

IMPACT SOCCER RULES

The below rules have been designed to develop age and stage appropriate gameplay. These rules will help young players develop their fundamentals of the game while having fun in a Christ centered environment.

Soccer is quite simple. Do not complicate the basic soccer rules too much. For 3–10-year-old kids, technical rules might be overwhelming and not fun. Driving their interest in the game away. Soccer for kids at this age should be fluid and fun. This means the games need fluidity.

Technical rules such as Off-sides, properly throw-in and penalty kicks should be introduced at some point between 10-12 years old but be cautious as to when to enforce them.

EQUIPMENT & COURT SPECIFICATIONS

Age Division	Game Length	# Players on Field	Field Size (Yards)
Tot-soccer (ages 3-4) size 3 ball	45-minute practice	TBD	Open
Pre-K & K – size 3 ball	2- 10 min halves 30 min practice before game	4v4 No goalkeeper	30x20
1 st & 2 nd grade – size 3 ball	4 – 10 min quarters	4v4 No goalkeeper	30x20
3 rd – 4 th grade – size 4 ball	4 – 10 min quarters	7v7	45 x 65
5 th & 6 th grade – size 4 ball	4 – 10 min quarters	7v7 (OFF-SIDES RULE ONLY APPLIED TO THIS GROUP)	45 x 65

GAME STRUCTURE

Location

Games will be held on Saturday mornings on soccer fields 1-6 (fields marked).

Overtime

If the score is equal at the end of regulation, games will NOT go into overtime. However, group (5th & 6th) will go into penalty kicks in case the score is equal at the end of regulation. Each team will be conceded 3 penalty Kicks, the team who score more goals wins. In case of same number of goals, the game ends tied.

If one of the competing teams does not have enough players in attendance to play a game with the **minimum** required number of players, the opposing team will share players for the game to proceed. Each team must always have an equal number of players on the field.

Keeping Score

Score will be kept by center referee on site.

Referees

The main duty of a referee is **to watch over the game, help teach fundamentals, and enforce fair play**. In their efforts, they will need help from the coaches to keep a Christ centered environment regarding sportsmanship.

Start of Game Possession

- The home team will determine who has possession of the ball for the kickoff. Each team must stay in its own half of the field and the defending players must be at least 5 yards from the ball until it is kicked. After a goal, the team scored upon will kick off. After halftime, the teams change ends, and the kickoff will be taken by the opposite team that started the game. A goal cannot be scored directly from a kickoff.

GAME TACTICS & RULES

The discretion of the rules is up to the referee assigned to the game in question. However, the implementation of penalty calls is as follows:

Playing Time

Each player is expected to receive equal playing time on the field. *Coaches* are encouraged and expected to manage playing time accordingly.

Ball in and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when: it has entirely crossed the goal line or touchline, whether on the ground or in the air, or when an official has stopped the game.

Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar.

Off-Sides

(Only applies to 5th – 6th grade division)

A player is in an offside position if the player is nearer to the opponent's goal line than the ball, unless the player is in his or her own half of the field of play, or there are at least two opponents nearer their goal line than the player is. 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 a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offense occurred.

Fouls & Misconduct

A player who intentionally attempts to or actually: kicks. Trips, jumps at, charges violently, charges from behind, strikes, holds, or pushes an opponent or intentionally handles the ball shall be penalized by a direct free kick. Any one of these offenses committed in the penalty area by a defender will result in an indirect free kick awarded the offensive team.

Free Kicks

Are classified into two categories: "direct" (from which a goal can be scored directly against the offending side) and "indirect" (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by a player other than the kicker before entering the goal.) For all free kicks, the offending team must be at least 10 yards from the ball (hence the arc at the edge of the penalty area).

Penalty Kick

Penalty kicks are not awarded in Impact Soccer except 5th – 6th grade, instead an indirect kick is taken. The attacking team is awarded an indirect kick at the top of the penalty box and the defending team may defend their goal.

The Penalty Kick- 5th & 6th Grade

A penalty is awarded when the defending team commits an infraction or foul inside the penalty box. The ball is placed on the penalty spot and the shooter must kick the ball in one forward motion without touching the ball twice. The goalkeeper must remain on the goal line until the shooter strikes the ball.

No Hands

Only the goalie can use their hands and arms to touch the ball. In case a player who is not a goalie touches the ball with their hands or arms it will be considered an “*indirect*” free kick to the opposite team. Remembering an indirect free kick are those from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been touched by a player other than the kicker before entering the goal.

Throw In

When a ball has entirely crossed the touchline, it is put back into play by a throw-in from the spot where it went out and by a player from the opposite team that lost it. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

Goal Kick

When a ball has entirely crossed the goal line after being touched by a player from the attacking team, it is put back into play by a kick from the goal area by the defending team.

Corner Kick

When the ball has entirely crossed the goal line after being last touched by a player from the defending team, it is out back into play by a kick from the corner on the side the ball went out by the attacking team.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Impact Sports strives to make a community that promotes a gaining of skills and knowledge about the game and an environment that is healthy supportive and Christ-like for everyone involved. Therefore, Impact Sports has a zero-tolerance policy for any unsportsmanlike conduct which includes but is not limited to:

- Harassment of players, coaches, referees, or volunteers
- Foul Language
- Verbal abuse or taunting of an opponent
- Excessive celebration following a scoring play
- Feigning an injury