

## **HS 9v9 or 7v7 SMALL-SIDED RULES OF COMPETITION – OUTDOOR**

### **Rule 1 OUTDOOR/FIELD**

- All competitions shall be governed by the Rules as stated herein in all cases where they are applicable. All members of SYSA shall be governed by these Rules of Competition.

### **Rule 2 FIELD OF PLAY**

#### **2.1 Dimensions**

- The following specifications are applicable to all HS 9v9 or 7v7 competitions administered by SYSA.
- The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line. The maximum length is 75 yards and the maximum width is 47 yards. Interior markings consist of four corner arcs (1 yd. radius), a center circle (10 yd. radius), a goal area (6 yd box), and a penalty area (18 yd box). The goal will be 8 x 24 ft. In case permanent goals are not available, flags or cones may be used to mark the goals and corners. If cones are used for goals, the top of the goalkeeper's hands will determine the "imaginary" height of the crossbar.

#### **2.2 Game Postponement**

- A game may be postponed/cancelled at the field site if weather conditions are too hazardous for play. Extreme weather includes thunder, lightning, excessive high winds, snow or ice on the ground. Rain is not a reason to postpone play. In case of a cancelled game, a game will not be rescheduled

#### **2.3 Team Responsibilities**

- All teams are responsible for the clean up of the fields after each game. Please do not leave garbage on the sidelines.

#### **2.4 Game Duration and Ball Size:**

- Two 30-minute periods with a 5-minute halftime break.
- Ball Size: Five (5)

#### **2.5 Number of Players:**

- Teams shall have no more than 15 players on the roster (Unless SYSA Authorized) and 9 players on the field, one of which is a goalkeeper. There must also be 1 or more female players on the field at all times or the team must play short.
- However, if both teams have 8 or less players, than with both coaches agreeing, they can then play 7v7.
- If a player is registered through SYSA HS COED, they can guest play with a team that is short players.

#### **2.6 Substitutions**

- Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee during any stoppage of play.
- Each player should receive at least 50% of the total playing time. Substitutions will be allowed in order to give an opportunity for all players to get equal playing time and to balance rather than run up the score.

- Players not on the field of play must remain two (2) yards behind the touchline and not within the distance of the goal area from the corner of the field. No players, parents, or spectators may be allowed to stand behind the goals.
- FIFA Rule 5: The referee ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the referee who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped.

## 2.7 Player's Equipment

- All players shall wear shin guards. Socks must be worn up and over the shin guards.
- A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). **NO JEWELRY.**
- All players shall be in an official SYSA soccer uniform to play. A minimum "official" uniform is the standard SYSA issued jersey with number, black shorts, and socks.
- Standard approved soccer shoes or gym shoes shall be worn by all players. A player may not play in their bare feet. Shoes with toe cleats will not be permitted.
- A player shall not wear anything that may be dangerous to other players or themselves.
- All or any member(s) of a team may wear extra protective clothing against the cold, including gloves without dangerous, protruding or hard objects provided that:
- The proper team uniform is worn outermost; and
- Any hat should be without peak, bill or dangling or protruding object of any kind; and
- Referee discretion may be used to determine if an item of protective clothing is considered to go beyond the purpose of providing a means of retaining body heat.
- No player shall be allowed to play in any regularly scheduled practice or game with an injury or a known medical condition, which can be communal or aggravated by playing.
- Prosthetic Devices require a physicians permission before a player may play and it must state the player needs to wear the device in order to play. Even then, such devices must pose no danger to other players on the field. The referee's judgment shall be the final determining factor.

## 2.8 Officiating

- All games will be officiated by a referee assigned by the Inland Empire Soccer Referee Association. In the event that a referee is not present, both coaches will mutually agree upon one. If one cannot be agreed upon, each coach will referee one-half.
- It is the duty of each official to conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming a member of the league, encourage clean competition and good sportsmanship at all times and enforces the rules and regulations of the league. Any official who does not comply with the ideals of SYSA Soccer shall be subject to removal from league participation. Neither the use of foul language nor the drinking of alcoholic beverages by an official during the competition shall be tolerated.
- Misconduct Reports: If a player or coach is cautioned or ejected, the referee must send in a Misconduct Report directly to the SYSA office within 48 hours of the offense. A player or coach who receives an ejection shall not participate in his/her team's next game.

## 2.9 Charging the Goalkeeper

- No player shall make physical contact with the goalkeeper, harass the goalkeeper or attempt to play the ball once the goalkeeper has control of the ball in any manner and to any degree whatsoever. Generally, one finger on the ball is considered having possession of the ball.

## 2.10 Coaching

- The coach or assistant coach should attend every practice and every game. All coaches, team managers, and assistant coaches must comply with all SYSA Risk Management requirements. There must be an approved adult at all functions. \*No individual at any time can run a practice, coach a game, or host a function without being an approved SYSA Registered Coach that has completed and passed their appropriate background checks.
- The coach should have a team and parent meeting at or before the 1<sup>st</sup> practice.
- Topics such as: Coach Philosophy, Communication with coach, Responsibilities of parents/behavior, game schedules, and locations and practice times should be covered
- The coach should hand out the team game schedule and announce team practice times and fields.
- The coach is responsible for his own behavior as well as that of his players, parents and spectators on his/her side of the field. Remember this is just for fun.
- Every player must play in each game at least 50% of the playing time unless they are not able to play due to illness or injury.
- Coaching from the sidelines is permitted but not recommended. Coaching must be done in a civil manner and the tone of voice will be informational and encouraging, not demanding or critical.
- It is every coach's obligation and duty to attend coaching meetings in order to acquire information that, in turn, may be passed on to the players.
- Make sure that you have a game ball properly inflated before the game starts. The home team is responsible for providing the game ball.
- Make sure that your players are properly equipped, fit and emotionally ready to play.
- In case of injuries during the game, assure that the player is properly attended to. Check his/her condition after the game and follow up with a call to the home in the evening.
- In the event an injured player requires medical attention, he/she must have a written release from the doctor before returning to practice or play with the team.

### **2.11 Field Boundaries**

- Coaches and Players are to be on one sideline and parents on the opposite sideline.
- Referees will be instructed not to start the game until this action is completed

### **2.12 Practices**

- Practices will be left up to the coaches' discretion. Team may practice but are not required to.

### **2.13 Lineup Cards:**

- A lineup card must be provided to the official by both coaches prior to the game.

## **Rule 3 THE RULES OF PLAY**

### **3.0 Rosters:**

- All U9 and above teams are to submit a roster before each game.

### **3.1 Start of Play**

- The ball will be placed at the center of the field by the referee and the game will start with one player taking a kick into the opponent's half of the field, after a given signal by the referee. At the time of the kickoff, every player will be in his/her half of the field. Every player of the opposing team, to that of the kicker, shall be 10 yards from the center mark.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. If this infraction occurs an

indirect free kick shall be awarded for the opposing team. If the kickoff is started backwards it is considered an improper start and a re-kick will be awarded. The kickoff is considered a direct free kick.

### 3.2 Restart of Play

- After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted with a kickoff.
- To start the second half, the game will be restarted with the kickoff by a player of the opposite team to that of the player who started the game.
- Restarting play after temporary delay: In the case of a temporary suspension due to an injury or any unusual situation, if one team is clearly in possession of the ball, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick by the team in possession of the ball at the point where the ball was when play was suspended. Should there not be clear possession at the time play is suspended due to an injury or any unusual situation, there will be a drop ball at the spot where the ball was declared dead. The ball shall be deemed “in play” when the ball has touched the ground.

### 3.3 Ball in and out of Play:

- The ball is out of play when it is wholly crossed the goal line or whole touchline, whether it is on the ground or in the air.

### 3.4 Method of Scoring:

- A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has crossed the whole of the goal line.
- No one player will be allowed to score more than three goals in one game.
- **Goals can't be scored directly from goalkeeper punts**

### 3.5 Offside Rule:

- The offside rule will be not be enforced at the HS 7v7 level, however all shots on goal should originate outside of the goal area, more commonly known as the 6 yard box or goal kick area.

### 3.6 Fouls and Misconduct

- Free Kicks: Free kicks shall be classified under two (2) headings: “Direct”, from which a goal can be scored by a direct kick against the offending side and “Indirect”, from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal. Opponents must be 10 yards away before the kick is allowed.
- A DIRECT KICK shall be awarded for the following nine (9) offenses committed in a careless or reckless manner:
  - Kicking an opponent
  - Tripping an opponent
  - Jumping at an opponent
  - Charging an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner
  - Charging an opponent from behind
  - Striking an opponent
  - Holding an opponent
  - Pushing an opponent
  - Intentionally handling the ball, with the exception of the goalie, in the designated area
- An INDIRECT KICK shall be awarded for the following offenses:
  - Dangerous play (high-kicking or playing the ball while lying on the ground)
  - Charging fairly (shoulder to shoulder) when the ball is not within the playing distance of the players involved
  - Impeding the progress of an opponent

- Obstructing the goalkeeper (there will be NO INTENTIONAL physical contact with the goalkeeper in the “penalty area”)
- Preventing the goalkeeper from releasing the ball with his/her hands
- Lying on the ball and not allowing others to play it
- Unsporting behavior
- **Slide tackling is NOT allowed at the HS 9v9 or 7v7 age level**

### **3.7 Throw-ins**

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole touch line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be put back into play by a throw-in. The throw shall be taken from the point where it crossed the line, by a player of the opposing team.
- The thrower must face the field of play and must keep both feet on the ground while releasing the ball. He/she shall use both hands on both sides of the ball to deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head. If an incorrect throw occurs the throw shall be awarded to the opposing team. The thrower may not play the ball until another player has touched it. If the thrower plays the ball a second time before another player has touched it, the penalty for doing so shall be an indirect free kick for the opposing team.
- A goal shall not be scored directly from the throw-in.

### **3.8 Goal Kicks**

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the goal line, excluding the portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar (either in the air or on the ground), having last been played by one of the players on the attacking team, it shall be kicked directly into play by a goal kick. A goal kick may be taken from anywhere inside the goal area by any defending player, including the goalkeeper, may take the goal kick.
- The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. A goal may be scored directly by a goal kick. The ball is in play when it crosses outside the goal area.

### **3.9 Corner Kicks**

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the goal line excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the crossbar, (either in the air or on the ground), having last been played by one of the defending team, a player of the attacking team shall have a corner kick.
- The ball shall be placed within a three (3) foot arc from the corner flag or cone and shall be kicked into play from that position by an attacking player.
- A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
- Players from the opposing team to the kicker shall not approach within the distance of the center circle measurement (10 yards) of the ball until it is in play.
- If the player who takes the kick plays the ball a second time before it has been touched by another player, the referee shall award an indirect kick to the opposite team from the spot where the infringement occurred.

### **3.10 Miscellaneous Rules**

- Good judgment, sportsmanship and fair play should govern the decisions and actions of all the coaches, referees and spectators.
- Coaches, their assistants or spectators are not allowed on the field of play during the game unless permission is given by the referee (in case of emergencies or unusual situations).

## **NO DOGS ALLOWED AT FIELDS**