



Rules of the Game

Updated Feb, 2025

Rules of the Game

The Field of Play..... 4

The Ball.....4

The Referee.....5

Number of Players on the Field.....5

Substitutions..... 5

Player Required and Prohibited Apparel/Equipment.....6

 Required Equipment.....6

 Prohibited Items7

The Goal Keeper (7U and Up only)7

Kick-off and Starting Play7

Ball In/Out of Play8

Throw-In8

Goal Kicks8

Corner Kicks9

Goal Scored9

Offsides (only for 9U and above)10

Headballs10

Removal of a Player/Coach/Spectator.....10

Fouls and Misconduct.....11

 Direct kick fouls.....11

 Indirect Kick fouls.....11

 Advantage12

The Build-Out Line.....12

Concussion Awareness & Additional Resources.....13

EYSA Player/Parent/ Coach Agreement.....14

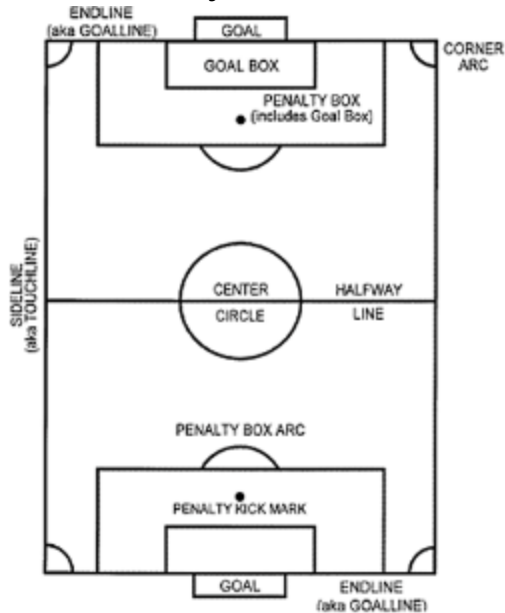
See eysasoccer.org for more information regarding:

- Team Assignment
- Game/Practice Schedule
- ESC Field Layout
- Game Parameters
- Weather Policy
- Picture Day Schedule
- Tournament Schedule
- Other fun information

Rules of the Game

(Adapted from International Football Association Board Laws of the Game)

1) The Field of Play



- a)
- b) Parents/spectators are allowed to sit on the opposite side of the field than players, 10 feet away from the sideline.
- c) 7U & 12U: No coaches/parents/spectators are permitted to watch the game from behind either goal area.

2) The Ball

- a) Players are asked to supply their own ball for the season in 7-U, 9-U and 12-U.
- b) 5-U and 7-U players will use a standard Size 3 soccer ball.
- c) 9-U and 12-U will use a standard Size 4 soccer ball.
- d) Coaches will need to provide a game ball to the referee prior to the start of the game. The game ball should be well inflated and in good condition.

3) The Officials

- a) EYSA Officials will consist of Center Referees and Assistant Referees.
- b) The number of Officials for each match is dependent on age
- c) EYSA Representatives and Officials are responsible for maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all players while upholding EYSA's Rules of the Game.
- d) All officials are encouraged to hold a certification.
- e) 7U games are officiated by one Center Referee.
- f) 9U games are officiated by two Center Referees.
- g) 12U games are officiated by one Center Referee and two Assistant Referees or two center Referees (depending on schedule).

4) Number of Players on the Field

- a) The number of players on the field for each age group is as follows:
 - i) 5-U: 3 players (no goalies)
 - ii) 7-U: 6 players including a goalie
 - iii) 9-U: 7 players including a goalie
 - iv) 12-U: 8 players including a goalie
- b) If both coaches and the match official(s) agree, games may proceed with more/less players for any variety of reasons.

5) Substitutions

- a) The Center Referee must stop the game and call all substitutes onto the field before they are permitted to enter.
- b) To inform the Official/Referee of a substitution, players must stand at the midfield line.
 - i) This is the only area from which players may enter the field during gameplay.
- c) 5U - 9U:
 - i) Substitutions may be made by both teams, at any of the following stoppages:
 - (1) Before throw-ins, goal kicks, after a goal is scored, halftime, after an injury
- d) 12U:
 - i) Substitutions may be made at the following stoppages:
 - (1) Before your throw-ins: The defending team (not in possession) may not make a substitution unless the team in possession is also making a substitution.
 - (2) Goal Kicks, after a goal is scored, after halftime, after an injury (both teams)
 - ii) Substitutions are not permitted during any of the following stoppages:
 - (1) Corner Kicks
 - (2) Free Kicks
 - (3) Penalty Kicks
 - (4) After a Red Card is issued

6) Player Required and Prohibited Apparel/Equipment

a) Required Equipment

- i) All players are required to have the following apparel
 - (1) Their team jersey (provided by the league).
 - (2) Soccer socks
 - (3) Shin Guards (provided by the player). Shin guards must be
 - (a) worn under socks.
 - (b) made of a suitable material
 - (c) provide a reasonable degree of protection.
 - (4) Soccer cleats (Optional but strongly recommended)

b) Prohibited Items

- i) All Hoods must be tucked in, under the players jersey, so they cannot be pulled during gameplay.
- i) The following items are prohibited:
 - (1) Jewelry of any type. This includes rings, necklaces, and earrings. Post earrings can be covered with tape for the games that take place at EYSA home locations. Please note these may not be allowed when playing at other sites.
 - (2) Baseball/Football cleats that have a spike under the front toes.

7) The Goal Keeper (7U+)

- a) Each team, will have one person playing goalie. The goalie shall wear a different color from both teams on the field.
- b) The goalie may use their hands within their own penalty area. The goalie shall not use their hands when the ball is passed directly to them by a teammate even in their own penalty area. The result will be an indirect free kick.
- c) The goalkeeper may not score directly from a kick, punt or throw from their penalty area.
 - i) If such a goal occurs, no goal will be awarded and play will continue with a goal kick for the team scored on.
- d) 7U & 9U - Goalies may not drop-kick the ball (see **18: Build-Out Line** for more info).

- e) Opponents cannot challenge the goalkeeper once possession is established.
 - i) A goalkeeper is considered to have possession when they have established control of the ball in any of the following ways:
 - (1) Holding the Ball – Securely in their hands or against any part of their body.
 - (2) Hand Contact – One or both hands on the ball, even if it is on the ground.
 - (3) Between Hands & Any Surface – Pinning the ball against the ground or body.
 - (4) Bouncing or Tossing – In the act of bouncing or tossing the ball in the air.
 - (5) Outstretched Hand with Control – Holding the ball while preparing to distribute it.
 - ii) A goalkeeper is not considered in possession in these situations:
 - (1) Deflected Ball or Loose Rebound – If the ball rebounds off the keeper without control.
 - (2) Dropping for a Kick – Once the ball is released for a punt, drop kick, or throw.
 - (3) Intentional Parry – If the keeper deliberately deflects the ball without securing it.
 - (4) Ball Between Legs Without Hand Control – If the ball is loosely between the goalkeeper’s legs without hand possession.

8) Kick-off and Starting Play

- a) Prior to the game, the ref will flip a coin. The team that wins the flip can choose which side they want to start on or can choose to start with the kick-off.
- b) For the second half, the teams will switch sides and the opposite team will get the kick off.
- c) After every goal, play will resume with a kick off by the team that did not score.
- d) For all kick-offs:
 - i) All players must be on their own defensive side of the field.
 - ii) The opposing team must stay outside of the circle in the middle of the field.
 - iii) The ball must be placed in the middle of the midfield line.
 - iv) The ref must signal the start of play before the ball can be kicked.
 - v) The player who takes the kickoff cannot touch the ball until another player touches the ball
- e) 7U - 12U: Games will have a “Running Clock” maintained by the Center Referee.
 - i) The only circumstance where the Center Referee may stop the clock is in the event of an injury where the player cannot be moved.
 - ii) At the discretion of the Center Referee, up to 2 minutes of ‘extra time’ may be added at the end of the game to account for unintended stoppages. Referee(s) will inform coaches should this occur.
 - iii) Coaches/players may receive a warning (Yellow Card) if the Referee(s) believe they are attempting to delay/stall the game

9) Ball In/Out of Play

- a) The ball is out of play when it has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air. The ball must be completely over the line and the referee has singled the stoppage of play.
- b) If the ball goes out of play on the side lines, the team that did not touch it last begins play with a throw-in.
- c) If the ball goes out of play on the end and was last touch by a defensive player, the offensive team will get a corner kick
- d) If the ball goes out of play on the end and was last touched by an offensive player, the defensive team will get a goal kick.

10) Throw-In

- a) At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must
 - i) Stand facing the field of play
 - ii) Be at the spot where the ball crossed the sideline
 - iii) Have part of each foot on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
 - iv) throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where it left the field of play
- b) The thrower cannot touch the ball again until another player for either team has touched the ball
- c) In the event the ball is thrown incorrectly, the following situations apply:
 - i) 5U & 7U - referee to show the child what is wrong and allow them to throw it in again.
 - ii) 9U - child receives a warning and is allowed to throw it in again, once per game.
 - iii) 12U - The ball is turned over to the other team.

11) Goal Kicks

- a) When the ball is kicked:
 - i) The ball must be stationary and is kicked from any point within the six yard box by a player of the defending team.
 - ii) The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
 - iii) 12U - Opponents must be outside the eighteen yard box/Goalie area until the ball is in play.
 - iv) 7U & 9U - Opponents must remain behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is in play.

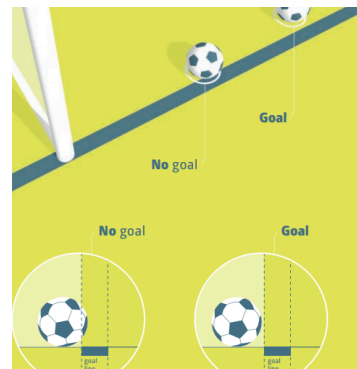
12) Corner Kicks

a) When the ball is kicked:

- i) The ball must be placed in the corner area nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line
- ii) The ball must be stationary and is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- iii) The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not need to leave the corner area

13) Goal Scored

- a) A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar
- b) After a goal is scored, the game is restarted by a kick-off by the team that was scored on.



14) Offsides (only for 9U and above)

- a) A player is caught offside if he's nearer to the opponent's goal than both the ball and the second-to-last opponent (including the goalkeeper) when his team-mate plays the ball to him. In other words, a player can't receive the ball from a team-mate unless there are at least two players either level with him or between him and the goal or unless his team-mate plays the ball backwards to him.
- b) Being in the offsides position is not in itself a penalty. In order for it to be a penalty, the player must be actively participate or interfere with the play
- c) A player can't be offside from a goal kick, throw in, or corner
- d) If a player is called offsides, the opposing team will receive an indirect kick from the spot of the foul.
- e) 9U - Players cannot be in an offsides position if they have not passed the Build-Out Line.

15) Headballs

- a) No player in the league is allowed to intentionally use their heads to advance the ball.

16) Removal of a Player/Coach

- a) EYSA Representatives and Officials are responsible for maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all players, coaches and spectators.
- b) EYSA
- c) Officials may use their discretion to issue a caution (yellow card) or eject any player/coach. If a is using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures or other verbal offenses.
- d) If a player receives a red card in a game, they are ejected and may not participate in the following game.
- e) If a player receives two yellow cards in a game, they will be removed for the remainder of the game.
- f) Officials (and the EYSA Field Marshall) may eject any player/coach/spectator from the premises if they are acting in a manner that is not conducive to the healthy, safe and supportive environment EYSA promotes.
- g) Any player/coach/spectator that is ejected from the facility, must leave immediately and may not return that day.
 - i) The Referee will stop the game until this individual has left the premises and the clock will not stop.
- a) Any instance where a player/coach/spectator is ejected from the facility, will be documented with a formal Incident Report and reviewed by the EYSA Board of Directors.
- h) After the first documented incident, any person found showing contempt towards another player/official/coach, will be brought to the attention of the EYSA Board of Directors.
- i) The EYSA Board of Directors may deem it necessary to revoke any person's eligibility to participate in any EYSA organized leagues/tournaments/events.

17) Fouls and Misconduct

a) Direct kick foul

- i) A direct free kick (meaning the team can score from directly from the kick) is awarded if a player commits any of the following offenses against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force: (a card will be given.)
 - (1) Charges
 - (2) jumps at
 - (3) kicks or attempts to kick
 - (4) Pushes
 - (5) strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
 - (6) tackles or challenges
 - (7) trips or attempts to trip
- ii) A direct kick is also awarded if a player
 - (1) A handball offense (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area). In order to be considered a handball, the player must:
 - (a) intentionally use their hands/arms to play
 - (b) Scores or creates a scoring opportunity after touching the ball with their hands
 - (2) holds an opponent
 - (3) impedes an opponent with contact
 - (4) bites or spits at someone
 - (5) throws an object at the ball, an opponent or a match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object

b) Indirect Kick fouls

- i) Teams cannot score directly off from an Indirect free kick.
- ii) In addition to a card, at the discretion of the Referee, Indirect free kicks may be awarded for any of the following offenses:
 - (a) Slide tackling: a player may only slide to prevent the ball from going out of bounds so long as there are no other players in the immediate vicinity.
 - (b) Playing the ball on the ground
 - (c) Kicking the ball while in the goalies possession
 - (d) plays in a dangerous manner
 - (e) impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
 - (f) is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures or other verbal offenses.
- (2) prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- (3) commits any other offense, not mentioned in the Laws, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player
- (4) If a parent, spectator or coach is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures or other verbal offenses.

c) Advantage

- i) The referee has discretion to call Advantage on any play. If the referee believes the team that would have been given the kick benefits by the call not being made, they can choose to not call the play.

18) The Build-Out Line

- a) The build-out line is implemented in 7U and 9U divisions to promote player development by encouraging teams to play the ball out from the back in a controlled manner. This rule aims to foster technical skills, improve decision-making, and create a more developmentally appropriate playing environment.
- b) **Placement of the Build-Out Line:**
 - i) 7U - The Build-Out line is considered mid-field for both teams.
 - ii) 9U - The Build-Out line is positioned halfway between the penalty area and midfield line, on each half of the field.
 - iii) It runs parallel to the goal line and extends from one sideline to the other.
- c) **Goalkeeper Distribution:**
 - i) When the goalkeeper has possession of the ball, either during live play or for a goal kick, opposing players must retreat behind the build-out line.
 - ii) The goalkeeper may distribute the ball via a throw, roll, or pass to a teammate within the defensive half.
 - iii) The ball is considered in play once it leaves the goalkeeper's hands or, in the case of a goal kick, when it is kicked and clearly moves.
- d) **Opposition Pressure:**
 - i) Opposing players may cross the build-out line and apply pressure as soon as the ball is in play.
 - ii) Players are encouraged to respect the spirit of the rule, allowing the team in possession to initiate play without immediate, high-pressure defense.
- e) **No Punting or Drop-Kicking:**
 - i) Goalkeepers are not allowed to punt or drop-kick the ball.
 - ii) If a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the infraction.
- f) **Offside Rule:**
 - i) The build-out line also serves as the offside line.
 - ii) Players cannot be considered offside unless they are beyond the build-out line, closer to the opponent's goal than both the ball and the second-to-last defender.

g) **Infractions and Restarts:**

- i) Failure of opposing players to retreat behind the build-out line when required may result in a referee-issued warning or, in repeated cases, an indirect free kick awarded to the goalkeeper's team.
 - ii) If the goalkeeper distributes the ball before opponents have fully retreated, play continues.
- h) **Everyone** is expected to uphold the spirit of the build-out line rule. The primary objective is to encourage skill development, sportsmanship, and fair play over winning at all costs.

19) Concussion Training

a) In accordance with MCL 333.9156

- i) All coaches, assistant coaches, referees, trainers, employees, and volunteers that are involved in any EYSA organized practice/game (athletic activities) must complete a concussion awareness training program approved by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
 - (1) Training must be completed **at least once every three years or more frequently if required by law.**
 - (2) Proof of completion must be submitted to EYSA and **maintained on file** for the duration of the individual's involvement.
 - (3) See "Concussion Training Resources" for detailed instructions on how to complete this free training requirement in ~30 minutes.
 - (4) Failure to complete this required training and submit valid documentation to EYSA, will result in **suspension from all coaching, officiating, and volunteer activities** until training is completed and EYSA has received valid documentation of such.
- ii) Before participating, all **athletes and legal guardians** will receive and review **concussion awareness educational materials** provided by MDHHS.
 - (1) all **athletes and legal guardians must sign and submit a concussion education acknowledgment form.**
 - (2) **To view this form and additional resources please visit:**
<https://www.eyasoccer.org/heads-up-policy>
- iii) **Please submit all proof of completion to: eysaedwardsburg@gmail.com**
- iv) **If a youth athlete exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, they must be immediately removed from participation in any athletic activity.**
- v) Any **coach, referee, or official** who observes a suspected concussion must **report the incident immediately** and ensure the athlete is removed from play.
- vi) The athlete **may not return to any athletic activity on the same day** if a concussion is suspected.
 - (1) Return-to-Play: Any player removed from play due to a suspected concussion may not return to participation in any capacity, until they have provided written clearance from a qualified health care professional.

EYSA Player/Parent/Spectator Agreement

Purpose:

This agreement outlines the expectations for all participants involved in any EYSA (Edwardsburg Youth Soccer Association) affiliated league, tournament, or event. I understand that by attending any EYSA organized events, all participants agree to conduct themselves in accordance with the rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures outlined below and in the most recent edition of EYSA's Rules of the Game.

Agreement Terms:

By signing up to participate in any EYSA affiliated league, tournament, or event, you acknowledge and agree to the following:

- I have read and understand the EYSA Rules of the Game (most recent edition).
- I agree to abide by all rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures set forth by EYSA.
- I will promote good sportsmanship and respect for all Players, Coaches, Referees, and Spectators.
- I will refrain from abusive language, inappropriate behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct at all EYSA events.
- I will support a positive, development-focused environment.
- I understand that failure to comply with EYSA rules may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, or expulsion from EYSA activities.
- I accept personal responsibility for my behavior and the behavior of any guests I bring to EYSA events.
- I will address any concerns through the proper EYSA channels, respecting the authority of Coaches, Referees, and EYSA Representatives.
- I will encourage constructive communication to resolve conflicts in a respectful manner.

Acknowledgment:

I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the Agreement above. I agree to abide by the EYSA's Rules of the Game (most recent revision).

I understand my participation (as well as that of my child) is contingent upon our compliance with EYSA's rules, guidelines, policies, and procedures.

Printed Name: _____

Role: (Player/Parent/Spectator)

Signature: _____

Date: _____