

CCSAI-NORTH DALLAS CHAMBER SOCCER

LAWS OF THE GAME

(Modified Version-Amended March 2007)

LAW 1. THE FIELD OF PLAY

Realizing that we must generally accept and play upon fields available and furnished by the various Municipal Parks Departments and Schools, the following are recommended field and goal sizes:

Age Group	Field Size	Goal Size	#Players	Ball
Under 6 (U-6)	Max 40 x 20 Yds	4 ft x 6 ft	4	3
	Min 20 x 10 Yds			
Under 8 (U-8)	Max 70 x 50 Yds	6 ft x 12 ft	7	3
	Min 50 x 30 Yds			
Under 10(U-10)	Max 80 x 50 Yds	7 ft x 7 yds	8	4
	Min 70 x 40 Yds			
Under 12 (U-12)	Max 120 x 90 Yds	8 ft x 8 yds	11	4
	Min 100 x 60 Yds			
Under 14 (U-14) -Under 16 (U-16) Under 17 (U-17) Under 19 (U-19)		8 ft x 8 yds	U14-16	5
			11	
			U17-19	
			22	

LAW 2. THE BALL

The ball should be spherical and the outer casing shall be of leather or approved all-weather material. The appropriate size ball for each age group will be used as noted in the above table. The ball shall not be changed during the game unless authorized by the referee.

Each team is required to have a ball that meets the Association's standards. This is to be used as the game ball, which will be given to the referee at the beginning of each game by the home team. At the end of the game a member of the home team shall retrieve the game ball and return it to the referee. The referee shall return the ball to the home team manager or coach. If a League team game ball is furnished it shall be used for age appropriate games.

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LAW 3. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. For U-12 thru U19 leagues, a match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 11 players and not less than 7, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. U-6 play will be by two teams consisting of not more than 4 and not less than 3 players. No goalkeeper may be used in U-6 play. U-8 play will be by two teams consisting of not more than 7 and nor less than 5 players, one of whom may be a goalkeeper (the goalkeeper position should not be the responsibility of just one player, rather all the members, or at least 2-4 team members, who should take turns playing this position, with substitutions at any stoppage of play with the referee's consent.). U-10 play will be by two teams consisting of not more than 8 or not less than 6 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- B. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Shall be at any stoppage of play with the referee's permission, or at the following stoppage of play:
1. **Throw-ins:** Substitutions will be allowed, with the referee's consent, by either team.
 2. **Goal Kicks:** Either team may substitute on a goal kick, with referee's consent.
 3. After a goal is scored, either team may substitute, with referee's consent.
 4. Either team may substitute at half time.
 5. Substitutes will be allowed after an injury, by either team, when the referee stops play and with his consent.
 6. When a caution (yellow card) is given, that player may be substituted with the referee's consent.
 7. In U-6, in addition to (1)-(6) each team may substitute at the end of each quarter. (Association recommends that coaches substitute between quarters to insure that all players present play a minimum of 50% of the game).
- NOTE:** For substitutions in overtime periods, refer to **Association Rule 19.**
- C. Any of the other players may change places with, and any substitutions may replace, the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed of the change or of the replacement, before it is made. If the goalkeeper is substituted and the referee is not notified of the substitution before it takes place and the new goalkeeper handles the ball, the referee shall:
1. Stop the game, caution the new goalkeeper and award the other team an indirect free kick from a point on the goal area line that runs parallel to the goal line nearest the point of the infraction or the point of the infraction in the penalty area, or
 2. Apply the advantage and allow play to continue until the ball goes out of play. At the time, the referee shall caution the new goalkeeper and restart the game as appropriate (throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick).

If another player on the field changes places with the goalkeeper and the referee is not notified of the change before it takes place, play shall not be stopped. The players concerned shall both be cautioned as soon as the ball goes out of play.

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LAW 4. PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- A. Players shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player: i.e. watches, rings, ear rings, necklaces, etc. Only medical or religious jewelry may be worn by covering the jewelry with approval from the referee.
- B. The required equipment of a player shall consist of:
 - 1. Jersey or shirt (see Association Rule 12);
 - 2. Shorts;
 - 3. Socks: must adequately cover shin guards;
 - 4. Shoes - League approved shoes are authorized for all divisions;
 - 5. Shin guards (Mandatory): must be inside socks and age/height appropriate.

NOTE: The following types of shoes are not allowed for use in league play: baseball shoes, football shoes, track shoes with metal spikes or street shoes with leather or hard rubber soles. All cleated shoes must be soft-cleated soccer shoes.

- C. The goalkeeper's jersey shall be distinct in color from all field players and the referee. The goalkeeper's jersey does not require a permanent number.
- D. If two playing teams have the same color jerseys, the home team shall change and play with a different colored jersey. Practice vests or bibs worn over jerseys are acceptable in lieu of an alternate color jersey.
- E. Cut-off shorts will not be permitted; nor will hard-billed headwear be worn.
- F. All league teams' uniforms must have a permanent number, and each player must have a different number (numbers must be on the jersey back and be at least 4 inches high).
- G. Knee pads will be allowed, provided in the opinion of the referee they are not dangerous to other players, e.g., they are not hard plastic, hardened rubber, etc.
- H. Warm-ups can be worn in cold weather, provided the uniform (shorts and jersey) is worn over warm-ups.

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LAW 5. REFEREES

The referee shall:

- A. Enforce the Laws and decide any disputed point.
- B. Keep a record of the game and act as official timekeeper.
- C. Have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws, and to suspend or terminate the game whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectators, or other causes, he or she deems such stoppage necessary.
- D. Have discretionary power, from the time they enter the field of play, to caution any player guilty of misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior and, if they persist, to suspend them from further participation in the game.
- E. Allow no person other than the players and the assistant referees to enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- F. Stop the game if, in their opinion, a player has been seriously injured. If a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.
- G. Have discretionary power to suspend from further participation in the game, without previous caution, a player guilty of violent conduct, serious foul play, or the use of offensive, insulting or abusive language.
- H. The power and authority of the referee commence at the time they arrive at the playing location and ends at the time they leave the playing location. A player, manager or coach can be sanctioned (including being cautioned or ejected) before a game actually starts or after the referee blows their whistle to signal the end of the game.

NOTE: If a player, manager or coach is asked to leave, or is ejected from, the game or playing field for any reason by the referee:

- (1) The parent, player, manager or coach shall immediately leave the field area. Failure to do so can result in the game being abandoned.
- (2) The player, manager or coach shall not be allowed to participate in the next Association game (which could be the first game of the next season).
- (3) The player, manager, or coach will be notified if they are required to appear before the Association's Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman. The Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman will decide if a one game suspension is sufficient in view of the offense and associated circumstances, or if more severe action would be appropriate.
- (4) If a player, coach or manager refuses to appear before the Appeals and Disciplinary Chairman, such player, manager or coach will be prohibited from participating in any subsequent Association games until they appear at a hearing.

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LAW 6. ASSISTANT REFEREES

- A. Unless Assistant Referees are officially provided by the Association, each team (U-10 leagues and older) will provide one assistant. These assistants shall meet with the referee before the scheduled start of the game to receive instructions.
- B. The referee will instruct the assistant referee on their duties and they will assist him as directed. No matter what may be their personal opinion, the decision of the referee is final and may not be questioned.
- C. In the event of undue interference or improper conduct by an assistant, the referee shall dispense with their services and arrange for a substitute to be appointed.
- D. Specifically trained, certified, and assigned Assistant Referees should be used, whenever possible, in place of a team assistant. However, team assistants should be used in the absence of official Assistant Referees. Their responsibilities shall be as delegated to them by the referee.

LAW 7. DURATION OF THE GAME

10 Minute Quarters	Under 6
25 Minute Halves	Under 8
25 Minute Halves	Under 10
30 Minute Halves	Under 12
35 Minute Halves	Under 14
40 Minute Halves	Under 16
45 Minute Halves	Under 19

For U-6, the duration of the game shall be four equal periods and in older leagues, the duration of the game shall be two equal periods, subject to the following:

- 1. Allowance shall be made in either period for all time lost through accident or other cause, at the discretion of the referee.
- 2. Time shall be extended to permit a penalty kick being taken at or after the expiration of the normal period in either half.

NOTE: At half time, the interval shall not exceed five minutes except by consent of the referee. In U-6, there shall be a momentary break between quarter one and quarter two and another momentary break between quarter three and quarter four for substitution. If a team is not able to field a full team consisting of the minimum number of players as specified below, the referee shall allow ten minutes (after the scheduled game time) for the players to arrive. The referee will not begin the game if a team cannot field the minimum number of players within 10 minutes of the scheduled game time. The referee will not determine the disposition of a scheduled game which is unable to be played due to lack of the minimum number of players required. The Association will determine the final disposition of the game.

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MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS
4 for U-6	3 for U-6
7 for U-8	5 for U-8
8 for U-10	6 for U-10
11 for U-12 thru U-19	7 for U-12 thru U-19

LAW 8. THE START OF THE GAME

- A. At the beginning of the game, the referee shall call the captain of each team to the center of the field, toss a coin and give the call to the “visiting” team captain. The team winning the toss shall have the option of choice of ends. The referee, having given a signal, the game shall start by a player touching the ball in the center of the field of play. The ball must be touched and move forward to be considered in play. Every player of the opposing team shall stay not less than 10 yards from the ball, 9 yards in U10, 6 yards in U8, and 5 yards for U6, until it is touched. The player first putting the ball into play may not touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player. A goal may be scored directly from a kick off.
- B. After a goal has been scored, a player from the team giving up the goal shall restart the game in the like manner.
- C. In U-10 and older leagues, when restarting play after halftime, ends shall be changed and the first touch shall be taken by a player of the opposite team to that of the player who started the game. In U-6, the game shall be restarted after each quarter by a kick off taken by a player of the same team to that of the player who started the previous quarter for each half of play, and ends shall be changed at halftime.

NOTE: For any infringement of this law, the first touch shall be retaken, except in the case of the first touching player striking the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player. For this offense, an indirect free kick shall be given to the other team.

- D. After any temporary suspension of play not mentioned elsewhere in these Laws, and provided that immediately prior to the suspension the ball has not passed over the touch or goal lines, the referee shall drop the ball at the place where play was suspended. A player shall not play the ball until it has touched the ground. If the ball is played before it touches the ground, the referee shall again drop the ball.

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LAW 9. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

A. The ball is out of play:

1. When it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air; or
2. When the referee has stopped the game.

NOTE: The lines are considered to be in the areas they enclose. Therefore, touch lines and goal lines are in the field of play.

B. The ball is in play at all other times from the start of the game to the end including:

1. If it rebounds from a goal post, cross bar or corner flag post into the field of play;
2. If it rebounds off either the referee or linesman when they are in the field of play;
3. In the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws, until a decision is given.

NOTE: Players must continue to play in the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws until the referee blows his whistle.

LAW 10. METHOD OF SCORING

Except as otherwise provided by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried, or propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking side, except in the case of a goalkeeper who propels the ball from within their own penalty area.

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LAW 11. OFFSIDE

- A. A player is in an offside position if they are nearer to their opponent's goal line than the ball, unless:
1. They are in their own half of the field of play, or
 2. There are at least two of their opponents nearer (or as near) their own goal line than they are.
- B. A player shall only be declared offside and penalized for playing in an offside position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by someone on their team, in the opinion of the referee:
1. Interferes with play or with an opponent, or
 2. Gains an advantage by being in that position.
- C. A player shall not be declared offside by the referee:
1. Merely because they are in an offside position, or
 2. If they receive the ball direct from a goal kick, a corner kick, a throw-in, or when it has been dropped by the referee.
- D. If a player is declared offside, 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 his opponent's goal area, in which case, the free kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within the goal area.

NOTE: Offside shall not be judged at the moment the player in question received the ball, but at the moment the ball is played to them by one of their own teammates. A player who is not in an offside position when one of their team mates passes the ball to them or takes a free kick does not, therefore, become offside if they go forward during the flight of the ball.

In U-6 and U-8, there shall be NO OFFSIDE.

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LAW 12. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

In accordance with the USYS Development Player Program-Modified Playing Rules, any of the fouls set forth below shall result in an indirect free kick in U-6 and U-8 play, with the opponents at least five yards away in U-6 and six yards away in U-8.

- A. A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offenses shall be penalized by the award of a direct free kick to the opposing team:
1. Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
 2. Trips an opponent (this includes stopping in front of or behind them);
 3. Jumps at an opponent;
 4. Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner;
 5. Charges an opponent from behind unless the latter be obstructing;
 6. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent or spits at a player;
 7. Holds an opponent with their hand or any part of their arm;
 8. Pushes an opponent with their hand or any part of their arm;
 9. Handles the ball, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with their hand or arm.
(This does not include the goalkeeper within their own penalty area.)*
- * It is not an intentional "hand-ball" offense when a player touches the ball with their hands or arms while attempting to protect the vital areas of their body (e.g., chest, crotch, or face) from being struck at close range by the ball. The referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to inappropriately play the ball.
- B. Should a player of the defending side intentionally commit one of the above nine offenses within the penalty area, they shall be penalized by a penalty kick.
- C. A player committing any of the following offenses shall be penalized by the award of an indirect free kick to the opposing team:
1. Playing in a manner considered by the referee to be dangerous, e.g. attempting to kick the ball while in possession of the goalkeeper, dangerous slide tackle.
 2. Charging fairly, i.e. with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;
 3. When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent;
 4. Charging the goalkeeper;*
 5. When playing as goalkeeper and within their own penalty area:
 - a. from the moment the ball comes under their control, they hold the ball for more than 6 seconds, without releasing the ball into play or - having released it - they touch the ball again before it has been touched or played by another player, or
 - b. controls the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked or thrown to their teammate;
 - c. indulges in tactics that waste time.
- * Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED. Possession is defined as: "one or two hands on the ball, holding it, bouncing it, tossing it up and then catching it, or patting it along the ground."

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D. A player shall be cautioned and shown a yellow card if:

1. They enter or re-enter or leave the field of play during the progress of the game (except through accident) without first having received a signal from the referee showing that they may do so;
2. They persistently infringe the Laws of the Game;
3. They show by word or action dissent from any decision given by the referee;
4. They are guilty of serious unsportsmanlike conduct.

In addition to the caution, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing side from the place where the offense occurred.

E. A player shall be sent off of the field of play and shown a red card if, in the opinion of the referee, they:

1. are guilty of violent conduct;
2. are guilty of serious foul play;
3. uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language;
4. receives a second caution or yellow card offense.

If play is stopped by the referee to caution or send off a player, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free kick by a player from the opposing team taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

NOTES: (1) If the goalkeeper either intentionally strikes an opponent by throwing the ball vigorously at them, or pushes them with the ball while holding it, the referee shall award a penalty kick if the offense took place within the penalty area.

(2) Any player, coach, or spectator, whether they are within or outside the field of play, whose conduct is unsportsmanlike or violent, whether or not it is directed towards an opponent, a colleague, the referee, an assistant referee, or other person, or who uses offensive, insulting, or abusive language is guilty of an offense, and shall be dealt with according to the nature of the offense committed.

(3) The offense of spitting at opponents or other persons, or similar unseemly behavior, shall be considered violent conduct.

(4) If, in the opinion of the referee, a player who is moving toward their opponent's goal with an obvious opportunity to score a goal is intentionally impeded by an opponent through unlawful means, i.e. an offense punishable by a free kick (or a penalty kick), thus denying the attacking player's team the aforesaid goal scoring opportunity, the offending player shall be sent off the field of play for serious foul play.

(5) Each coach is responsible for the conduct of their players, spectators, and assistant coaches. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures as are the players (i.e., cautions or ejections by the referee).

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LAW 13. FREE KICK

In U-6 and U-8 there shall be no direct free kicks and a goal may not be scored on a free kick until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team. In addition, in U-6 and U-8 no free kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team's goal area in this case; the ball shall be brought out to the perimeter of the goal area. In U-10, and older free kicks may be taken within the penalty area. Before a free kick is allowed, opponents must be at least five yards away in U-6, six yards away in U-8, eight yards away in U-10 and ten yards away in all other ages.

- A. Free kicks shall be classified under two headings: "Direct" (from which a goal can be scored direct against the offending side, and "Indirect" (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing into the goal).
- B. When a player is taking a Direct or an Indirect free kick inside his own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall remain outside the area and shall be at least 10 yards from the ball and shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball has been kicked out of the area. The ball shall be in play immediately when it has been touched and is beyond the penalty area. The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands in order that he may thereafter kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked direct into play, beyond the penalty area, the kick shall be retaken.
- C. When a player is taking a Direct or Indirect free kick outside his own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least 10 yards from the ball, until it is in play unless they are standing on their own goal line, between the goal posts. The ball shall be in play when the player who is taking the free kick touches it.
- D. If a player of the opposing side encroaches into the penalty area, or within 10 yards of the ball, as the case may be, before a free kick is taken, the referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the Law is complied with.
- E. The ball must be stationary when a free kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time, until it has been touched or played by another player.

- NOTES:
- (1) If the kicker, after taking the free kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an Indirect free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team (except in U-6 and U-8 where the player shall be given a second chance).
 - (2) For an Indirect free kick the referee shall raise his arm straight over his head after awarding the kick; no signal is required in the case of a direct free kick.

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LAW 14. PENALTY KICK

A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark and, when it is taken, all players with the exception of the player taking the kick and the opposing goalkeeper shall be within the field of play but outside the penalty area, and at least 10 yards from the penalty mark and behind the ball. The opposing goalkeeper may move from side to side on his own goal line between the goal posts, but not forward, before the ball is kicked. Once the player taking the kick touches the ball, he or she shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. The ball shall be deemed in play when touched, and a goal may be scored directly from this penalty kick. If the ball touches the goalkeeper before passing between the posts when a penalty kick is being taken at or after the expiration of halftime or full time, it does not nullify a goal. If necessary, time of play shall be extended at halftime or full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken.

NOTES: (1) For any infringement of this Law by:

- (a) The defending team, the kick shall be retaken, if a goal has not resulted;
- (b) The attacking team, other than by the player taking the kick after the ball is in play, if a goal is scored, it shall be disallowed and the kick retaken;
- (c) The player taking the penalty kick, committed after the ball is in play - a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free kick from the spot where the infringement occurred.

- (2) The proper position of the goalkeeper is both feet on the goal line between the goal posts. They can move from side to side along the goal line, but not forward, before the penalty kick is taken. If the goalkeeper moves forward after the blowing of the whistle but before the ball is touched and no goal is scored, the penalty kick must be retaken.

NOTE: Small-sided Soccer - No penalty kicks are to be taken during U-6 and U-8 games; and in U-10 games a penalty kick shall be taken from 9 yards.

LAW 15. THROW-IN

When the whole of the ball passes over a touch line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be thrown in from the point where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player of 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 their head. The ball shall be in play immediately when it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not again play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player. A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.

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- NOTES:
- (1) If the ball is improperly thrown in, the throw-in shall be taken by a player of the opposing team (except in U-6 and U-8 where the player will be given a second chance).
 - (2) If the thrower plays the ball a second time (other than handling the ball) before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team. If, however, the thrower handles the ball, a direct free kick is awarded.
 - (3) If, when a throw-in is being taken, any of the opposing players dance about or gesticulate in a way calculated to distract or impede the thrower, it shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct, for which the offender(s) shall be cautioned.
 - (4) The ball is to be thrown; it may not just be dropped, even from both hands.

LAW 16. GOAL KICK

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the cross bar, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the attacking team, it shall be kicked direct into play beyond the penalty area from a point within the goal area, by a player of the defending team. A goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into their hands from a goal kick in order that they may thereafter kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked beyond the penalty area, i.e., direct into play, the kick shall be retaken. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has touched or been touched by another player. A goal may not be scored direct from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the goal kick shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball has been kicked out of the penalty area.

- NOTES:(1) If the player taking a goal kick plays the ball a second time after it has passed beyond the penalty area, but before it has touched or been played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (except in U-6 and U-8 where the player will be given a second chance).
- (2) In U-6 and U-8 play, a goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal box and opponents must be at least five yards away in U-6 and six yards away in U-8.

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LAW 17. CORNER KICK

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line (excluding that portion between the goal posts and under the cross bar) either in the air or on the ground having last been played by one of the defending team, a member of the attacking team shall kick the ball from within the quarter circle at the nearest corner flag post, which must not be moved, i.e., a corner kick. A goal may be scored directly from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner kick shall not approach within 10* yards of the ball until it is in play, i.e., touched, nor shall the kicker play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

*6 yards in Under 8

*8 yards in Under 10

NOTE: For an infringement of this Law, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.