



SOUTHERN NEVADA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2023-2024 RULES UPDATE HIGHLIGHTS

FIFA has implemented some minor changes to the Laws of the Game for 2023-2024; We have updated our SNSA rule books to reflect the changes that apply to our league. We encourage our coaches to visit the “Rules & Policies” page on the SNSA website to access your complete 2023-2024 rule book for a comprehensive explanation of these rule changes. The following is a summary of notable rule changes:

LAW 3 – THE PLAYERS *(All formats)*

3.9 Goal scored with an extra person on the field of play – If, after a goal is scored, the referee realizes, before play restarts, that an extra person was on the field of play when the goal was scored, **and that the person interfered with play:**

***Explanation** – Clarification relating to extra person(s) on the field of play when a goal is scored.*

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE *(8v8 & 11v11 formats)*

11.2 Offside offense – A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who **deliberately played*** the ball, including by deliberate handball, is not considered to have gained an advantage, unless it was a deliberate save by any opponent.

***‘Deliberate play’ (excluding deliberate handball)** is when a player has control of the ball with the possibility of:

- passing the ball to a teammate;
- gaining possession of the ball; or
- clearing the ball (e.g. by kicking or heading it)

If the pass, attempt to gain possession or clearance by the player in control of the ball is inaccurate or unsuccessful, this does not negate the fact that the player ‘deliberately played’ the ball. The following criteria should be used as indicators that a player was in control of the ball and, as a result, can be considered to have ‘deliberately played’ the ball:

- The ball travelled from distance and the player had a clear view of it
- The ball was not moving quickly
- The direction of the ball was not unexpected
- The player had time to coordinate their body movement, i.e. it was not a case of instinctive stretching or jumping, or a movement that achieved limited contact/control
- A ball moving on the ground is easier to play than a ball in the air

***Explanation** – Clarification of guidelines to distinguish between ‘deliberate play’ and ‘deflection’.*

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT *(All formats)*

12.3 Disciplinary Action: Cautions for unsporting behavior – There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior including if a player:

- (...)
- commits any other offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack, except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball **or a challenge for the ball**
- denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by **committing** an offence which was an attempt to play the ball **or a challenge for the ball** and the referee awards a penalty kick

12.3 Disciplinary Action: Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) - Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball **or a challenge for the ball**; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.

***Explanation** - Clarification that if the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which involved a defending team player challenging an opponent for the ball (excluding holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.), the same sanction should be issued to the player as for an attempt to play the ball, i.e. if the offence stops or interferes with a promising attack – no caution (no yellow card); DOGSO offence – caution (yellow card).*

12.3 Disciplinary Action: Team Officials - Where an offence is committed **by someone from the technical area (substitute, substituted player, sent-off player or team official)** and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. ***A coach is responsible for his team and the spectators.***

***Explanation** - Clarification that the senior team coach present in the technical area cannot be sanctioned for an offence committed by an 'unidentified' player.*

12.3 Disciplinary Action: *Modification Caution & Sending Off Procedures* – ***A player who is issued a yellow card (caution) must immediately leave the field and may be replaced by a substitute player. The yellow-carded player may return at the next substitution opportunity.***

***Explanation** - Addition of procedure for a yellow card offense to the Disciplinary Action modification section (12.3).*

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK (6v6, 8v8 & 11v11 formats)

14.1 Procedure - The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, until the ball **is** kicked. **The goalkeeper must not behave in a way that unfairly distracts the kicker, e.g., delay the taking of the kick or touch the goalposts, crossbar, or goal net.**

***Explanation** – Clarification that the goalkeeper must not behave in a manner that fails to show respect for the game and opponent, i.e., by unfairly distracting the kicker*