

Laws of Soccer Summary – Campbell County North Soccer Club

We encourage players, parents, and coaches to become familiar with soccer rules (called "laws") so you can enjoy the game more fully. This brief summary is not a substitute for reading the laws of soccer, but it should help you get familiar with the laws most commonly applied.

Substitutions

Allowed under the following conditions:

- Prior to a throw-in in your favor. If a team with the throw-in substitutes, both teams can substitute.
- Prior to a goal kick by either team.
- After a goal by either team.
- After an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play.
- At halftime.
- For a cautioned player.

CCNSC Modifications

At U8 and U10 CCNSC promotes a “liberal” substitution policy. With permission from the center referee, players may be substituted at any stoppage of play.

For all ages, unlimited substitutions are permitted.

Game Duration/Minimum Players/Ball Size

Group	Players	Minimum Players	Game Time	Ball Size
U8	6 v 6	6	4 x 12	3
U10	6 v 6	6	2 x 25	4
U12	8 v 8	7	2 x 30	4
U14	11 v 11	7	2 x 35	5

Goal

A score occurs if the ball passes under the crossbar, between the goalposts, and all of the ball passes completely over the outside edge of the goal line.

Throw-in

If the entire ball passes completely over the outside edge of the touchline (sideline), the restart is a throw-in. The throw-in is taken by the team that did not last touch the ball. An improper throw-in or a throw-in taken from the wrong spot results in a throw-in for the opposing team.

CCNSC Modifications

At U8 CCNSC allows for a re-throw if the first throw in is taken improperly. If the second throw is made improperly, the throw-in is awarded to the opposing team.

Goal Kick

If the entire ball passes over the goal line, it was last touched by an attacking player, and a valid goal was not scored, the restart is a goal kick. The ball is placed in the goal area and kicked by a member of the defending team. All attacking players must remain outside the penalty area until the ball leaves the penalty area. A goal may be scored directly from a goal-kick.

Corner Kick

If the entire ball passes over the goal line, it was last touched by a defensive player, and a valid goal was not scored, the restart is a corner kick. The ball is placed in the corner arc and kicked by an attacking player. A goal may be scored directly from a corner-kick.

Drop Ball

When the game is stopped while the ball is in play, for a reason other than an infraction of the laws, the game is restarted with a drop ball.

Penal Foul (foul resulting in a direct or penalty kick)

A direct free kick is the sanction awarded at the point of infraction for any one of the ten penal fouls. For the complete wording and understanding of these infractions you must read the actual laws of the game. This is an overview of the infractions that result in a direct kick.

1. Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
2. Tripping or attempting to trip an opponent
3. Jumping at an opponent
4. Charging an opponent
5. Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
6. Pushing an opponent

7. Making contact with an opponent before contacting the ball when making a tackle
8. Holding an opponent
9. Spitting at an opponent
10. Deliberately handling the ball (except by goal-keeper in his or her own penalty area)

CCNSC Modification

At U8 only, all fouls will result in an Indirect Free Kick. There are not any direct kicks or penalty kicks at U8.

Penalty Kick

If one of the ten penal fouls is committed by the defense in its own penalty area, the sanction awarded to the attacking team is a penalty kick. The ball is placed on the penalty mark, the kicker is identified, the goal-keeper is positioned on the goal-line and may not move forward until the ball is kicked. All other players must remain outside the penalty area and penalty arc and not closer to the goal-line than the penalty mark until the ball has been kicked. Time is extended for a penalty kick taken at the end of half-time, full-time, or over-time.

Non-Penal Foul

An indirect free kick is the sanction awarded at the point of infraction for any non-penal foul. Again, this is an overview. The law book must be consulted for a complete wording and understanding.

1. Dangerous play
2. Charging fairly when the ball is not within playing distance
3. Impeding the progress of an opponent by interposing oneself between the opponent and the ball not within playing distance of the ball.
4. Goal-keeper taking more than the allowable time or otherwise wasting time

Free Kicks

* Direct Free Kick

On a direct free kick, a valid goal is scored if the ball is kicked directly into the opponent's goal.

* Indirect Free Kick

On an indirect free kick, the ball must touch another player in addition to the kicker prior to a goal being scored. The referee signals an indirect free kick by holding an arm in the air until the ball is played or touched by another player or goes out of bounds.

Advantage

The referee applies the advantage clause to allow play to continue if, in his or her opinion, it would be more advantageous to the fouled team to continue play than to be awarded a free kick. If the referee applies the advantage clause and the advantage that was anticipated does not develop within a few seconds, the referee shall penalize the original offense.

Off-side

A player is in an off-side position if he or she is nearer to the opponents' goal-line than the ball, unless the player is in his or her own half of the field, or there are at least two opponents between the attacker and the goal-line. It is not an offense in itself to be in an off-side position. A player shall only be penalized for being in an off-side position if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, he or she is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in the play by:

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

A player shall not be declared off-side by the referee merely because of being in an off-side position or if the ball is received directly from a goal kick, a corner kick, or a throw-in. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offense is committed by a player in the opponents' goal area, in which case the free kick shall be taken from any point within the goal area.

CCNSC Modification

There is no “official off sides” penalty in U8 games. Direct attempts to take advantage of an offside position can be called by the center referee.

Misconduct Resulting in a Caution and a Showing of the Yellow Card

1. Dissent with the referee's decision
2. Unsporting behavior

3. Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
4. Delaying the restart of play
5. Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick.
6. Entering or leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

Misconduct Resulting in a Send-off and a Showing of the Red Card (team plays down a player)

1. Violent conduct
2. Serious foul play
3. Spitting at an opponent or any other person
4. Denying the opponents a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by either deliberately handling the ball or committing a foul that would be punishable by a free kick or penalty kick.
3. Offensive, insulting, or abusive language
4. A player committing a second cautionable offense after having already received a caution

Common Misconceptions (CCNSC Specific)

Two of the most misunderstood laws are handling the ball and off-side. As spectators and coaches, please refrain from "helping" the referee by hollering HANDBALL! or OFF SIDES! It will help the referees if we let them call the game on the field, and then if we have serious concerns regarding misapplication of the Laws of the Game contact the Director of Referees.

Zero Tolerance toward Referee Abuse (CCNSC Specific)

The CCNSC Zero Tolerance Policy prohibits any person from addressing the referee during the game except to point out an emergency situation. A person who in the opinion of the referee violates the Zero Tolerance Policy will be asked to leave the vicinity of the field of play, and the team may face further sanctions. Many referees are young people just learning to referee or adults that volunteer time to the game of soccer. Please show them the common courtesy you would expect to be shown to your child or to yourself.

Slide Tackling (CCNSC Specific)

U8 - No Slide Rule: Field players are not permitted to slide (intentionally or unintentionally) to make a play on the ball. Goalies attempting to make a save are permitted to dive or slide to make a play on the ball.

U10 – Slide tackling permitted but not recommended.

U12 and above – normal FIFA Laws apply.

Inclement Weather (CCNSC Specific)

30 minute delay for all thunder or lightning. All players, coaches, officials, & spectators must leave the playing field and seek shelter.

Soccer Officials (CCNSC Specific)

Officials shall be paid on the field prior to the game. The head coach is responsible to bring the correct change and pay the officials. The Center Referee must use two assistants. If any assistant referee does not show or is not assigned, the fee will be paid to any volunteer who steps in to assist.