

Soccer Regulations Act

Not An Official Legal Document

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Section I: General Rules of Play

Article 1 — Commencement of Play

- 1.1. The match shall commence at the designated time upon the referee's signal, with the ball placed at the center mark of the field.
- 1.2. Each team shall consist of no more than eleven (11) players, including one (1) designated goalkeeper.

Article 2 — Duration of Match

- 2.1. The standard duration of a match shall be ninety (90) minutes, divided into two (2) equal halves of forty-five (45) minutes each.
- 2.2. A halftime interval not exceeding fifteen (15) minutes shall be observed between the two halves.
- 2.3. Additional time may be added at the discretion of the referee to compensate for stoppages.

Article 3 — Ball In and Out of Play

- 3.1. The ball shall be considered in play at all times unless it has wholly crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air.
- 3.2. The ball shall be deemed out of play upon the referee's whistle for any infringement or stoppage.

Article 4 — Scoring of Goals

- 4.1. A goal shall be awarded when the ball has wholly crossed the goal line between the goalposts and beneath the crossbar, provided no infringement of the rules has occurred.
- 4.2. The team with the greater number of goals at the conclusion of regulation time shall be declared the winner.

Article 5 — Offside Infringement

- 5.1. A player shall be adjudged offside if, at the moment the ball is played or touched by a teammate, he or she is nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent, unless receiving the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.

Article 6 — Fouls and Misconduct

- 6.1. A foul shall be deemed to have occurred when a player commits any act of kicking, tripping, charging, striking, pushing, or holding an opponent in a manner contrary to the spirit of fair play.
- 6.2. Misconduct shall include unsporting behavior, dissent by word or action, persistent infringement, and any act deemed by the referee to be violent or abusive.

Article 7 — Free Kicks and Penalties

- 7.1. A direct free kick shall be awarded for serious infringements, allowing a goal to be scored directly.
- 7.2. An indirect free kick shall be awarded for lesser infractions, requiring the ball to touch another player before a goal may be scored.
- 7.3. A penalty kick shall be awarded when a direct free kick offense is committed by a defending player within their own penalty area.

Article 8 — Throw-Ins, Goal Kicks, and Corner Kicks

- 8.1. A throw-in shall be awarded when the ball crosses the touchline, last touched by an opponent.
- 8.2. A goal kick shall be awarded when the ball crosses the goal line, last touched by an attacking player,

without a goal being scored.

8.3. A corner kick shall be awarded when the ball crosses the goal line, last touched by a defending player, without a goal being scored.

Article 9 — Substitutions

9.1. A team may make a maximum of five (5) substitutions during regulation time, unless otherwise stipulated by competition rules.

9.2. Substitutions shall be conducted only with the referee's permission and during stoppages in play.

Article 10 — Authority of the Referee

10.1. The referee shall be the sole arbiter of the match and shall have full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game.

10.2. All decisions made by the referee shall be final and binding, subject only to review by the appropriate governing body in cases of procedural error or misconduct.