



SOUTHERN NEVADA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2025-2026 RULES UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

FIFA has implemented the changes outlined below to the Laws of the Game for 2025-2026; we have updated our SNSA rule books to reflect the changes that apply to our league. We encourage our coaches to visit the “[SNSA Policies & Rules](#)” page to access your complete 2025-2026 rule book for a comprehensive explanation of these rule changes.

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE > 5.6 Referee Signals (*applies to 6v6, 8v8 and 11v11 formats*)

Signal to be used by referees to count down the last five seconds of the eight-second restriction on goalkeepers controlling the ball with their hand(s)/arm(s).

Explanation – Refer to Law 12 update for updated restriction on the time goalkeepers are allowed to control the ball with their hands or arms. The new referee signal assists the goalkeeper to release the ball in a timely manner.



LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY > 8.2 Dropped Ball (*applies to all formats*)

If, when play was stopped the ball was outside the penalty area, the referee drops it for one player of the team that has or would have gained possession if this can be determined by the referee; otherwise, it is dropped for one player of the team that last touched it. The ball is dropped at its position when play was stopped.

LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY > 9.2 Ball in Play (*applies to all formats*)

If, without intending to interfere with play unfairly, a team official, substitute, substituted or sent-off player or player who is temporarily off the field of play (injury, adjusting equipment etc.) touches the ball while it is still in play but when it is clearly leaving the field of play, this is penalized with an indirect free kick; there is no disciplinary sanction.

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE > 11.2 Offside Offense (*applies 8v8 and 11v11 format*)

When determining offside: *The first point of contact of the ‘play’ or ‘touch’ of the ball should be used; however, when the ball is thrown by the goalkeeper, the last point of contact should be used.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT > 12.3 Corner Kick (*applies to 6v6, 8v8 and 11v11 formats*)

A corner kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, controls the ball with their hand(s)/arm(s) for more than eight seconds before releasing it. A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with their hands when:

- the ball is between their hands/arms or between their hand(s)/arm(s) and any surface (e.g. ground, body)
- holding the ball in their outstretched open hand(s)
- bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air

The referee will decide when the goalkeeper has control of the ball and the eight seconds begin and will visually count down the last five seconds with a raised hand. A goalkeeper cannot be challenged by an opponent when in control of the ball with their hand(s)/arm(s).

Explanation – The goalkeeper has 8 seconds to release the ball from his hands (formerly 6 seconds). A violation results in a corner kick for the (formerly an indirect free kick). The language related to goalkeeper control of the ball has been moved from section 12.2 Indirect Kick to 12.3 Corner kick. **Subsequent sections have been re-numbered.**

LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK > 17.1 Procedure (*applies to 6v6, 8v8 and 11v11 formats*)

A corner kick awarded for the goalkeeper controlling the ball with the hand/arm for more than eight seconds is taken at the corner nearest to the goalkeeper’s position when penalized.

Explanation – The corner kick procedure has been updated to include a goalkeeper violation of the 8-second rule.
