

FOOTBALL – LAWS OF THE GAME

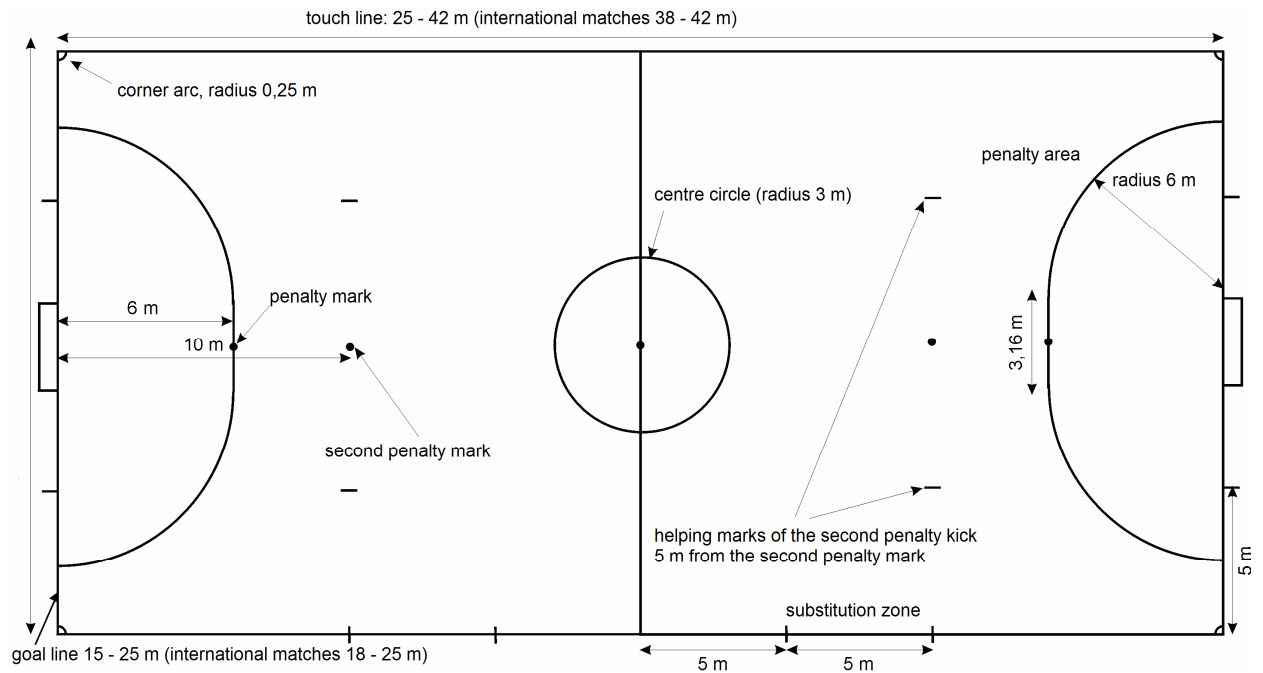
1) THE PITCH

Dimensions

The pitch shall be rectangular. The length of the touch line shall be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: minimum 25 m, maximum 42 m

Width: minimum 15 m, maximum 25 m.



Picture 1 The pitch

The penalty area

The penalty area shall be marked at each end of the pitch as follows: Quarter circles, with a 6m radius, centred on the outside of each goal post. The quarter circles shall be drawn from the goal line to meet two imaginary lines 6m in length drawn at right angles to the goal line from the outside of the goalpost. The upper part of each quarter circle shall be joined by a 3.16 m line running parallel to the goal line between the goalposts. The curved line marking the outer limit of the penalty area is known as the penalty area line.

Substitution zones

The substitution zones are the areas on the touch line in front of the team benches that players shall use to enter and leave the pitch (see Picture 1 The pitch). Players shall use the substitution zone on their own half of the pitch only.

2) THE BALL

The game is played with the ISL certified ball (size no. 4) with lower bounce (the futsal ball).

3) NUMBER OF PLAYERS

The players

A match shall be played by two teams, each consisting of no more than five players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

- At the beginning of the game, each team has to consist of at least 5 players (including one goalkeeper).

- If the number of players (including goalkeeper) drops under 4, the game ends.
- Only the team captain (or his assistant) has the right to discuss with the referee during the game, but only in matters concerning the match and in an appropriate way. His action always has to be brief, relevant and concrete. Otherwise, the referee can caution him for unsporting behaviour, or send him off for rough unsporting behaviour.

Substitutions

A player who has been replaced may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player. A substitution may be made at any time, regardless of whether the ball is in play or not, provided that the following conditions are observed:

- the player leaving the pitch does so via his own team's substitution zone.
- the player entering the pitch does so via his own team's substitution zone but not until the player leaving the pitch has completely crossed the touch line
- the substitution is completed when the substitute enters the pitch, at which moment he becomes an active player and the player whom he is replacing ceases to be an active player

If, while a substitution is being made, a substitute enters the pitch before the player being replaced has completely left it:

- play shall be stopped
- the player being replaced shall be instructed to leave the pitch
- the substitute shall be cautioned, shown a yellow card and ordered to leave the pitch to complete the substitution procedure
- play shall be restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the place where the ball was situated when the game was stopped

4) PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Safety

A player shall not use equipment or wear anything (including any kind of jewellery) that could be dangerous to himself or another player.

Basic compulsory equipment of players

Basic equipment of a player consists of these particular parts:

- A jersey or t-shirt of unified colour and shade
- shorts
- socks
- shinguards
- sport footwear with smooth sole – no turf shoes are allowed (the only exception for turf shoes is valid for summer season matches played outdoors on artificial grass) nor footwear with cast or screw-on pins (**these are always forbidden**)

Shinguards

- shall be entirely covered by the socks
- shall be made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar substances)
- shall provide a reasonable degree of protection

5) THE REFEREE

The authority of the referees

Each match shall be controlled by two referees, who have full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed. The authority of the referee begins

when he enters the pitch to begin the game and lasts until he leaves the pitch after the end of the match.

The decisions of the referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final.

The referees may only change a decision if they realise that it is incorrect or if they deem it necessary to do so, provided that play has not restarted or the match has not ended.

- 1) The referee has the right to:
 - a) stop the match because of breaking the Laws of the game,
 - b) stop the game, if a player is badly injured according the referee's opinion,
 - c) send off any member of a team, who (according the referee) commits violent behaviour, serious game misconduct, swearing, or any other unsporting behaviour.
- 2) The referee has the obligation to prematurely end the match (or not to begin it) in the following cases:
 - a) The number of players of one team drops under 4 and the team has no substitutes,
 - b) If the referee is insulted (no matter who is the offender). Following acts are considered as an insult:
 - a hit,
 - a kick,
 - deliberate tripping,
 - violent contact,
 - violent pushing,
 - deliberate knocking of the whistle from the referees mouth,
 - deliberate heavy hit of the referee by the ball or any other object
 - suffusion of the referee by water
 - knock out of the cards from the hands of the referee and so on.
 - c) After a command of police forces (both state and municipal)
 - d) A team leaves the pitch as a sign of disagreement with the decisions of referee(s).
- 3) The referee has the right to prematurely end the match (or not to begin it) in following cases:
 - a) Due to darkness or bad visibility,
 - b) Due to bad game (weather) conditions (smoke indoors, storm, snow or strong wind outdoors), which (according the referee's opinion) could endanger the players' health,
 - c) Due to incapable condition of the pitch,
 - d) If (according the referee's opinion) the players play in a way, which endangers their health; and when awarding personal punishments is not effective and neither teams' captains nor players are willing to change their behaviour,
 - e) Due to one team's constant lack of interest on correct course of the game,
 - f) If a sent off player does not leave the pitch in time given to the captain by the referee (1–2 minutes),
 - g) Due to repeated unsporting behaviour of the audience, which could (according the referee's opinion) endanger the safety of match participants (e.g. repeated penetration of the audience into the pitch, throwing of dangerous objects, e.g. firecrackers and signal rockets on the pitch).
- 4) The captain has the right to take exceptions against facts, which were realized during the game, but only until he signs the game report after the end of the match. The exceptions are recorded into the report by the referee and the captain shall sign them. Exceptions can be taken against:
 - a) Equipment of the pitch,
 - b) The starting of an opponent's player,

- c) Equipment of an opponent's player,
- d) Result of the match,
- e) Description of penalties or description of a player's misconduct.

6) DURATION OF THE MATCH

The match shall last two equal periods of 20 minutes.

The duration of either half shall be prolonged to enable a penalty kick to be taken, or for a direct free kick to be taken against a team that have committed more than five accumulated fouls.

The half-time break must not exceed 5 minutes

7) THE START AND RESTART OF THE PLAY

A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play:

- at the start of the match
- after a goal has been scored
- at the start of the second half of the match

A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.

There is no time-limit of 4 seconds for the kick-off.

Procedure

- all players shall be in their own half of the field
- the opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be at least 5 meters from the ball until it is in play
- the ball shall be stationary on the centre mark
- the referee shall give a signal
- the ball shall be deemed in play from the moment it is kicked and moves forward
- the kicker may not touch the ball for a second time before it has been touched by another player

After a team scores a goal, the kick-off shall be taken by the other team.

If the kicker touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

In the event of any other infringement of the kick-off procedure, the kick-off shall be retaken.

Dropped ball

A dropped ball is a way of restarting the match after a temporary stoppage for any reason not mentioned in the Laws of the Game, provided that prior to the stoppage the ball was in play and had not crossed either the touch lines or goal lines.

Procedure

The referee shall drop the ball at the place where it was situated when play was stopped

The ball shall be dropped again:

- if it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground
- if the ball leaves the pitch after it makes contact with the ground, without a player touching it

Special circumstances

A free kick, awarded to the defending team in its own penalty area, may be taken from any point inside that penalty area.

An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in the penalty area of the opposing team shall be taken from the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the offence was committed.

A dropped ball taken to restart play after it has been temporarily stopped inside the penalty area shall be taken from the penalty area line at the point nearest to the position of the ball when play was stopped.

8) BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

Ball out of play

The ball shall be deemed out of play when:

- it completely crosses the goal line or touch line, whether along the ground or through the air
- play has been stopped by the referee
- the ball hits the ceiling

Ball in play

The ball shall be deemed in play at all other times, including when:

- it rebounds off a goalpost or the crossbar onto the pitch
- it rebounds off the referee while they are on the pitch

9) GOAL SCORED

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line between the goalposts and under the crossbar, unless a member of the attacking team, including the goalkeeper, has deliberately carried, thrown or struck the ball with his hands or arms, and provided that the scoring team has not previously infringed the Laws of the Game.

Winning team

The team that scores the greater number of goals during a match shall be the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals or if no goals are scored, the match shall end in a draw.

Competition regulations

If the competition regulations state that a match shall end with a winning team, only the following procedures shall be taken into account:

- Kicks taken from the penalty mark.

10) FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

A. Direct free kick

A team is penalized with a direct free kick, if one of its players commits one of the following six offences, in a dangerous or careless way (according referee's opinion):

1. kicking or attempting to kick an opponent,
2. tripping or attempting to trip an opponent by sliding or crouching,
3. jumping at an opponent,
4. charging an opponent,
5. striking or attempting to strike an opponent,
6. pushing an opponent.

A team is also penalized by a direct free kick, if one of its players commits one of the following five offences:

7. holding an opponent,
8. spitting at an opponent,
9. making a slide tackle while attempting to play the ball held by the opponent's player, except the goalkeeper in his own penalty area, if the goalkeeper does not endanger safety of the opponent,
10. touching the opponent earlier than the ball when trying to get the ball from the opponent,
11. handling the ball, except the goalkeeper in his own penalty area

A direct free kick is executed from the place of breaking the rules. A direct free kick from own penalty area can be executed from any place inside the penalty area.

All above mentioned fouls are regarded as accumulated fouls.

Penalty kick

A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits any of above mentioned infringements its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

B. Indirect free kick

An indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits any of the following offences:

1. he touches or controls the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate (back-passing),
2. he touches or controls the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a kick-in taken by a team-mate,
3. he touches or controls the ball with his hands or feet in his own penalty area for more than four seconds.

An indirect free kick shall also be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred, if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:

4. plays in a dangerous manner
5. deliberately obstructs an opponent
6. prevents the goalkeeper from throwing the ball with his hands
7. commits any other infringement not previously mentioned for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

The indirect free kick shall be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

C. Cautionary offences

A player shall be cautioned (i.e. shown a yellow card) if he commits any of the following infringements:

1. unsporting behaviour
2. dissent by word or action
3. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
4. delaying the restart of play
5. failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, kick-in, free kick or goal clearance
6. entering or re-entering the pitch without the referees' permission or infringement of the substitution procedure
7. deliberately leaving the pitch without the referees' permission

A cautioned player is sent off the game for three minutes. If a team playing shorthanded receives a goal, the cautioned player can return back into the game. If players of both teams are penalized at the same time, the cautioned player does not return into the game and the game continues with equal number of players on both sides. If a player receives his second yellow card in a match, he immediately receives a red card.

D. Sending-off offences

A player or a substitute shall be sent off (i.e. shown a red card) if he commits any of the following offences:

1. serious foul play
2. violent conduct
3. spitting at an opponent or any other person

4. denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (with the exception of a goalkeeper inside his own penalty area)
5. denying an opponent moving towards the player's goal an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. using offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures
7. receiving a second caution in the same match

If a player receives the red card, he leaves the game for the rest of the match. He also misses next competition match. His team goes shorthanded for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, a substitute for the sent-off player can enter the pitch. If the shorthanded team receives a goal within the 5 minute penalty, it can not complete the number of players and the match continues with unchanged number of players.

11) FREE KICKS

Types of free kick

Free kicks are either direct or indirect.

For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball shall be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

The direct free kick

If a direct free kick directly enters the opponents' goal, a goal shall be awarded.

The indirect free kick

A goal shall only be awarded if the ball touches another player before it enters the goal.

Position of the free kick

All opponents shall be situated at least 5m from the ball until it is in play. The ball shall be deemed in play after it has been touched or played.

When a defending team is taking a free kick from inside its own penalty area, all opponents shall remain outside the area. The ball shall be deemed in play immediately after it has left the penalty area.

12) ACCUMULATED FAULS

1. are those punished by a direct free kick
2. the first 5 accumulated fouls committed by each team during each half are recorded in the match report
3. the referees may allow play to continue by applying the advantage rule if the team has not yet committed 5 accumulated fouls and the opposing team is not denied an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. **In this case, the accumulated foul does not count.**

Position of free kick

For the first five accumulated fouls recorded against either team in each half, and provided the game has been stopped for that reason:

- the players of the opposing team may form a wall to defend a free kick
- all opponents shall be situated at least 5 m from the ball
- a goal may be scored directly in the opponents' goal from this free kick

Beginning with the sixth accumulated foul recorded against either team in each half:

- the defending team's players may not form a wall to defend a free kick
- the player taking the kick shall be duly nominated

- the goalkeeper shall remain in his penalty area at a distance of at least 5 m from the ball
- all the other players shall remain on the pitch behind an imaginary line that is level with the ball and parallel to the goal line, and outside the penalty area. They shall remain 5 m away from the ball and may not obstruct the player taking the free kick
- no player may cross this imaginary line until the ball has been struck and starts to move.

Procedure (for the sixth and any subsequent accumulated fouls)

- the player taking the free kick shall kick the ball with the intention of scoring a goal and may not pass the ball to a team-mate
- once the free kick has been taken, no player may touch the ball until it has been touched by the defending goalkeeper, rebounded off the goalpost or crossbar, or left the pitch
- if a player commits his team's sixth foul in the opposing team's half or in his own half in the area bordered by the halfway line and an imaginary line parallel to the halfway line passing through the second penalty mark 10 m from the goal line, the free kick shall be taken from the second penalty mark. The second penalty mark is described in Pic. 1. The free kick shall be taken in compliance with the provisions of the previous paragraph "Position of free kick"
- if a player commits his team's sixth foul in his own half of the pitch between the 10 m line, the goal line but outside the penalty area, the team awarded the free kick shall decide whether to take it from the second penalty mark or the place where the infringement occurred

Additional time shall be allowed for a direct free kick to be taken at the end of each half.

1. If a player of the defending team infringes this Law:
 - the kick shall be retaken, but only if a goal is not scored
 - the kick shall not be retaken if a goal is scored
2. If a team-mate of the player taking the kick infringes this Law:
 - the kick shall be retaken if a goal is scored
 - if a goal is not scored, the referees shall stop play and restart the game with an indirect free kick to the defending team from the place where the infringement was committed
3. If the player taking the kick infringes this Law after the ball has been put into play: an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.
4. If a player of the defending team and a player of the attacking team infringe this Law, the free kick shall be retaken
5. If a ball strikes an object after it has been played forward, the kick shall be retaken
6. If the ball rebounds into play off a goalkeeper, the crossbar or the goalposts and then strikes an object:
 - the referees shall stop play and restart it with a dropped ball at the place where the ball struck the object

13) THE PENALTY KICK

A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits any of the infringements for which a direct free kick is awarded inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Additional time shall be allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half.

Position of the ball and the players

The ball:

- shall be placed on the penalty mark

The player taking the penalty kick:

- shall be duly nominated.

The defending goalkeeper:

- shall stay on his goal line, facing the kicker and between the goalposts until the ball has been put into play

The players other than the kicker shall be situated:

- on the pitch
- outside the penalty area
- behind or to the sides of the penalty mark
- at least 5 m from the penalty mark

Procedure

- The player taking the penalty shall kick the ball forward
- He may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- The ball shall be deemed in play from the moment it is kicked and set in motion

When a penalty kick is taken during normal time or when time has extended at half-time or full time, a goal shall be awarded if, before passing between the goalposts and under the crossbar, the ball touches either or both goalposts, the crossbar or the goalkeeper.

14) THE KICK-IN

The kick-in is a method of restarting play.

A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-in.

A kick-in:

- shall be awarded when the whole of the ball crosses the touch line, either along the ground or through the air, or hits the ceiling
- shall be taken from the place where the ball crossed the touch line
- shall be awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball

Position of the ball and the players

The ball

- shall remain stationary on the touch line
- may be kicked back onto the pitch in any direction

The players of the defending team:

- shall be at least 5 m from the place where the kick-in is taken

Procedure

- the player taking the kick-in shall do so within four seconds of receiving the ball
- the player taking the kick-in may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- the ball shall be deemed in play as soon as it enters the pitch

15) Goal Clearance

A goal clearance is a method of restarting play.

A goal may not be scored directly from a goal clearance.

A goal clearance shall be awarded when:

- the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, crosses the goal line either along the ground or through the air, and a goal is not scored

Procedure

- the ball shall be thrown from any point inside the penalty area by the goalkeeper
- opponents shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- the ball shall be deemed in play when it is thrown directly out of the penalty area

16) Corner Kicks

A corner kick is a method of restarting play.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team.

A corner kick shall be awarded when:

- the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, crosses the goal line either along the ground or through the air, and a goal is not scored

Procedure

- the ball shall be placed inside the corner arc at the nearest corner
 - the opponents shall remain at least 5 m away from the corner arc until the ball is in play
 - the ball shall be kicked by a member of the attacking team
 - the ball shall be deemed in play from the moment it is played and set in motion
 - the kicker may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
1. An indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if:
 - the player taking the corner kick plays the ball a second time before it has touched another player. The indirect free kick shall be taken from the place where the infringement occurred
 - the corner kick is not carried out within four seconds from the time the player taking the kick takes possession of the ball. The indirect free kick shall be taken from the corner arc
 2. For any other infringement the corner kick shall be retaken

17) PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER

The method for determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn:

- Penalty Kicks.

Penalty Kicks

Procedure:

1. the referee chooses at which goal the kicks will be taken
2. the winning captain of the coin toss decides whether his team will kick first or second
3. the referees shall keep a record of the kicks taken
4. subject to the conditions explained below, both teams shall take five kicks
5. the kicks shall be taken alternately
6. if both teams have taken five kicks and one has scored more goals than the other, no more kicks shall be taken
7. if, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the kicks shall continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored one goal more than the other from the same number of kicks

8. all players and substitutes are eligible to take a penalty kick
9. each of the teams announces the names and order of five players, who will take the penalty kicks
10. an eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time during kicks from the penalty mark

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

Unless otherwise stated in the Laws of the game, football Laws of the game shall be applied, except the off-side rule.

These Laws of the game are effective as of 29th September 2008.

HRAJTESNAMI s.r.o.