rectangular.
The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line.
Length: minimum = 100yds, maximum = 130 yds
Width: minimum = 50 yds, maximum = 100 yds
- SSI:** Field size can be modified according to age group and available space.

LAW II – THE BALL

- FIFA:** Must be spherical, made of leather or other suitable material, and of a circumference of not more than 28 inches and not less than 27 inches. Must weigh no more than 16 oz., nor less than 14 oz and be of a pressure ranging from 8.5 lbs/sq in to 15.6 lbs/sq in at sea level.
The ball may not be changed during the match without the authority of the referee.
- SSI:** U7 - U12 Use a #4 ball.
 U13 and older Use a #5 ball.
- Home team supplies the game ball.

LAW III – THE 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.
- SSI:** Maximum number of players for a match:
- | | |
|------------|----------|
| U7 TO U10 | 7 V 7 |
| U11 & U12 | 9 v. 9 |
| U13 TO U26 | 11 v. 11 |

If a team is short of players, teams must play match (that is, both teams must field the same number of players).

The only exception is when a player is red-carded and his team has no substitutes.

Substitutions may be by both teams without possession of the ball when the referee give you permission:

Out of bounds ball by either team; dead ball foul;

Substitution will be unlimited with referee's permission.

If a substitution is being made due to injury, both teams may substitute other players, with the referee's permission.

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LAW IV – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

FIFA: A jersey or shirt must be worn.
Shorts – If thermals are worn, they must be the same color as the shorts.
Shin-guards – Must be covered entirely by stockings.
 Are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, etc.).
 Must provide a reasonable degree of protection.
Goalkeepers – Must wear colors which distinguish him from the other players,
 the referee and the assistant referee.

SSI: As per FIFA, modified as follows.
These SSI rules must be strictly adhered to **due to insurance requirements**.
No exceptions.

- Players may not wear anything that, in the opinion of the referee, may cause injury to themselves or to other players.
- All players must wear shin guards that are fully covered by socks.
- **Players may not wear any jewelry.**
- Players may not wear hard clips in their hair.
- **Earrings covered by tape are not acceptable.**
- **Official Medical bracelets are allowed.**
- No player may play while wearing any type of hard cast, even if covered.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn. Soccer shoes, while recommended, are optional. Goalie helmets are optional.
- SSI recommends that uniform shirts be numbered, for player identification.
 Personal glasses may be worn as long as the frame is safe.

LAW V – THE REFEREE

FIFA: Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the “Laws of the Game.”
The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.
The referee may 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.

SSI: As per FIFA, modified as follows.

- U13 AND OLDER MUST BE SSI SANCTIONED CERTIFIED REFEREES
- The home team supplies the referee U12 and younger
 (SSI recommends two referees, if possible).
- If there is only one referee, each team must supply a linesman.
- Referees should be at **least three years older** than the oldest player.
- SSI has a zero tolerance policy for any type of dissent or abuse (physical or verbal) toward a referee.

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LAW VI – THE ASSISTANT REFEREES

- FIFA:** Two 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
- SSI:** As per FIFA, modified as follows.
- If there is only one referee, each team must supply a linesman, who indicates only that the whole of the ball has passed out of the field of play.
 - A linesman is not to indicate which side is entitled to a throw-in unless requested by the referee.
 - Only SSI sanctioned AR's are authorized to make calls as per FIFA

LAW VII – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

- FIFA:** The match last 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

- SSI:** As per FIFA, modified as follows
The match shall last two equal periods as follows:

Clock NEVER stops/ no add on time

U-24 and older	2 x 40 minute halves
U-13 to U-23	2 x 35 minute halves
U-11 to U-12	2 x 30 minute halves
U-8 to U-10	2 x 25 minute halves

- The half-time interval shall not exceed five minutes.
All games must start and end on time or the game will be shortened to two equal halves. Game clocks will not stop for any reason.
Use common sense when playing with no substitutes on very hot days.

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LAW VIII – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

FIFA: A coin is tossed and the team that 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 that 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.

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.

SSI: As per FIFA, modified as follows.

- There are no extra periods of play. If a match ends in a tie, that is how it will stand.
- No Time outs.

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

SSI: As per FIFA

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LAW X – THE METHOD OF SCORING

FIFA: 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.
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.

SSI: As per FIFA, modified as follows.
SSI vigorously enforces a five-goal differential. Please cooperate. Violations will be reported to both clubs’ Interleague Coordinators and the SSI Coordinator. Suspensions and or fines may result.

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 opponent’s 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

Offense

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 offense

There is no offside offense 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.

SSI: As per FIFA

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LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

FIFA: Fouls and misconduct are penalized as follows:

Direct free kick - 10

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 (Hand Ball)** Not Ball hand.
- (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 - 8

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 (**NO heading U12 and lower ages**)
- 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 teammate
- 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 from where the offence occurred.

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LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Cautionable Offenses

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

- 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 Offenses

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

- 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 player’s 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

SSI: As per FIFA, **modified as follows.**

LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Deliberate Heading ball from U12 to youngest age

- Any player from U12 and younger deliberately heads the ball is an indirect kick from that spot.
- Same player deliberately heads the ball a second time is an in-direct plus a yellow card 5 min sit out.
- Player must be recorded to the SSI league for deliberate heading:
“ Note: Concussion protocol “concussion issues”

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LAW XII – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Concussion Rule: Protocol

Any player that hits their head either from a:

- Fall to the ground / head to head or hits the goal post.
- Will be considered a possible concussion case:
- Player must be removed and cannot return till doctor approves player to return.
- Player info must be recorded to SSI league

Cards:

- **Any foul language is a red card and minimum two games.**
- A player or coach shown a red card receives an automatic two game suspension (to be served the next two games).
- A player shown a yellow card must leave the field of play for a minimum of five minutes.
- A substitution may be made for a carded player, whether a red or yellow card was received.
- The referee must file a report regarding a red card with the home club's Director of Referees, who will inform SSI.
- The team playing the red-carded player's team next must be called and told about this player by both teams.

Fighting

- 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.

Sliding or slide Tackling

- Sliding for the ball is **NOT permissible** and should be considered a dangerous play.
- The goalkeeper is the only player allowed to slide and only when making a save on a ball shot on goal. Players must play the ball - not the player.

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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 opponent's 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

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

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

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

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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 from 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 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, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from 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 from 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 where the infringement occurred.

SSI: As per FIFA, modified as follows.

An indirect free kick will be awarded against a team for slide tackling an opponent. A goalkeeper shall not be considered to be slide tackling if he is challenging an opposing player for the ball (as in a breakaway).

Remember NO heading U12 and younger/ also the concussion rule.

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LAW XIV – THE PENALTY KICK

FIFA: A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits one of the ten offences for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its 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.

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.

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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 teammate 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 teammate 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

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, one of the following situations occurs:

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 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 to be taken from 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

SSI:

As per FIFA

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LAW XV – THE THROW-IN

FIFA: A throw-in is a method of restarting play.
A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded:

- When the whole of the ball passes over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air
- From the point where it crossed the touch line
- To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball

Procedure

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower:

- Faces the field of play
- Has part of each foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line
- Uses both hands
- Delivers the ball from behind and over his head

The thrower does not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
The ball is in play immediately it enters the field of play.

Infringements/Sanctions

Throw-in taken by a player other than the goalkeeper

- If, after the ball is in play, the thrower 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 where the infringement occurred.
- If after the ball is in play, the thrower 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 where the infringement occurred. A penalty kick is awarded if the infringement occurred inside the thrower's penalty area.

Throw-in 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 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 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 where the infringement occurred.

If an opponent unfairly distracts or impedes the thrower he is cautioned for unsporting behavior and shown the yellow card.

For any other infringement of this Law, the throw-in is taken by the opponent of the opposing team.

SSI: As per FIFA

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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

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

Infringements/Sanctions

If the ball is not kicked directly into play from 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 team, the kick to be taken from 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 from 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 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 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 where the infringement occurred.

For any other infringement of this Law, the kick is retaken.

SSI: 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 or held for the kick.**
- 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

Infringement/Sanctions

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

For any other infringement of this Law, the kick is retaken.

SSI: As per FIFA

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ADDITIONAL SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE RULES

Injuries

- When a player gets hurt, the referee must stop the game immediately. The injured player must come off the field.
- A substitution can be made for the injured player. The injured player may return through a normal substitution. Except if a possible concussion issue.
- The match restarts with a drop ball at the place where the ball was at the time of the injury.
- **Any concussion** issue must be reported and player not permitted to return in that game.

Yellow cards

- Any player that receives a Yellow card must leave the field for a minimum of 5 minutes; to cool down.
- Coaches that question the referees calls or lack of calls can receive a Yellow card and be put on probation for referee abuse known as bullying the referee.
- If a parent questions the referee the coach will receive a yellow card.

Protests

- SSI will not entertain protests.

Spectators

- Teams, along with their spectators, must occupy opposite sidelines.
- Coaches are fully responsible for the behavior of their team's spectators. Coaches can be red-carded due to offensive behavior by their team's spectators.

Team management

- The visiting team must call the home team at least 72 hours prior to the game to verify field location and directions, game time and color of shirts. If the visiting team does not call at this time, SSI recommends that the home team call the visiting team.
- Home coaches are responsible to notify the visiting coach and the referee at least two hours prior to game time if a game must be cancelled due to weather issues..
- All scheduled games must be played. Make up any rainouts or rescheduled games.
- Problems of any kind are to be handled through your club's Interleague Coordinator and the SSI Division coordinator
- Any matters not covered by SSI guidelines will be handled by the SSI Arbitration Committee.