

LAW 12 – Fouls & Misconduct

BALL IN-PLAY OFFENSES



- Direct free kicks (DFK), indirect free kicks (IFK) [**See Law 13**] and penalty kicks (PK) [**See Law 14**] can only be awarded for fouls committed while **the ball is in-play**.
- If an offense involves contact it is penalized with a direct free kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK).
- All free kicks (DFK and IFK) shall be taken by the opposing team in accordance with criteria outlined in **LAW 13**.
- In the Passers (U-8) division all offenses (including those committed within the Penalty Area) shall result in an indirect free kick (IFK) restart [**See Law 13**], i.e. **no DFK or PK restart can be awarded**.

DIRECT FREE KICK OFFENSES



- A direct free kick (DFK) is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven (7) offenses in a manner considered by the Referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:
 - kicks (or attempts to kick): an opponent, or the ball in possession of the goalkeeper,
 - trips (or attempts to trip) an opponent,
 - strikes (or attempts to strike) an opponent, including a goalkeeper:
 - 1) throwing the ball vigorously at an opponent, or
 - 2) pushing an opponent with the ball while still holding it.
 - jumps at an opponent,
 - charges an opponent,
 - pushes an opponent,
 - tackles or challenges an opponent to gain possession of the ball, and makes contact with the opponent:
 - 1) before contact is made with the ball,
 - 2) on any slide tackle made from outside the peripheral vision (the rear 180 degrees) of an opponent, even if first contact is with the ball.

LAW 12 – Fouls & Misconduct

- A direct free kick (DFK) is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six (6) offenses:
 - holds an opponent,
 - bites or spits at anyone,
 - impedes an opponent with contact,
 - throws or kicks an object at:
 - 1) the ball,
 - 2) an opponent,
 - 3) a game official,
 - makes contact with the ball with a held object (this includes the goalkeeper),
 - handles the ball deliberately, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with hand or arm (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within their own Penalty Area).
- In addition, a direct free kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK) is awarded to the opposing team if a player on the field-of play commits any DFK offense against:
 - a teammate,
 - a substitute,
 - a team official,
 - a game official.
- In the Passers (U-8) division, all of the foregoing fouls shall result in an indirect free kick (IFK) restart.

PENALTY KICK



- Should a player of the defending team commit one of the above direct free kick (DFK) offenses within their own Penalty Area, they shall be penalized by a penalty kick.
- A penalty kick can be awarded:
 - only if the ball is in play at the time of the offense,
 - only if the offense is committed against an opposing player,
 - only if the offense is committed within the Penalty Area, and
 - regardless of the location of the ball.

LAW 12 – Fouls & Misconduct

INDIRECT FREE KICK OFFENSES



- The commission of any of the following offenses will result in the award of an indirect free kick (IFK), taken by the opposing team at the point of offense subject to the overriding conditions of **Law 13**.
- **DANGEROUS PLAY** - Playing in a manner that could result in injury to themselves or to any other player (teammate or opponent).
 - "Dangerous Play" is a judgment call.
 - The examples given below are not exclusive:
 - 1) Raising the foot, in an attempt to play the ball, to the level of another player's chest or higher when the other player is in normal position.
 - 2) Using a double kick (scissors or bicycle) within playing distance of another player.
 - 3) Lowering the head to a level of the waist or lower in an attempt to head the ball in the presence of another player.
 - 4) Playing or attempting to play the ball while lying on the ground within playing distance of another player.
- **SLIDE TACKLING FROM THE REAR WITH NO CONTACT**- A slide tackle made from outside the peripheral vision (the rear 180 degrees) of an opposing player:
 - who is in control of the ball, and
 - where no contact is made with either the ball or the player.
- **CHARGING FAIRLY** - When shoulder to the shoulder contact is made with an opposing player and:
 - each player has at least one foot on the ground,
 - the ball is not within playing distance of the two players,
 - the contact is not excessive or unsafe.
- **OBSTRUCTION** - When not playing the ball, a player intentionally interposes their body so as to impede an opponent's movement (without contact).
- **FOULS AGAINST THE GOALKEEPER** - Charging a goalkeeper:
 - while ball is in the goalkeeper's possession ... or ...
 - in the Goal Area, whether or not the ball is in the goalkeeper's possession.

LAW 12 – Fouls & Misconduct

- **IMPROPER CLEARING OF THE BALL BY THE GOALKEEPER** - The following rules shall apply to goalkeepers when clearing the ball:
 - Goalkeepers may run or walk with the ball take any number of steps while inside the Penalty Area, as long as there is no excessive delay in clearing the ball.
 - **The following rules do not apply in any way to Passers (U-8) games.**
 - 1) Goalkeepers, from the moment they take control of the ball with their hand or arm, may take no more than six (6) seconds without releasing it back into play.
 - 2) A goalkeeper who bounces or tosses the ball in the air and catches it again is not considered to have released the ball back into play.
 - 3) Goalkeepers, after releasing the ball into play, may not touch the ball again with their hand or arm unless it has been touched or played by another player.

- **OFFENSES BY THE GOALKEEPER** – Playing the ball received from a teammate.
 - On any occasion when a teammate **deliberately** kicks the ball to their own goalkeeper, or throws the ball on a throw-in directly to their own goalkeeper:
 - 1) the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch it with hand or arm.
 - 2) If, however, the goalkeeper does touch the ball with their hand or arm, they shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick (IFK) to the opposing team at the place where the touch occurred, and in accordance with **Law 13**.
 - This restriction does not apply to Passers (U-8) games, as a goalkeeper may play or touch the ball with their hands when a teammate:
 - 1) deliberately kicks the ball to them,
 - 2) directly throws the ball to them on a throw-in.
 - In small-sided Passers (U-8) and Wings (U-10) the goalkeepers are not allowed to punt or drop-kick the ball [**See Law 8**].

- **SMALL-SIDED HEADING THE BALL RESTRICTIONS** – The following rules only apply to Passers (U-8), Wings (U-10) and Strikers (U-12) games.
 - On any occasion when a player **deliberately** strikes the ball with any portion of their head, an indirect free kick (IFK) is to be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction.
 - Such a deliberate act is considered the same as a dangerous play offense.
 - The player shall not be cautioned nor sent-off for any reason associated with heading the ball.
 - If the player does not deliberately play or attempt to play the ball with their head, then no offense has occurred, and play should be allowed to continue.

LAW 12 – Fouls & Misconduct

MISCONDUCT - CAUTION (YELLOW CARD)



- A caution shall be administered:
 - If a player enters or leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission
 - If a player repeatedly violates the **Laws of the Game**
 - If dissent is shown by words or action with any decision of the Referee
 - If a player or substitute engages in unsporting behavior, such as:
 - 1) attempts to prevent a throw-in from being taken,
 - 2) attempting to prevent a goalkeeper from clearing the ball,
 - 3) use of inappropriate language or gestures.
 - If a player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted, or otherwise delays the restart of play.
 - If a player within their own Penalty Area attempts to make a play on the ball, but commits an offense that:
 - 1) results in a penalty kick,
 - 2) is not punishable by a red card, and
 - 3) denies the opposing team an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
 - If a player deliberately handles the ball:
 - 1) in an attempt to score a goal (whether goal scored or not),
 - 2) in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal by opposing team,
 - 3) to interfere with or stop a promising attack.
 - If a player commits a direct kick (DFK) offense in a reckless manner.
- The Referee need not stop the game immediately to administer a caution, i.e. the advantage clause may be invoked.
 - The caution will be administered at the next stoppage of play.
- If the Referee stops the game to administer a caution, the game shall be restarted by an indirect free kick (IFK) taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the Referee stopped the game in accordance with **Law 13**.
- A player receiving a caution may remain in the game or substituted at the discretion of the coach.

LAW 12 – Fouls & Misconduct

MISCONDUCT – SEND-OFF (RED CARD)



- A player will be sent-off from the game for:
 - violent conduct
 - serious foul play, including
 - deliberately handling the ball, thereby denying his opponent a goal, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, (other than the goalkeeper within their own penalty area)
 - impeding an opponent who is moving toward his opponent's goal with an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, by committing any offense punishable by a free kick (or penalty kick), and thereby denies the attacking team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.
 - **NOTE:** Application of provisions above may be inappropriate for Passers (U-8) and Wings (U-10).
 - spitting at an opponent or any other person
 - the use of offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures.
 - receiving a second caution.
- If the game is stopped to eject the player, no other **Law** having been infringed, an indirect free kick (IFK) shall be awarded to the opposing team from the point of the offense, in accordance with **Law 13**.
- When a Referee is in the process of cautioning a player, and the player commits another offense that merits a caution, the player shall be sent-off (red carded).