

H.LjN.T. 7v7: LAWS OF THE GAME

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MINI SOCCER: LAWS OF THE GAME

Introduction:

The rule differences between 7v7 and "regulation" play relate to the number of players, the size of the field, the size of the goals, the duration of play, the forbidding of slide tackling, and the elimination of INDIRECT free kicks.

▲ Law 1: The Field of Play

1. Whenever possible, Mini Soccer should be played on a field designed for that purpose. In many instances, however, games will be played within or across standard soccer fields.
2. Field markings shall be clearly visible, and of uniform width, this being not less than 2 cm nor more than 12 cm. All lines are part of the area they encompass.
3. The size of the goals shall be 5 metres wide and 2 metres high.

The width of the goals shall be measured from the inside of one goal post to the inside of the other goal post, and the height from the ground to the underside of the cross bar.

Whenever possible, goal nets shall be used.

4. Corner posts shall stand not less than 1.5 metres from the ground and shall be placed in each corner of the field of play.
5. New mini soccer fields must conform with the following field dimensions:
 - a) Length of Field: 55 m - 65 m
 - b) Width of Field: 40 m - 45 m
 - c) Penalty Area: Length - 10 m Width - 25 m
 - d) Penalty Arc Radius: 6 m
 - e) Centre Circle Radius: 6 m
 - f) Goal Size: Height - 2 m Width - 5 m

g) Corner Arc Radius: 1 m

h) Penalty Mark: 8 m

▲ **Law 2: The Ball**

1. The ball size shall be size five (5).

▲ **Law 3: Number of Players**

1. The game shall be played by two teams, each consisting of 7 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Teams must dress a minimum of 6 players and may dress a maximum of 15 players.

2. Unlimited substitution shall be allowed at the following stoppages of the game: the taking of a goal kick, a corner kick or a throw in. Play shall not be delayed to allow the substitution.

3. Should a player enter or re-enter the field of play, other than at a stoppage, without the permission of the referee, that player shall be cautioned. If play is stopped to administer the caution, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. A player who is sent off the field of play in accordance with Law 12 may not take any further part in the game.

▲ **Law 4: Players' Equipment**

1. Players shall not wear anything which endangers them or others.

2. Equipment shall consist of shorts, socks, footwear, and a shirt. Shin guards are not mandatory. The H.L.N.T. requires each member play with the same coloured shirt and have an alternative coloured shirt should they be required.

3. Goalkeepers must wear colours which are distinguishable from those of other players and those of the referee. Provided that Section 1 of this Law is observed, goalkeepers may wear gloves and tracksuit-type pants.

▲ **Law 5: The Referee**

1. A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. His\her authority shall commence as soon as he\she enters the field of play and shall extend to offences committed when the game is in progress or when the game is stopped. His\her decision on all matters shall be final.

 2. The referee shall:
 - a) Enforce the rules of the game and the regulations of the competition;
 - b) Refrain from penalizing in cases where the offending team may gain an advantage;
 - c) Keep record of the game;
 - d) Have discretionary power to stop, suspend, or terminate the game for any infringement of the rules, interference by spectators, or any other cause. The referee shall immediately abandon play, at least temporarily, in any game during which an electric (lightening) storm occurs. Failure to do so will constitute a disciplinary offence. No action will be taken against a Coach who removes his\her team from the field under such circumstances where the referee fails to act;
 - e) Decide if the field of play, the ball, and other equipment are suitable.
 - f) Caution any player or team official guilty of misconduct or unsporting behaviour and, if the offender persists, suspend him from further participation in the game;
 - g) Send from the field and its vicinity any player or team official who, in his\her opinion, is guilty of violent conduct, or serious foul play, or the use of foul or abusive language;
 - h) Report, to the appropriate authority (H.Lj.N.T. Office/Board Memeber), any misconduct by players, officials, spectators or other persons which takes place on the field of play or its vicinity at any time prior to, during, or after the game. Reports shall be made in accordance with the regulations of the competition;
 - i) Control who may enter or leave the field of play;
 - j) Stop the game if, in his\her opinion, a player is injured;
 - k) Signal to start the game, and to restart it after a stoppage;
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▲ **Law 6: The Assistant Referee**

1. Each team shall designated an individual to act as an Assistant Referee (linesperson).
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▲ **Law 7: Duration of the Game**

1. The game shall be divided into two equal halves of 25 minutes each of running time, time will not be stopped for any reason/stoppage of play. The interval between halves of play shall be not less than 5 minutes.

2. In all games in which a winner must be declared (the playoffs), the game shall immediately proceed to a penalty shootout, with the exception of the Tournament Finals where two five minute “Golden Goal” overtime halves shall precede the penalty shootout. The Penalty shootout will begin with three shooters from each team. Should there be a tie after the three shooters the penalty shootout will proceed to single shooters from each team. A player will not be eligible to shoot a second time until every player dressed, and only dressed, has taken a shot (including keepers).

3. If, for any reason, a game is terminated before full time, the competition organizers shall decide the outcome of the game.

▲ **Law 8: Start and Restart of Play**

1. 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.

2. At a kick off, all players shall be in their own half of the field of play. All players opposing the team taking the kick off shall be not less than 6 metres from the ball until it is kicked off. The game shall be started by the referee giving a signal. The ball shall be kicked forward into the opponents half of the field. The ball must be kicked and moved forward to be in play. For any infringement of this rule, the kick off shall be re-taken.

3. Should the player taking the kick off play or touch the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. After a goal has been scored, the game shall be restarted by a kick off, to be taken by a player of the team against which the goal was scored.

5. For any stoppage not mentioned elsewhere in these rules, the referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball at the place where it was when play was stopped, unless play was stopped in the penalty area. In this case, the ball shall be dropped on that part of penalty area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped. The ball shall be in play as soon as it touches the ground.

6. A goal may not be scored directly from a kick off.

▲ **Law 9: Ball In and Out of Play**

1. The ball is out of play:
 - a) When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air;
 - b) When the game has been stopped by the referee.

 2. The ball is in play, at all other times, including:
 - a) When it rebounds into play from a goal post, a cross bar, or a corner post;
 - b) When it rebounds from the referee when he\she is within the field of play.
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▲ **Law 10: Method of Scoring**

1. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball has crossed over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the cross bar, provided it has not been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by hand or arm, by a player of the attacking team, except by the goalkeeper within his\her own penalty area.

 2. The referee shall be the sole judge as to whether a goal has been scored.

 3. During the course of play, should any outside agent prevent the ball from passing into goal, or assist the ball into goal, play shall be stopped. The referee shall restart the game by dropping the ball in accordance with Law 8.

 4. The team scoring the greater number of goals shall be declared the winner. If no goal or an equal number of goals is scored, the result shall be a tie.
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▲ **Law 11: Off-Side**

1. There are no off-sides.
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▲ **Law 12: Fouls and Misconducts**

1. A player who, in the opinion of the referee, intentionally commits any of the following offences shall be penalized by the awarding of a free kick to the opposing team:
 - a) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
 - b) Trips or attempts to trip an opponent;
 - c) Jumps at an opponent;

- d) Charges an opponent in any manner;
- e) Strikes or attempts to strike, or spits at an opponent;
- f) Holds an opponent;
- g) Pushes an opponent;
- h) Spits at an opponent;
- i) Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball;
- j) Deliberately handles the ball (except for the goalkeeper within his\her own penalty area);

{ Should a player commit one of the above offences (a to j) within his\her own penalty area, while the ball is in play, irrespective of the position of the ball, a penalty kick shall be awarded to the opposing team. }

- k) Plays in a dangerous manner;
- l) Impedes the progress of an opponent;
- m) Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;
- n) If, when playing as a goalkeeper, and within his own penalty area, touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player or, touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate or, touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team- mate or, wastes time;
- o) Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

{ Should a player commit one of the above offences [k) to o)] within his\her own penalty area, the kick shall be taken from that part of the penalty area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offence was committed}.

2. A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following offences:

- a) He persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
- b) He shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee;
- c) He is guilty of unsporting conduct;
- d) He enters, re-enters or leaves the field of play after the game has commenced without the permission of the referee.
- e) Delays the restart of play;
- f) Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick;
- g) Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.

h) **Slide-tackles an opponent.** A slide tackle is defined as at least one knee/leg on the ground when **challenging an opposing player for the ball**. Sliding to keep the ball in play or to score a goal are OK as long as there's no challenge for the ball. Should two

opposing players slide for the same ball, for whatever reason, both players will be cautioned and a drop ball be awarded at the spot of the infraction.

Should the game be stopped to administer the caution, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

3. A player is dismissed and shown the red card if he commits any of the following offences:

- a) Is guilty of serious foul play;
- b) Is guilty of violent conduct;
- c) Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language;
- d) Spits at or severely verbally abuses an opponent or any other person,
- e) Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
- f) Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- g) Receives a second caution in the same match;

▲ Law 13: Free Kick

1. For any infringement of the Laws of the Game when the ball is in play, the referee may award a free kick to the team opposing that of the offending player. The free kick shall be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the free kick is awarded to the attacking team within its opponents' penalty area. Please refer to Law 12, #1.

2. At the taking of a free kick, the ball shall be stationary and all opponents shall be not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked. The ball shall be in play when it has travelled the distance of its circumference.

3. A player taking a free kick within his own penalty area shall kick the ball into play beyond the penalty area. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked and moved and has passed outside the penalty area. All opponents shall be outside the penalty area and not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked. For any infringement of this Law, the free kick shall be retaken.

4. A player taking a free kick shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player. For any infringement of this Law, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of this Law.

5. A player who does not retire the required distance, or who gesticulates or dances about in a manner calculated to distract an opponent shall be cautioned for unsporting conduct.

6. A goal **MAY** be scored directly from any free kick.

▲ **Law 14: Penalty Kick**

1. A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark. All players, with the exception of the defending goalkeeper and the player taking the kick, shall be outside the penalty area but within the field of play, and not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked.

2. The goalkeeper shall stand on his own goal line and between the goal posts until the ball has been kicked. He may move from side to side, so long as he doesn't cross the goal line.

3. The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward. The ball shall be in play when it has been kicked and moved forward. The player shall not play or touch the ball a second time until it has been played or touched by another player.

4. The time of play shall be extended at half time or at full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken. In the event that time is extended, play shall end when a goal is not scored, or when a goal is scored directly, or when the ball rebounds directly into the goal from the goalkeeper, a goal post or the cross bar.

5. For any infringement of this Law:

a) By a member of the defending team, the kick shall be retaken if a goal has not been scored;

b) By a member of the attacking team, if a goal is scored it shall be disallowed and a free kick awarded to the defending team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred;

c) By a member of both teams, the kicks shall be retaken whether a goal has been scored or not.

6. If, after the kick has been taken, the ball or the goalkeeper is interfered with by an outside agent, the kick shall be retaken.

▲ **Law 15: Throw-in**

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the touch line, either on the ground or in the air, the ball shall be thrown in, from the point where it left the field of play, by a member of the team opposing that of the player who last played or touched it.

2. The player taking the throw in shall face the field of play and part of both feet shall be on the ground, and on or behind the touch line. The thrower shall use both hands to deliver the ball from behind and over his head. The ball shall be in play immediately after it enters the field of play.

3. If the player taking the throw in plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. If the ball is improperly thrown in, the throw in shall be retaken by a player of the opposing team.

5. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw in.

▲ **Law 16: Goal Kick**

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts, having last been played or touched by a member of the attacking team, a goal kick shall be awarded to the defending team. The ball shall be kicked into play from a point within that half of the penalty area nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line.

2. At the taking of a goal kick, all opponents shall be outside the penalty area and not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked into play. The ball shall be in play when it has been kicked and has left the penalty area.

3. If the player taking the goal kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.

4. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick.

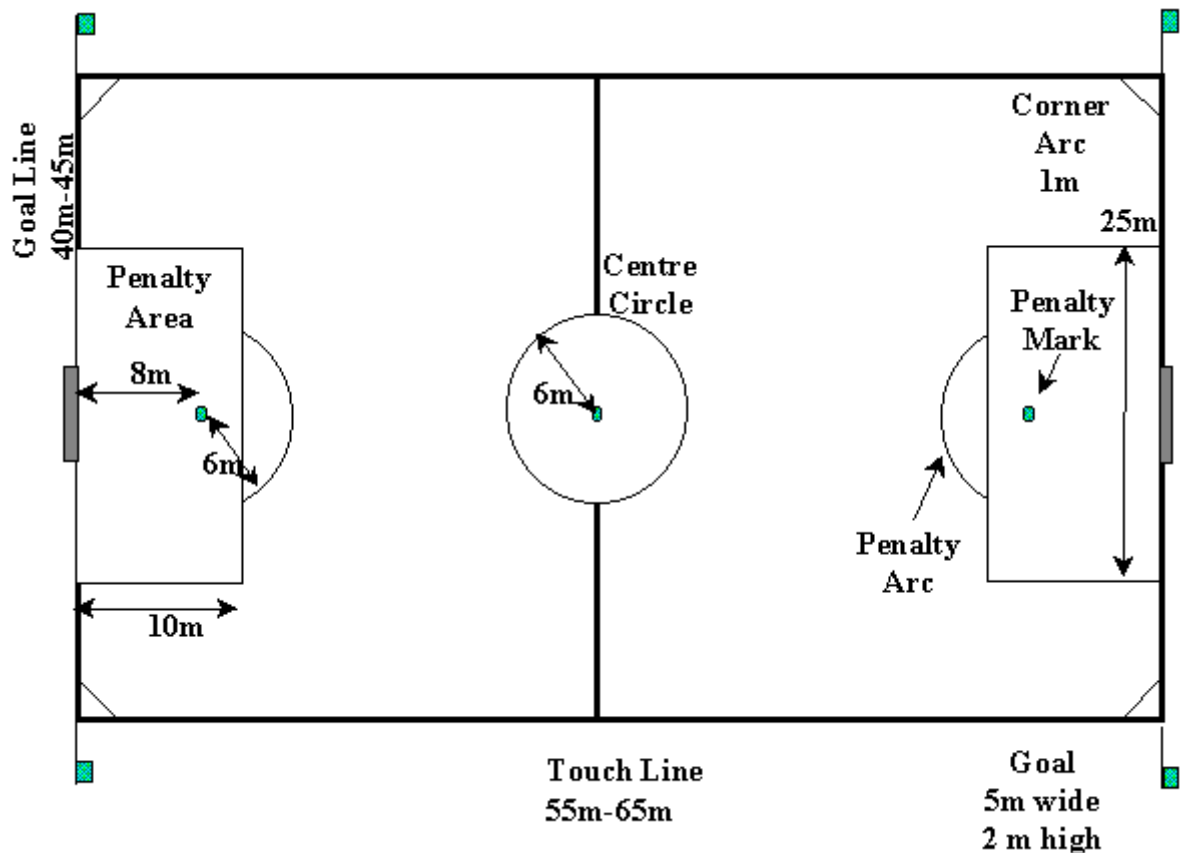
5. The goal kick may not cross the half-way line in the air unless it is touched by any player on the field of play before it crosses the half-way line.

▲ **Law 17: Corner Kick**

1. When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, excluding that portion between the goal posts, having last been played or touched by a member of the defending team, a corner kick shall be awarded to the attacking team.

2. The corner kick shall be taken from within the corner arc nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line. All opponents shall be not less than 6 metres from the ball until it has been kicked. The ball must be kicked and moved to be in play.
3. If the player taking the corner kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken in accordance with Section 1 of Law 13.
4. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.

▲ Mini Soccer -- Field of Play



Law 18: Discipline

1. Two(2) yellow cards in one game = red card = 1 game suspension, or action as seen fit by the H.Lj.N.T board.

2. A red card is an automatic suspension of at least one game, depending on the infraction and pending consultation by the disciplinary committee and the referees report. A red card for an excessively harsh foul; spitting at or verbal abuse of a referee, opposing player or fan will result in a minimum three game suspension. The H.Lj.N.T. board will rule if a lengthier suspension or expulsion from the tournament is warranted.
3. Three (3) yellow cards during one season will result in a one game suspension to be served the next game (including play-off games).
4. Following rule 18(3), two more yellow cards will result in a 2 game suspension (including play-off games). Further yellow cards will be reviewed by the H.Lj.N.T. board.