

Game Rules

SOCCER

OBJECT

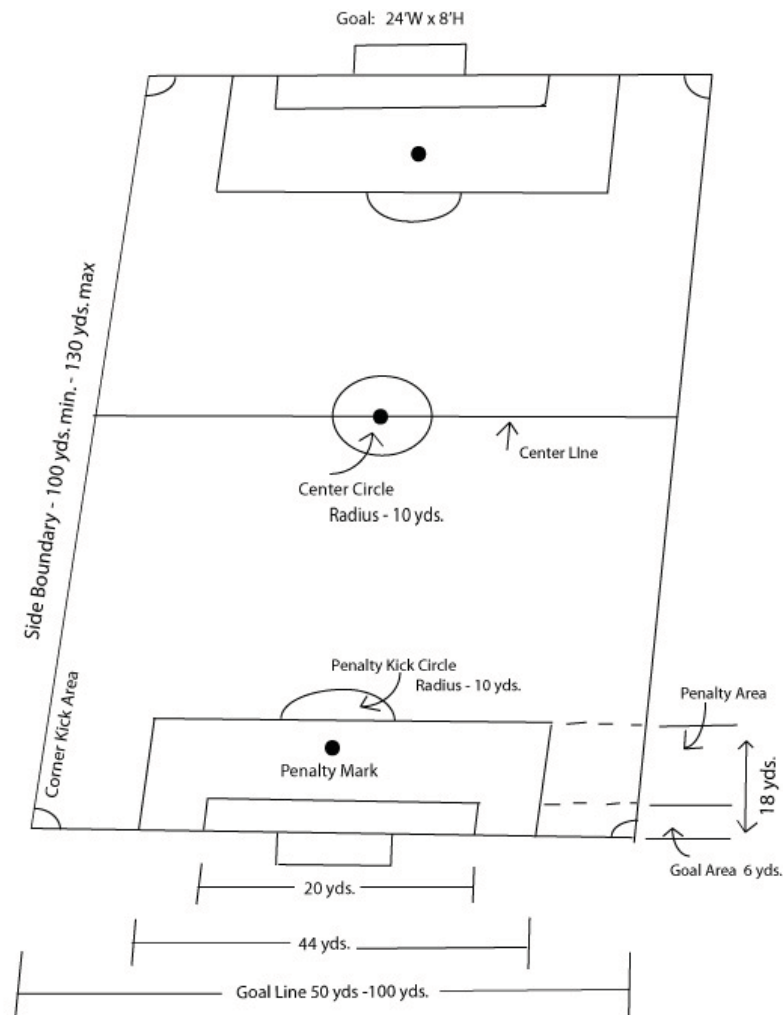
Players use their feet to move a leather or leather-like soccer ball down a field and kick it into the other team's goal. A soccer game consists of two 45-minute halves. Each team needs seven players, including the goalkeeper, to play, but usually each team usually plays 11 players at a time. While some positions vary, soccer players cover four basic positions—goalie, defenders, midfielders, and forwards. A common breakdown for each team consists of 4 defenders, 2 or 3 midfielders, and 3 or 4 forwards.

Goalie – only player allowed to touch the ball with his/her hands while it's in play (within the penalty box only). His/Her duty is to stop shots from entering goal.

Defenders - play in front of the goalie and defend the goal. They usually pass the ball to players further up the field.

Midfielders – move the ball between the defensive and offensive ends of the field with a combination of dribbling and passing. They are often positioned between the defenders and the forwards.

Forwards – usually score the most goals. They are positioned between the midfielders and the other team's goal. Most of the forwards' game is to dribble briefly and shoot the ball to score.



PLAYING FIELD

The field (or pitch) must be rectangular, measuring between 100 yards -130 yards and in width from 50 yards -100 yards.

The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line.

The field of play is divided into two halves and marked with lines.

These lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries.

The two longer boundary lines are called touch lines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines.

The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a 10-yard radius is marked around it.

A goal area is defined at each end of the field.

A penalty area is defined at each end of the field.

Goals must be placed on the centre of each goal line.

They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flag posts and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar.

The distance between the posts is 8 yards and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 8 feet.

Nets may be attached to the goals and the ground behind the goal, provided they are properly supported and do not interfere with the goalie.

The goalposts and crossbars must be white.

PLAYING THE GAME

A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match.

The other team takes the kick-off to start the match. Defensive players must stay outside the center circle until the ball is kicked and travels the distance of its own circumference.

After the referee's whistle, the kickoff is made (to a teammate) from the center spots into the opponents' half of the field. (A goal can't be scored directly from a kickoff.)

In the second half of the match the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.

Players kick the ball or use their head or chest to play it. They may not touch it with any part of the arm except,

- at a throw-in (a two-handed throw to get the ball into play after it has crossed a touch line)
- when a goalkeeper has the ball inside his own penalty area

A goal (1 point) is scored after the entire ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar. The team that scores the most goals is the winner. If no goals are scored or the teams are tied at the end of play, the game can be decided by a kick from the penalty spot or extra playing time.

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the laws of the game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed.

POSITION AND KICKS OF THE GAME

The ball is in play after a throw in; after any free kick or goal kick; if it bounces back onto the field after hitting a post or crossbar; or if it rebounds after an official on the field. It becomes out of play if it crosses a goal line or touch line on the ground or field, or if the referee halts the game.

Offside Position

A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.

It is NOT an offense unless the player is:

- interfering with play
- interfering with an opponent
- gaining an advantage by being in that position

Free Kicks

Free kicks are either *direct* or *indirect*. It is a shot on goal awarded after a foul or misconduct, and can be taken from any place in the goal area.

For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker does not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

Direct free kicks counts as a goal whether or not ball touches a player from either team on its way to the goal. Awarded for major offenses that are committed intentionally—tripping pushing opponent, jumping at an opponent, playing the ball with the arm (from the shoulder to the fingertips), etc.

Indirect free kicks count as a goal **only** if the ball touches a player on either team before crossing goal line. It applies to less serious offenses—offside violations, charging an opponent when ball is out of playing distance, charging the goalkeeper by making bodily contact in the goal area, etc.

Procedure

Direct or indirect free kick to the defending team:

- all opponents are at least 10 yards from the ball
- all opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area
- free kick awarded in the goal area is taken from any point inside that area

Indirect free kick to the attacking team:

- all opponents are at least 10 yards from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts
- ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- indirect free kick awarded inside the goal area is taken from that part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred

Free kick outside the penalty area

- all opponents are at least 10 yards from the ball until it is in play
- ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred

Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the 10 offenses for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of periods of extra time.

Procedure

All players except the goalkeeper and the player taking the penalty kick must stand outside the penalty area, at least 10 yards from the ball. Goalkeeper stands on the goal line between the goal posts and not move his feet until the ball is kicked. The kicker must place the ball, kick it forward and can't play again until the ball has been touched by another player.

If the ball is stopped by the goalkeeper or rebounds into the field, play continues. If it goes over the goal line (but not between the goal posts) after being touched by the goalkeeper, the attacking team gets a *corner kick* (described below).

A penalty kick is retaken if:

- defending team enters the penalty area before the kick is taken and no goal is scored
- attacking player, other than the kicker, enters the penalty area before the kick and a goal is scored
- kicker is penalized for infringement after ball is in play, in which case the defending team is awarded an indirect kick from the place the foul occurred

Goal Kick

A goal kick is taken by any defending player, including the goalkeeper, after the ball goes over the end line (but not into the goal) in the air or on the ground and was last touched by an attacking player. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team.

Procedure

- ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- ball is in play when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area

Corner Kick

A corner kick is taken by an attacking player after the ball goes over the end line (but not into the goal) when it was last touched by a defensive player. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick without another player touching the ball.

Procedure

- ball is placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner flag post
- corner flag post is not moved
- opponents remain at least 10 yards from the ball until it is in play
- ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- kicker does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player



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