



Youth Soccer Rules

There are many times when parents, coaches, and referees run into rules that are commonly misunderstood.

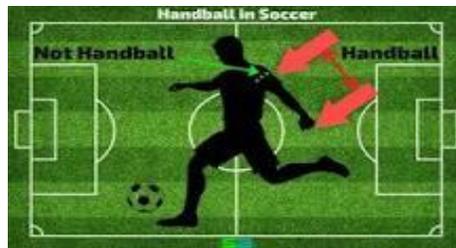
As parents and coaches, it is wise to remember two things:

1. Spectators have no say in the conduct of the game. The only discussions with the referees come from the team or staff.
2. All referee game calls are final- NO APPEALS.

Goal Kick vs. Goalie Ball

A **GOAL KICK** is awarded when the ball passes out of bounds over the goal line having last touched a player of the attacking team. The ball is placed on the ground within the goal area and kicked by a player of the defending team (does not have to be kicked by the goalkeeper). Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is kicked.

A **GOALIE BALL** is when the goalkeeper makes a save. The goalkeeper can either throw the ball or drop-kick the ball from anywhere within the penalty box. The goalkeeper cannot be challenged or blocked by an opposing player.



Information Adopted/Adapted from www.msya.org

Start of Game (Referees)

- Meet with coaches to go over game play (rules, equipment, length of game, # of players).
- Check each player - shin guards are required to be worn under their socks (ages 7 and up) and no jewelry allowed.
- Keep time. A phone should only be used to keep the time.
- Blow the whistle loudly.
- Explain calls to players (and coaches/spectators if possible).
- Move up and down the field.
- Remember you may be coaching more than refereeing depending on the age division.

Hand Ball

Handball is a foul by which a player's hand or arm touches the ball. This area of the hand/arm is from under the shoulder to the tip of the finger. **It is legal to use the upper part of the shoulder to touch the ball.**

If the ball is moving at a fast pace and the player is unable to move their hand/arm out of the way of the ball after it hits your leg, it's not a handball.

Kickoff

A kick-off starts both halves of a match and restarts play after a goal has been scored.

- The home team provides the ball and will start with the ball.
- Both teams must be on their half of the field.
- The ball may be kicked in any direction to start.
- A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

Ball Out of Play

There can be some confusion regarding the sideline or goal line and the ball being out of play. A ball is out of play only when it is **ENTIRELY** out. Any part of the ball still on the line means the ball is still in play.

The same is true for a goal line- the ball must be **ENTIRELY** over the line for a goal.

Indirect vs. Direct Kick

An **Indirect** free kick is generally for non-reckless fouls or rule violations. The free kick is awarded but, in this case, must touch another player before a goal can be scored.

Direct kick: The same intention as an indirect kick but the foul that is called is more intense than fouls called for indirect kicks.

Unlike an indirect kick, direct kicks can be kicked directly into the goal without touching another player or if the kicker chooses to, they can pass the ball to a teammate.



Throw-ins

- Both feet on ground
- Ball is thrown from behind and over the head

The ball is in play when it enters the field of play. If the ball touches the ground before entering, the throw-in is retaken by the same team from the same position. If the throw-in is not taken correctly it is retaken by the opposing team.



Offside

A player is offside when:

1. They are past the second-to-last defender (goalie is the last defender)
2. The attacker is in the opposing half (can't be offside in your own half)
3. The call is made based on the players position at the moment the ball was passed
4. The player is actively involved in the play