

**Devon
Soccer
Association**



Coach
Handbook
2021

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Disclaimer All information included in the coach handbook is subject to change without notice at the discretion of Devon Soccer Association and Parkland Fun Ball & Soccer League.



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OUR CLUB

Welcome to Devon Soccer Association (DSA). We are an outdoor community soccer program for ages 2 to Adult. DSA is a registered not-for-profit organization which is governed by the Societies Act and operated by a volunteer executive. We are members of the Parkland Fun Ball & Soccer League.

DSA Vision Statement

To provide a soccer program to the youth and adults in our community and surrounding area. To encourage and foster the enjoyment of the game of soccer. To develop the skills of both our players and coaches to their full potential.

Executive 2021

Our executive is here for you! Please contact our administrator if you are unsure of who to contact regarding your questions and concerns.

Tammy Mills	Administrator/Secretary/Treasurer	info@devonsoccer.com
Sarah Wallace	President	president@devonsoccer.com
Brian Ott	Vice-President	vp@devonsoccer.com
Selena White	Director 1	photos@devonsoccer.com
Rebekah Ott	Director 2	referees@devonsoccer.com
Latoya Lamb	Director 3	uniforms@devonsoccer.com
Dezz Illes	Director 4	equipment@devonsoccer.com
Linda Garbencius	Director 5	exec@devonsoccer.com
Rebekah Ott	Referee Coordinator	referees@devonsoccer.com
Dezz Illes	Equipment Coordinator	equipment@devonsoccer.com
Latoya Lamb	Uniform Coordinator	uniforms@devonsoccer.com
Tammy Mills/Linda Garbencius	Tournament Coordinator	tournament@devonsoccer.com
James Kollmar	Field Lines Coordinator #1	lines1@devonsoccer.com
Darryl Garbencius	Field Lines Coordinator #2	lines2@devonsoccer.com
Vacant Position	Technical Coordinator	technical@devonsoccer.com

New for 2021

All players and coaches are to use hand sanitizer before and after leaving the field. Coaches have been provided with a spare bottle, should anyone forget their own at home.

We ask to limit spectators to one per child. Please have a mask in case social distancing is not possible.

Please review Covid protocols listed on our website for 2021.



OUR LEAGUE

Note from Parkland Fun Ball & Soccer League

TO ALL COACHES, PLAYERS & SPECTATORS

As our league grows and competition increases it is important that we all remember that this is a FUN Soccer League.

The objective of our league is fun and recreation. There are no million dollar-contracts, people still need to get up and go work the next day, and the rules and regulations of our league have been instituted for everyone's safety and well-being.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR COOL!! Accept the probability that players, coaches, and referees will make mistakes, and of the two participating teams, odds are one team will lose. If you feel that an injustice has been done, calmly request a time-out and discuss the matter in question with the umpire and the opposing coach. Accept the umpire's decision as final and that sometimes you must agree to disagree. Complaint forms are available in the schedules if teams feel further action is necessary, forms should be filled out completely and sent to the league office. (Address below)

It is each team's coach or contact's responsibility to be sure to inform their players of the league rules and regulations at the start of the season, and to see that their team behaves accordingly.

We must all remember that we are examples to the fans and youngsters in the stands. Bad tempers, foul language, and intoxicated players are not how we want our league perceived. It is our responsibility as the adult league to show, by example, that our league is fun and that good sportsmanship is always important, in any division.

Please ensure to clean up after the use of soccer pitch and leave it in the same condition as you found it. This includes cigarette butts, pop cans, bottles, candy wrappers, and all other debris.

LEAGUE OBJECTIVE: FUN

1. To provide organized participation.
2. To instill rules and regulations as instituted and voted upon by the communities.
3. To coordinate scheduling of games for all divisions.
4. TO KEEP OUR LEAGUE FUN!

117, 53305 Rge Rd 280

Spruce Grove, Alberta

T7X 3V7

parklandfunball@hotmail.com

Phone: 780-963-5907

Fax: 780-963-6713

8:00 am to 10:00 pm only



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Information and Updates

Check our website for information and regular updates. Most correspondence will occur through email and/or be posted on our website.

Pre-season Practices

We are not having pre-season practices this year.

Start Date

The approximate start date for all age categories for the outdoor season is the last week of April to the first week of May (weather dependent). Schedules will be issued as soon as all coaching positions are filled.

Fields

- U4 – Devon Community Centre North and South (CCN & CCS)
- U6 – Robina Baker Elementary School Fields (RBES)
- U8 – Robina Baker Elementary School Fields (RBES)
- U10 – Riverview Middle School (RMS)
- U12 – John Maland High School (JMHS)
- U15 – John Maland High School (JMHS)

Field Maps are located on our website.

Coaches / Assistant Coaches should check the field before practices and games to ensure the safety of the field. Look for broken glass, large rocks/sticks etc. Report anything unusual or requiring attention to our Field Coordinator.

Uniforms

U4 and U6 are given a Tim Horton's Timbits t-shirt and black socks which the player keeps at the end of the season. Parents are responsible for black shorts, and shin pads which are mandatory. Lace up running shoes are permitted although outdoor soccer cleats are recommended, no metal or pointed cleats allowed.

U8 and U10 pay a \$50 refundable uniform fee. The players are given a DSA jersey, shorts, and socks. Parents are responsible for shin pads which are mandatory. Lace up running shoes are permitted although outdoor soccer cleats are recommended, no metal or pointed cleats allowed. Jersey and shorts must be returned in clean, good condition for parents to receive back the refundable uniform fee.

U12 and U15 wear our DSA Navy and Gold travel uniforms which parents must purchase for \$40.00 new / \$20.00 used. Players/Parents are responsible to keep jerseys clean and in good repair. Dirty, worn or torn jerseys or those with missing or worn logos/numbers will not be permitted and a new set will need to be purchased. Parents are responsible for black socks and shin pads which are mandatory. Lace up running shoes are permitted although outdoor soccer cleats are recommended, no metal or pointed cleats.

When traveling, the home team is to wear pinnies, if the jerseys are too close in colour.



Schedules House League U4-U10

These schedules are made by Devon Soccer Association and are always played in Devon.

U4 Tuesday/Thursday 6:30pm – 7:00pm
U6 Monday/Wednesday 6:30pm – 7:15pm
U8 Tuesday/Thursday 6:30pm – 7:30pm
U10 Monday/Wednesday 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Schedules Travel League U12-U15

Parkland Fun Ball & Soccer League makes these schedules after all clubs have submitted their final declarations. These teams travel between Blueberry, Wabamun, Meriden Sports Park, Graminia, Onoway, and Devon.

U12 Monday / Wednesday 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm *2nd practice may be determined by coach at start of season.
U15 Tuesday / Thursday 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm *2nd practice may be determined by coach at start of season.

Team Photos

Photos are not being planned for this year.

Who can be on the field?

The only people allowed on the field are coaches, managers, and players that our registered with DSA. No siblings, parents or friends are allowed on the field when the team is on the field expect when invited by the Coach. In the case of Parent/Tot, only one parent per player is permitted on the field at a time.

Where do the players/parents sit during practices/games?

U4/U6 – players may sit on same side as parents but should sit together in a row or on a blanket with their teammates and coaches.

U8 and up – parents will sit on one side of the field and the players on the other side of the field. This makes it easier for the coaches to know where their players are for line changes.

Snacks/Water

Players should eat before coming to practices/games or when they are finished. There is no snack break. Every player must have a full water bottle at every practice/game. Please label their bottles to avoid mix-ups.

Pets

Pets are strictly prohibited at DSA events, including but not limited to practices, games, tournaments, and windups. Bylaw will be called if necessary. Parkland policy states that if a team member or associate of the team has a pet at the soccer pitch, the team will receive a \$25 penalty for the first offence. This policy is for the safety of all players, coaches, and spectators. Having a dog at a tournament will be a \$100 fine.

Washrooms

Devon fields all have a porta-potties.
Graminia school, the front doors are unlocked until 8:30 pm
Blueberry school has porta-potties.

Trash

If you bring it with you, take it with you. Respect our fields and environment.



Sunscreen/Bug Spray

Parents, please bring sunscreen and bug spray.

Clothing for rain/cold weather

Parents may want to wear rain gear as there is no shelter. Bring blankets for yourself and for your player to use on the sideline when it is cold. Players may use layers under their uniforms, including long sleeve shirts, however, nothing with a hood is permitted.

Hats and Jewelry

Hats are not allowed on the field. No jewelry is allowed, including but not limited to earrings, nose rings, necklaces, rings. This is for all age categories.

Alcoholic beverages, Smoking, & Cannabis

DSA prohibits alcoholic beverages, smoking & use of cannabis at DSA events, including but not limited to practices, games, tournaments, and windups.

Disputes or other Incidents

If disputes occur between you and your child's coach or other team officials, handle it with dignity. Treat the coach and/or team official with respect, he/she is sincere in his/her intent to be hard working on behalf of every member of the team. Remember that your actions have the biggest impact on how your child will react to similar situations. If all attempts to rectify the situation directly with the coach or team official fails or if you are a witness to an incident, then contact the Administrator in writing outlining your concern. If the Administrator can not rectify the situation, they will involve the President and executive.

All complaints must be received by the club within 2 weeks of the incident occurring but will not be accepted within the 24 hours cool down period following the incident.

Other Information for Coaches

Coaches are encouraged to rotate lines to even out the playing field if their team is ahead by a substantial amount. Each coach should strive to have each player participate an equal amount of playing time. Coaching from behind either goal line by coaches or parents is not allowed. To encourage sportsmanship, both teams, coaches and referees should shake hands at the end of every game.

Severe Weather Policy

Devon Soccer Association fields will be open in all types of weather (e.g., rain, wind, snow, heat) unless deemed to be unsafe for players, coaches, officials, and spectators, or if it will cause damage to the field. The website will only be updated if the fields are CLOSED. Please follow the practices below:

Lightning and/or Thunder: Immediately leave the field, seeking shelter indoors/inside vehicles with the first flash of lightning or sound of thunder. Wait 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field.

All other weather: Parents, please use your discretion on whether to have your child play.

Cancelations: Coaches may request a cancelation no sooner than 1.5 hours before the game start time by talking to the other coach AND informing the admin. See specifics below:



U8- U10 Cancelling Games Policy

1. Check www.devonsoccer.com for field status between 4:30pm and 5:30pm. Fields will be open unless deemed unsafe or damage to fields will occur.
2. If field status says Open - referee and teams **MUST** show up and the referee makes the decision at the field. If there is no referee, the coaches should discuss, and the HOME team coach makes the decision at the field.
3. If both coaches wish to reschedule, the HOME team must send the away team an alternative date and time.
4. Once agreed on date and time, email info@devonsoccer.com and schedule will be updated. You have 48 hours to get the rescheduled game agreed upon.
5. If you cannot come to an agreement with the opponent on the date and time of rescheduled game, DSA will consider the game canceled.

U12- U15 Cancelling Games Policy

1. Check for field status. If game in Devon – check on DSA website
2. If field status says Open or User Discretion - referee and teams **MUST** show up and the referee makes the decision at the field.
3. If to be rescheduled, the HOME team must send to the away team an alternative date and time. The HOME team must notify DSA admin at info@devonsoccer.com.
4. Once agreed on date and time, email League and schedule will be updated. You have 48 hours to get the rescheduled game agreed upon.
5. If you cannot come to an agreement with the opponent on the date and time of rescheduled game, PARKLAND will be forced to make the date and time.
6. Rained or snowed out games can be moved to the visiting team's field pending their field is available.

Referees

Keeping in mind that our referees are often 12-16 years old, coaches and parents shall not criticize game officials at any time and shall encourage the same attitude amongst all players and spectators. Foul, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures, bad tempers and bad attitudes will not be tolerated whether it is from players, coaches, parents, spectators, or referees. **ANY CHALLENGES TO OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL BE CAUSE FOR EJECTION FROM THE FIELD.**

The referee shall explain infractions to the offending players and has the right to expel players for unsportsmanlike conduct, at his/her discretion. A red card ejection for a player is not only for the existing game but will result in a suspension for the following game as well. The referee must report any ejection to their community referee coordinator on the night of the game.

A certified referee is required for all games in all age divisions. The certified referee must be older than the age group that they are refereeing. Until further notice, Parkland Fun Ball & Soccer League will offer a mandatory referee clinic for all new & returning referees & linesman. Should they be unable to attend the clinic offered then they must take an approved course that is acceptable to the league at the individuals own expense.



TOURNAMENTS AND WINDUPS

Timbits Tournament *This event will not happen for 2021*

U4 & U6 players can participate in Tim Horton's yearly sponsored Timbits Jamboree. This event will occur May 29, 2021. DSA covers the cost of this tournament. Coaches are required to register their DSA teams according to the deadlines of the tournament. This is a fun day with swag bags, Timbits, medals, and other entertainment such as sparkle tattoos, bouncy castles and much more. If your child's team is not entering the tournament, please contact the tournament coordinator to register your child with another team.

Parkland Children's Sport Weekend *This event is pending restrictions for 2021*.

The Parkland Fun Ball & Soccer League will hold the annual Children's Sports Weekend at Meridian Sports Park June 11, 12, & 13, 2021. Participation in the Children's Sports Weekend is mandatory unless coaches inform DSA administrator before May 25, 2021. There is \$100.00 fine to any team that pulls out after May 28, 2021.

Soccerpalooza Windup *DSA is not planning a windup for 2021*

U4-U10 will participate in our annual Soccerpalooza windup on Saturday June 26, 2021 at the RBES soccer fields. Along with each team playing two games, there will be a BBQ and other entertainment throughout the day. Kids will receive swag bags and medals. The windup for U12-U15 will be held the same day. New ideas are needed.

Travel Team Tournaments *DSA is not covering the cost of a tournament for 2021*

The administrator will provide each team with information regarding available tournaments. Coaches must collect tournament costs from parents and forward to DSA administrator to register the team in the tournament. DSA may cover costs for 1 tournament, up to the equivalent of the Millet Tournament.

CODES OF CONDUCT

Signed during the registration process, just here for a reminder.

Parent's Code of Conduct

1. I realize that the primary reason that children play soccer is to have fun, not to win.
2. I will demand that my child plays fairly and within the rules.
3. I will help the coach in any positive way possible.
4. I will remember that volunteers run the league.
5. I will not make any negative comments to any child, especially my own.
6. I will praise the efforts of every player.
7. I will applaud good plays by our team AND by members of the opposing team.
8. I will accept the results of each game and encourage my child to: Be gracious in victory and turn defeat to victory by working towards improvement.
9. I will accept the referee calls.
10. I will be a parent that leads by example.

I understand that if I do not follow this code of conduct, the Coach, the Ref, and the Club has the right to remove me and/or my child from the game, season, or club.



Player's Code of Conduct

1. As a player I will be representing my team, Devon Soccer Association, and Battle River Soccer.
2. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game and abide by the principles of Fair Play.
3. I will respect my opponents, teammates, coaches and officials (foul language is included in this).
4. I will do my best to be a true team player and be supportive of all my teammates regardless of skill.
5. I will remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
6. I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and the opponents.
7. I will not coach other players on my team, from the field or bench.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are here to help me, and I will accept their decisions and show them respect.
9. I will pay attention when coaches are talking, and I will maintain my self-control always.
10. I will try to participate in every game and every practice. If I am going to miss a game or practice I will notify the coach.
11. I will arrive at the game or practice early enough so that I am ready to participate at the starting time.
12. If I cannot abide by this code of conduct, the coaches have the right to bench me for a reasonable amount of games, or whatever the coach deems a fair and appropriate discipline (laps, burpee's, push-ups etc.)

I understand that if I do not follow this code of conduct, the Coach, the Ref and the Club has the right to remove me and/or my child from the game, season or club.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

1. As a coach, I need to be a positive role model.
2. I will need to display and instill in my players the principals of good sportsmanship and team play.
3. Be reasonable in my demands on my player's time, energy, enthusiasm and their performance on the soccer field.
4. Be a good example. Children need a coach they can respect.
5. Be generous with my praise when it is deserved. Find something positive to say about each player. Players should never be ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
6. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
7. Keep informed about sound principles of coaching, growth and development principles relating to children.
8. Impress on my players the need to abide by the rules of the game always.
9. I will respect the officials of the game and abide by their decisions.
10. Check equipment and facilities that we use. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of my players.
11. I will comply with the decisions of league officials and observe all rules, policy and procedures as established or endorsed by Devon Soccer Association and Battle Rive Soccer Association.

I understand that if I do not follow this code of conduct, the Ref and the Club have the right to remove me from the game, season, or club.



DEVELOPMENT FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY

<u>Age Category</u>	<u>Focus</u>
U4	Development of physical literacy, running hopping, skipping, balancing etc. So, there will be mistakes and players falling and tripping as they ‘find their feet’.
U6	Ball mastery, bringing physical literacy to support the development of mastering the ball, this is only possible with positive physical literacy. So, within this stage the player’s focus is often upon the player and the ball. Expect frustration and a very limited desire to share. Encourage this and allow the players to experiment with new moves and tricks.
U8/U10	This is the stage where the game concept really takes hold. The player has mastered the individual techniques and is ready to put them into play, in a game. So now is the time for the focus to move towards team play and tactics. Again, there will be mistakes and miss-placed passes. The focus should therefore be on exploring options of play and not whether a play was the right or wrong one.
U12-U15	This is the final stage of development; some players may be returning to soccer or entering it for the first time. However, the emphasis is upon participation and fun. So regardless of age, ability or level of competition there is always a game to be played. Active for Life also embraces the provision of further supporting options within coaching, officiating or administration support to the development of the game.



RULES

Local Modifications to the Laws of the Game:

The normal rules and laws of the game of soccer will apply for all age groups subject to the following modifications where applicable. When referred to, micro-field includes U4 and U6, mini-field includes U8 and U10, and full-field refers to U12 and above. The FIFA laws of the game can be downloaded from our website, and it is strongly recommended that all officials, coaches, referees, and assistant referees (linesmen) do so.

1. The game shall be divided into two halves with a 5-minute break at half time (u4 exception). The restart of play for the second half shall be by the team that did not kick off the first half.
 - a. U4 – one 15-minute half
 - b. U6 – two 15-minute halves
 - c. U8/U10 - two 25-minute halves
 - d. U12/U15 – two 30-minute halves

The referee may make an allowance of a few minutes added time at the end of either half to compensate for any excessive time lost during play. (See guidelines to help explain the rules #13).

2. Field size
 - a. U4 – 60 x 90 feet
 - b. U6 – 90 x 120 feet
 - c. U8 and U10 – 120 x 180 feet
 - d. U12 and U15 – Regulation full size field. See FIFA laws.
3. Goal posts & ball sizes shall be:
 - a. U4 – pug net, size 3 ball
 - b. U6 – pug net, size 3 ball
 - c. U8 – 5 x 8 feet, size 3 ball
 - d. U10 – 5 x 8 feet, size 3 ball
 - e. U12– Regulation full size net. See FIFA laws, size 4 ball.
 - f. U15 – Regulation full size net. See FIFA laws, size 5 ball.
4. Format:
 - a. U4 – 3 vs 3 no goalkeeper
 - b. U6 – 5 vs 5
 - c. U8/U10 – 7 vs 7
 - d. U12/U15 – 11 vs 11
5. Unlimited substitution is allowed, but only when the ball is out of play (see guidelines to help explain the laws #2), and upon the approval of the referee.

Modifications for Micro Field (U4 and U6) only:

6. The toss of a coin will be used to determine who kicks off and starts the game.
7. After a goal, the game will restart from center.



8. Praise should be given regardless of which team scores.
9. Goalkeeper
 - a. U4 no goalkeeper to encourage as many goals as possible.
 - b. U6 goalkeeper can use their hands to stop the ball. They can either kick or throw ball back into play.
10. When the ball goes out of play (out the side or ends), coach should blow the whistle to stop players movement.
 - c. U4 a coach or spectator should throw the ball back into play.
 - d. U6 a player should do a throw in. Feet planted on the ground, hold ball with two hands straight over head, throw forward, without moving feet.
11. No referees, one coach from each team should work together to run the game.
12. Players are encouraged to play in all positions, as set positions are fostered in U12 and up.
13. No limit on substitutions, allowed anytime during game.
14. Rotate players approximately every 3 minutes, only players sitting near the team bench(blanket) will be rotated into play.

Modifications for Mini Field (U8 and U10) only:

15. The normal throw-in rule is to apply with one re-throw allowed for mini field only.
16. No offside rule shall apply.
17. The goalkeeper cannot deliberately touch the ball with his/her hands or arms outside the 6-yard goal area.
18. The goalkeeper only, is to restart play within the 6-yard goal area.
19. No goal can be scored from within the opposing team's 6-yard goal area. The last touch by the attacking player must occur outside the goal area for a goal to be allowed. If, however, the ball is subsequently touched by a defending player inside his or her own goal area before the ball enters the goal, then the goal will stand. All players can be within and play the ball within the goal area. Should the ball be put into the goal from within the goal area by an attacking player, then play should restart with a goal kick. (See Guideline #4 below).
20. Only one coach or team official from each team can be on the field of play during the game, and only the referee may carry a whistle. The coach or team official on the field of play may not stand or be within the 6-yard goal area during play and cannot be behind the goal line.
21. Reckless, dangerous, or careless tackles or challenges will not be tolerated and may result in a yellow card or ejection from the game at the discretion of the referee.



Modifications for Full Field (U12 and U15) only:

22. All full field teams must have jerseys with visible numbers on them.
23. A team captain must be designated by each team for each game and the league strongly encourages changing the captain for each game.
24. The coach may not approach the referee during the game. The team captain is the only person allowed to address the referee, and in an appropriate manner. The coach must go through the team captain to ask the referee any question; however, the referee may approach the coach.
25. Should circumstances at game time be such that one team has insufficient players to play with 11 a side, the respective team coaches can decide to play with 9 or 10 players per team, at their discretion and mutual agreement. As we are a fun ball community it is suggested to share players to even out the numbers on each team, if coaches agree.
26. Reckless, dangerous, or careless tackles or challenges will not be tolerated & may result in a yellow card or ejection from the game at the discretion of the referee.
27. Coaches and players must not go more than 20 feet away from the halfway line and are not allowed to cross the halfway line. Opposing coaches and players should be on the same side of the field.

Guidelines to Help Explain the Laws of the Game

The following guidelines may help to clarify some of the FIFA laws of the game as they currently stand.

1. The toss of the coin will be used to determine who kicks off and starts the game. The team that wins the coin toss decides which end to attack in the first half. The team that loses the coin toss kicks off the game.
2. The ball is in play once the kickoff has been taken at the start of the game and does not cease to be in play until either a) it wholly crosses either touch line or either goal line, or b) when the referee blows his / her whistle to stop play for an infraction of the rules. In either case, the ball is in play again once the game has restarted in the appropriate manner.
3. When the ball is in play, it is in play for all players, including the goalkeeper, within his or her penalty area and/or goal area even when the goalkeeper has the ball in control with his/her hands or has the ball Covered with anything but his/her feet. However, when the goalkeeper has the ball under control or covered, players must not prevent him/her from releasing the ball. Outside of the penalty area in full field or goal area in mini field the goalkeeper cannot deliberately touch the ball with his/her hands or arms, the same as every other player. Should the goalkeeper do this, then it is a handball offence (see Guideline # 8 below).



4. A goal kick is called when a player touches the ball either deliberately or accidentally and it goes out of play, either on the ground or in the air, over his/her **OPPOSING TEAM'S** goal line but not into the goal. The game then restarts by a player of the team defending that end of the field kicking the ball from off the ground from any point within the goal area at that end. At the time that the kick is taken, no players other than the goalkeeper and/or the player taking the kick may be inside the penalty area in full field, or the goal area in mini field. Once the goal kick is taken, the kicker may **NOT** touch the ball again until it has touched another player on either team, and no other player may touch the ball until it has passed outside of the penalty area in full field or the goal area in mini field. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick without the ball being touched by another player before it enters the goal, however, should a player take a goal kick and the ball then somehow travel back into his/her own goal without being Touched by another player then a goal is **NOT** awarded.
5. A penalty kick is awarded when a player is guilty of committing any of the **DIRECT** free kick offences (see FIFA laws of the game, law 12) inside his/her **OWN** team's penalty area in full field or goal area in mini field, when the ball is in play and irrespective of where the ball is at the time. Penalty kicks to be taken from the marked spot 12 yards directly in front of the midpoint of the goal in full field, or from a point 6 yards directly in front of the mid-point of the goal in mini field. A penalty kick should be direct on goal. All players except the defending goalkeeper are to remain behind the penalty kicker, outside of the penalty area in full field or goal area in mini field and at least ten yards away from the ball until the ball has been kicked. The penalty kick may be taken by any player on the team to whom the penalty kick has been awarded. Once the penalty kick is taken, the kicker may **NOT** touch the ball again until it has touched another player on either team. Before the kick is taken, the defending goalkeeper must be positioned on his/her goal line and must not move forward off the goal line until the ball has been kicked. Once the ball is kicked, it is in play.
6. A corner kick is to be called when a player (including a goalkeeper) touches the ball either deliberately or accidentally and it goes out of play, either on the ground or in the air, over his/her **OWN TEAM'S** goal line but not into the goal. The game then re-starts with the corner kick being taken from off the ground at the corner nearest to the point at which the ball crossed the line, by a player of the team that is attacking that end of the field. At the time that the kick is taken, no player on the team defending the corner kick may be within 10 yards of the ball. Once the corner kick is taken, the kicker may **NOT** touch the ball again until it has touched another player on either team. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick without the ball being touched by another player before it enters the goal.
7. Reckless, dangerous, or careless tackles or challenges will not be tolerated and may result in a yellow card or ejection from the game at the discretion of the referee. A referee may consider a challenge or tackle to fall under this description if, for instance, a player is overly forceful or is not in control of his / her own body or is acting in a way that has potential to cause injury – either to themselves or another player - as they make a tackle or challenge.



8. Handball is called when a player (other than a goalkeeper **WITHIN** his/her **OWN** penalty area or goal area) **DELIBERATELY** uses his/her hand **OR ARM** to control or propel the ball in some way. Handball should **NOT** be called when the ball strikes the hand or arm of a player in such a way that is unintentional, for example if the ball takes a deflection and flies up quickly hitting a player's hand giving him/her no chance to react. Should a player use his/her hand or arm in a way that is to defend his/her body (for example to stop the ball from hitting him/her hard in the face) then the handball call should be at the discretion of the referee. Factors that the referee should consider in this kind of circumstance are the time that the player had to react before deflecting the ball with his/her hand (i.e., whether the act was deliberate or just instinctive) and the age group of the players (more leniency in this circumstance should be shown to the younger age groups.) Should the referee call a handball offence then play restarts with a **DIRECT** free kick awarded to the opposing team of the player who committed the handball offence.
9. Two yellow cards in the same game are the equivalent of one red card and will result in a sending off (ejection). As per League Regulation #21 a red card ejection for a player is not only for the existing game but will result in a suspension for the following game as well.
10. A throw in is called when the ball goes out of play, either on the ground or in the air, by crossing over either of the touch lines. The throw in is awarded to the opposing team of the player who last touched the ball, either deliberately or accidentally, before it went out of play. The correct procedure for taking a throw in is as follows:
 - The throw in must be taken from the point on the touch line at which the ball went out of play.
 - The player taking the throw in must be standing with some part of **BOTH** of his / her feet touching the ground either behind or on the touch line as he/she throws the ball.
 - The player taking the throw in must be facing the field of play when throwing in the ball.
 - The ball must be held with both hands when thrown in.
 - The ball must be thrown from behind and over the head.
 - The ball must be cleanly thrown, and not dropped or pushed down onto the ground.
 - Once a throw in is taken, the thrower may **NOT** touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

A goal may **NOT** be scored against either team directly from a throw in. After it is thrown in, the ball must touch another player before it enters the goal for a goal to stand. If the ball is thrown directly into the goal, then play restarts with either a goal kick, or corner kick depending on which end of the field that this occurred. For example, if a player throws the ball directly into his/her opponent's goal then play restarts with a goal kick. If he/she throws it directly into his / her own goal then play restarts with a corner kick, in accordance with points 4 and 6 above.
11. In full field a goal may be scored from **ANYWHERE** on the field, including within the penalty area or goal area, provided that no infraction of the laws has occurred while scoring the goal.
12. A goalkeeper may **NOT** handle the ball (except to make a save to prevent a goal) if the last touch to him/her was an **INTENTIONAL** kick of the ball by a member of his/her **OWN** team. A player may however play the ball to his/her goalkeeper by means of heading the ball, kneeing the ball or chesting the ball and the goalkeeper may handle the ball in this circumstance. The goalkeeper may also handle the ball if the last touch was via an unintentional deflection off the foot off one of his / her own players, or after any touch from an opposing player. Should an infraction occur under this rule then play is restarted with an **INDIRECT** free kick awarded to the opposing team to that of the goalkeeper who handled the ball.



13. The referee may make an allowance of a few minutes added time at the end of either half to compensate for time lost during play. However, certain stoppages in play, such as the ball going out of play, are part of the game and time should not be added to allow for this unless there has been an excessive stoppage (e.g., ball being kicked out over a fence or into trees and having to be found and recovered or replaced.) Time taken over substitutions is also considered to be part of the game and should not be included in time to be added on. Examples of where a referee should allow extra stoppage time, include but are not limited to; time lost due to an injured player receiving attention; time lost to a stoppage in the game due to an outside interference; and time lost due to a player deliberately wasting time by not restarting the game promptly after the ball has gone out of play.

[Appendix to the Manual: The Offside Rule Explained](#)

Before reading this appendix, please take the time to download the pdf document of the laws of the game from our website:

FIFA law #11 (offside) states that:

A player **is in an offside position** if:

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

A player **is not in an offside position** if:

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

Put simply, if a player is in a position that is in his / her opponent's half of the field, **AND** ahead of the second-last defender on the opposing team, **AND** ahead of the ball then he / she is in an offside position. Considering that the last defender back on a team is usually the goalkeeper, the second-last defender as referred to here will usually refer to the last outfield player back on the defending team. During the game, the assistant referees (linesmen) will usually take up a position on the touch line that keeps them level with this furthest back outfield defender in the half in which they are officiating, in order that they can accurately see which (if any) attacking players are in offside positions.

However – and this is the important part – **it is not an offence for a player merely to be in an offside position.**

For an offside offence to occur and a team be penalized for having a player who is judged to be offside, the following conditions must be met:

At the time that another player on the SAME team plays the ball, the player in the offside position must be interfering with active play in some way. For example, by playing or attempting to play the ball, by interfering with or having an influence on the actions of an opposing player, or by gaining a clear advantage from being in the offside position.

Pages 104 to 110 of the FIFA laws of the game document show thirteen different diagrams displaying different examples of how this law should be applied and put into practice in accordance with those conditions as outlined above. Here are some important points to remember when looking at this.



1. **A player does NOT have to touch the ball to be called offside.** Examples 4, 6 and 9 in the FIFA document demonstrate how this is so. In example 4, player A is gaining an advantage from being in the offside position because he has a “head start” on the defenders and has a clear and unchallenged run at the ball. In example 6, player A has interfered with an opposing player by blocking the goalkeeper’s line of vision, rendering the goalkeeper less able to deal with the shot at his goal. In example 9, player A has had an influence on the actions of opposing player B by running at him and putting him under pressure to play the ball more quickly.
2. **Remember, an offside offence is judged according to the relative positions of players and the ball AT THE TIME THAT THE BALL IS PLAYED.** Example 13 in the FIFA document demonstrates this. Player B is not offside, because at the time that the ball was played by player A, he was at point B1, which is not in an offside position. Because of this, it does not matter that he subsequently runs on and touches the ball at point B2, which is in a position in advance of the second-last defender (or last outfield defender as discussed above). Player C is also not offside. At the time that the ball is played by player A, he is in an offside position, but at that time he is not interfering with active play because he is neither playing or attempting to play the ball, nor interfering with or influencing an opponent, not gaining any advantage from being in that position. By the time the ball is played for a second time, this time by player B at point B2, player C is still not offside because he is now behind the ball, and therefore NOT in an offside position.
3. **The ball is considered to have been played when a player kicks, heads or otherwise legally propels the ball in such a manner that it is released from his / her control,** for example when attempting to pass the ball to another player, taking a shot at goal, or just kicking the ball to another part of the field or out of play. The ball being dribbled (kept at close control whilst running or walking) by a player does NOT constitute the ball being played. Therefore, a team may have one or more players in offside positions while another player is dribbling the ball, and none of these players may be called offside until such time as the player dribbling the ball plays the ball in the manner outlined in this point – if they are still in offside positions at that time.
4. **An offside player may not “tag up” in hockey style to avoid being offside.** Take example 4 in the FIFA document. At the time that the ball is played in that example, player A is offside, as discussed in point 1. After the ball has been played, player A may NOT step back to be level with the last outfield defender and then set off in pursuit of the ball again in the manner of a hockey forward skating back to touch the blue line before going after the puck. The offside offence has already occurred in this example and cannot be overturned.