



New Territory Recreational Soccer Program

Laws of the Game



In cooperation with



Purpose of Our Program

The Club at New Territory Recreational Soccer Program is designed to further introduce boys, girls and their parents to the basic concepts of playing soccer.

The emphasis of the program should be on **PERSONAL IMPROVEMENT, GIVING MAXIMUM EFFORT, HAVING FUN, TEAMWORK** and **SPORTSMANSHIP**. The competitive nature of “winning at all costs” is extremely discouraged from this program as this league is designed for **RECREATION**. Please inquire with our Athletic Coordinator if you are interested in playing competitive soccer with our neighborhood competitive club soccer program – National Fusion.

Notes on the Laws of the Game

The following Laws are in the format of the seventeen (17) FIFA “Laws of the Game” and are modified in accordance with U.S. Youth Soccer and South Texas Youth Soccer to apply to small-sided games.

FIFA Laws of the Game can be found at www.usoccer.com/referees.

Law 1 – The Field of Play

3 vs. 3

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Width: minimum 15 yards maximum 25 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: None.

The Penalty Area: None.

Flagposts: None.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

4 vs. 4

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 yards maximum 35 yards

Width: minimum 20 yards maximum 30 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of four (4) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: A goal area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line three (3) yards from the inside each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of three (3) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area: none.

Flagposts: none.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from the corners and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The recommended distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet. Goals may be smaller in dimension.

Law 1 – The Field of Play**6 vs. 6**

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 45 yards maximum 60 yards
Width: minimum 35 yards maximum 45 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal Area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, ten (10) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of ten (10) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made eight (8) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Goals must be placed on the center 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 maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

8 vs. 8

Dimensions: The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 70 yards maximum 80 yards
Width: minimum 45 yards maximum 55 yards

Field Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. The field of play is divided into two halves by a halfway line. The center mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of eight (8) yards is marked around it.

The Goal area: Conform to FIFA.

The Penalty Area: A penalty area is defined at each end of the field as follows: Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, fourteen (14) yards from the inside of each goalpost. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of fourteen (14) yards and are joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area. Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made ten (10) yards from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them. An arc of a circle with a radius of eight (8) yards from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Flag posts: Conform to FIFA.

The Corner Arc: Conform to FIFA.

Goals: Conform to FIFA with exception that the maximum distance between the posts is eighteen (18) feet and the maximum distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is six (6) feet.

Law 2 – The Ball**3 vs. 3**

Size: Three (3)

6 vs. 6

Size: Four (4)

4 vs. 4

Size: Three (3)

8 vs. 8

Size: Five (5)

Law 3 – The Number of Players**3 vs. 3**

A match is played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than three (3) players. There are NO goalkeepers designated to protect the goal with the use of handling. Players are allowed to defend their goal. Minimum number of players required is two (2) per team.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

4 vs. 4

A match is played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than three (4) players. There are NO goalkeepers designated to protect the goal with the use of handling. Players are allowed to defend the goal. Minimum number of players required is three (3) per team.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

6 vs. 6

A match is played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than six (6) players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players required is five (5) per team.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

8 vs. 8

A match is played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than eight players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players required is six (6) per team.

Playing time: Each player SHALL play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play and unlimited.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

3 vs. 3

4 vs. 4

Players shall wear the uniform as issued by The Club at New Territory.

Soccer shoes, turf shoes or tennis shoes may be worn. No metal cleats will be allowed.

Shin guards (commercially made) are mandatory and must be worn during all games and practices. Shin guards must be worn underneath and be completely covered by the socks. Any child not wearing shin guards will not be allowed to play

A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to another player. Jewelry, watches, medallions, casts or exposed metal braces are not allowed to be worn during the match.

6 vs. 6

8 vs. 8

Players shall wear the uniform as issued by The Club at New Territory. The goalkeeper shall wear a distinctive color vest or jersey.

Soccer shoes, turf shoes or tennis shoes may be worn. No metal cleats will be allowed.

Shin guards (commercially made) are mandatory and must be worn during all games and practices. Shin guards must be worn underneath and be completely covered by the socks. Any child not wearing shin guards will not be allowed to play

A player shall not wear anything which is dangerous to another player. Jewelry, watches, medallions, casts or exposed metal braces are not allowed to be worn during the match.

Law 5 – The Referee

3 vs. 3

Coaches (one coach per team) are responsible for refereeing games. Coaches should work together and concentrate on fouls on THEIR own team. Use the whistle sparingly. Do not blow the whistle on obvious out-of -bound calls. Coaches should facilitate the game for the players without dominating it. Trifling calls and constant whistling are not a healthy part of small-sided games. Try not to touch the ball often and only when needed to facilitate a restart.

4 vs. 4

6 vs. 6

8 vs. 8

An OFFICIAL (Grade 9 referee, Game Manager or Coordinator or Parent or Coach) may be used. All infringements shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

Law 6 – The Assistant Referee

3 vs. 3**4 vs. 4****6 vs. 6****8 vs. 8**

None

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

3 vs. 3

The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

Coaches should keep a running clock during quarters.

4 vs. 4

The match shall be divided into four (4) equal, twelve (12) minute quarters. There shall be a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and another two (2) minute break between quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

The referee keeps a running clock during quarters but for injuries or time wasting. As in FIFA matches, the referee's time is the official time.

Coaches are not allowed on the field of play during the match.

6 vs. 6**8 vs. 8**

The match shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each. There shall be a half-time interval of five (5) minutes.

The referee keeps a running clock during quarters but for injuries or time wasting. As in FIFA matches, the referee's time is the official time.

Coaches are not allowed on the field of play during the match.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

3 vs. 3

4 vs. 4

6 vs. 6

8 vs. 8

Preliminaries: A coin is tossed and the team which 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. The team which wins the toss takes the kick-off to start the second half of the match. In the second half of the match the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.

Kick-Off: A kick-off is a way of starting and restarting play:

- At the start of each match
- After a goal has been scored
- At the start of the second half of the match

Procedure:

- All players are in their own half of the field
- The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least out of the center circle (four (4) yards) from the ball until it is in play.
- The ball is stationary on the center mark
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward

The kicker must not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player, or has gone out of bounds. The penalty is an indirect free kick for opponent from the spot of the second touch.

Dropped Ball: A dropped ball is a way of restarting the match after a temporary stoppage by the referee. The referee drops the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped.

3 vs. 3

4 vs. 4

Unlike FIFA, a goal may NOT be scored directly from the kick-off

6 vs. 6

8 vs. 8

Like FIFA, a goal MAY be scored directly from the kick-off

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

3 vs. 3

4 vs. 4

6 vs. 6

8 vs. 8

The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal-line (end-line) or touch-line (side-line) whether on the ground or in the air, or when the play has been stopped by the referee.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

3 vs. 3

4 vs. 4

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has wholly crossed the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal and was played from the attacking side of the halfway (midfield) line.

6 vs. 6

8 vs. 8

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has wholly crossed the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal.

Law 11 – Offside

3 vs. 3

Offside: NONE

However, no player may play in an obvious and habitual off-side position at or near the attacking goal. "Cherry picking" for goals is not allowed.

4 vs. 4

6 vs. 6

Offside: NONE

However, no player may play in an obvious and habitual off-side position at or near the attacking goal. "Cherry picking" for goals is not allowed. The referee will caution the player(s) and coach for violating the "cherry picking" rule. The violation will result in an indirect free-kick taken by the opposing team from the half way line.

8 vs. 8

Offside: YES

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his teammates, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by interfering with play, or interfering with an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position. The Referee will make the call using his/her best judgment.

There is no offside if a player receives the ball directly from a goal kick or a throw-in or a corner kick.

For any offside offense, the referee will award the opposing team an indirect free kick from the spot where the infringement occurred.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**3 vs. 3****4 vs. 4****6 vs. 6**

All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick if, in the opinion of the referee, a player commits any of the following offenses:

- _ Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- _ Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- _ Jumps at an opponent
- _ Charges an opponent
- _ Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- _ Pushes an opponent
- _ Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball; No tackling from behind
- _ Holds an opponent
- _ Spits at an opponent
- _ Handles the ball deliberately
- _ Plays in a dangerous manner
- _ Impedes the progress of an opponent

The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player(s).

4 vs. 4

No cards will be shown for misconduct. Any “card-able” offense shall result in the removal of the player(s) for the remainder of the quarter.

6 vs. 6

No cards will be shown for misconduct. Any “card-able” offense shall result in the removal of the player(s) for the remainder of the quarter.

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway (mid-field) line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponents penalty area.

8 vs. 8

Conforms to FIFA

The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infringements to the offending player(s).

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the center spot on the halfway (mid-field) line if a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball in the air from his/her penalty area into the opponents penalty area.

Law 13 – Free Kicks**3 vs. 3****4 vs. 4**

All free kicks are indirect. From the spot of the indirect free kick, opponents shall be no closer than five (5) yards from the ball until it is kicked.

A goal cannot be scored from an indirect free kick unless the ball has been played or touched by any player other than the kicker before entering the goal.

6 vs. 6

All free kicks are indirect. From the spot of the indirect free kick, opponents shall be no closer than eight (8) yards from the ball until it is kicked.

A goal cannot be scored from an indirect free kick unless the ball has been played or touched by any player other than the kicker before entering the goal.

8 vs. 8

Conforms to FIFA

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick**3 vs. 3****4 vs. 4****6 vs. 6**

None

8 vs. 8

A penalty kick is awarded against a team which commits one of the ten offenses (See FIFA Laws of the Game) for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play. The ball is placed ten (10) yards from the center of the goal line. The players other than the kicker are located outside the penalty area and ten (10) yards from the ball. Penalty kick procedures conform to FIFA.

Law 15 – The Throw-In**3 vs. 3**

When the whole of the ball has passed over the touch-line (side-line) either on the ground or in the air, it is put back into play by a kick-in from that point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player from the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it.

A goal shall not be scored directly from a kick-in

4 vs. 4**6 vs. 6**

When the whole of the ball has passed over the touch-line (side-line) either on the ground or in the air, it is put back into play by a throw-in from that point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player from the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it.

The thrower, at the moment of delivering the ball, must face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the touch-line or on the ground outside the touch-line. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head.

The ball shall be in play immediately after it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not again play the ball until it has been touched or played by any other player. The second touch violation shall result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.

If there is an infraction of the throw-in rule, the player throwing the ball in shall receive one additional throw-in after receiving correcting instruction from the referee. If the player violates the throw-in rule on the second attempt, then the opposing team shall be awarded the throw-in.

A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.

8 vs. 8

When the whole of the ball has passed over the touch-line (side-line) either on the ground or in the air, it is put back into play by a throw-in from that point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player from the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it.

The thrower, at the moment of delivering the ball, must face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the touch-line or on the ground outside the touch-line. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head.

The ball shall be in play immediately after it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not again play the ball until it has been touched or played by any other player. The second touch violation shall result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team.

If there is an infraction of the throw-in rule, then the opposing team shall be awarded the throw-in.

A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick**3 vs. 3****4 vs. 4**

When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal-line (end-line) on either side of the goal, either in the air or on the ground, having last been touched or played by a player from the attacking team, the match is restarted with the ball placed anywhere within one foot (1') of the goal line.

The ball shall be in play immediately after it has traveled the distance of its own circumference.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by any other player. The violation will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.

Opponents shall not be any closer than yards (5) yards from the ball until the ball is kicked.

6 vs. 6**8 vs. 8**

When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal-line (end-line) on either side of the goal, either in the air or on the ground, having last been touched or played by a player from the attacking team, the match is restarted with the ball placed anywhere within the goal area and kicked directly beyond the penalty area. The restart for when the ball does not proceed beyond the penalty area is another goal kick.

Opponents shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by any other player. The violation will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick**3 vs. 3****4 vs. 4**

When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal-line (end-line) on either side of the goal, either in the air or on the ground, having been last touched or played by a player from the defending team, it is put back into play by an indirect free kick from the corner by the attacking team.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by any other player. The violation will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.

Opponents shall not be any closer than five (5) yards to the ball until the ball is in play.

6 vs. 6**8 vs. 8**

When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal-line (end-line) on either side of the goal, either in the air or on the ground, having been last touched or played by a player from the defending team, it is put back into play by an indirect free kick from the corner by the attacking team.

The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by any other player. The violation will result in an indirect free kick for the opponent.

Opponents shall not be any closer than eight (8) yards to the ball until the ball is in play.

[END]

Notes:

For further details on those laws which conform to FIFA, go to FIFA.com and click on Laws of the Game.