

Outdoor Soccer Rules

National Federation High School Soccer Rules will govern all play for any rule not mentioned in the following LU IMS rules. All rules are subject to change at the discretion of the LU IMS Administrative Staff.

I. Team Requirements

- A regulation team consists of eleven (11) players (one of which will be the goalkeeper). A team may play with a minimum of eight (8) players.
- If a player is issued a red card, then he/she will not be allowed a replacement.

II. Equipment

- Each team is encouraged to wear a similar colored shirt. Pinnies will be provided. Goalkeepers must wear a different colored shirt than their teammates.
- Shoes must be worn by all participants. Rubber cleared shoes and screw in cleats will be allowed. Metal cleats of any kind, open heel and/or toe shoes are prohibited.
- Billed hats, casts, and/or any other item deemed dangerous by the LU IMS Supervisor, may not be worn during a game. Shin guards are highly recommended.
- All jewelry is prohibited. This will result in a player's dismissal from the field. Players will not be allowed a replacement until the next opportunity for a legal substitution.

III. Substitutions

- A team must notify the Official on all substitutions. No player may come onto the field without permission of the Official. Substitutes must enter and exit the field at midfield.
- Teams may substitute under the following conditions:
 - On either team's goal kicks or their own corner kick or throw-in.
 - When a player has been injured, that team may sub for the injured player.
 - When a player has been warned, that team may sub one player for each player warned.
 - After a goal, both teams may substitute.

IV. Length of Game and Timing

- Each half will be twenty (20) minutes in length with a continuous running clock. Halftime will be three (3) minutes.
- The clock will stop, at the discretion of the officials, for all injuries. Any additional time will be added at the discretion of the LU IMS Officials.
- Timeouts will not be allowed.
- Teams will change ends at halftime. The team that did not kick off in the first half will kick off in the second half.
- Games interrupted due to weather will follow the Inclement Weather Policy located in the Policies and Procedures section of the LU IMS Handbook.
- Mercy Rule:
 - If a team is winning by five (5) goals or more during the final two minutes, the game will be over.
 - If a team is winning by eight (8) goals or more at halftime, the game will be over.
- In the event of a tie score at the end of regulation, the game will go straight to penalty kicks.

V. Offside

- When in opponents half of field and in possession of ball, player must be behind ball before playing it. If ahead of ball, there must be two (2) opponents between player and the goal, otherwise it is offside.
- Player is not offside if:
 - There are two (2) opponents nearer to the goal than he/she is (equal is offside).
 - In his own half of field
 - Ball last touches opponent
 - Ball is received direct from referee (on a goal kick, throw in, or corner kick)

VI. Rule Clarifications

- Goalkeepers
 - The goalkeeper may not handle the ball if it has been intentionally kicked or thrown to him/her by a teammate. Penalty-Indirect kick
 - From the moment the goalkeeper takes control of the ball with his/her hands, he/she will be penalized for holding or bouncing the ball for more than six (6) seconds. Penalty-Indirect kick
- To kick off the ball, it must roll forward. The player who kicked off the ball may not touch the ball until another player touches the ball. Violation of this rule will result in a retake of the kick off.
- A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses the goal line.
- A ball is out of play when it completely crosses the sideline or the end line.
- The Official blowing his/her whistle will warrant a dead ball (even if advertent).
- To restart play, the following methods are used:
 - Throw in-when the ball crosses the sideline. During the throw in, if the thrown ball never enters the field of play, the throwing team will re-take the throw in. A goal may not be scored by the throw in.
 - Goal kick-when the ball crosses the end line and the offense touched the ball last. The ball is placed on the end line closest to the side where the ball went out-of-bounds. The ball must be kicked beyond the penalty area, or the kick will be retaken.
 - Corner kick-when the ball crosses the end line and the defense touched the ball last. The ball is placed on or in the corner arc.
 - Direct or Indirect Free kick-when a foul has been called (see Section VIII)
 - Drop Ball-when play is stopped due to an injured player, inadvertent whistle, or it is not clear who last touched the ball before it went out of bounds. The ball cannot be kicked until it touches the ground.
- The ball is still in play if it stays in bounds after rebounding off the goal, Official, or corner flag posts.
- Teams are responsible for retrieving the ball and returning it to the goalie or Official. If excessive delays occur, the Official will stop the clock and a yellow card will be issued to the player causing the delay.

VII. Fouls and Misconduct

- Kicking, striking, and tripping are illegal. Penalty-Direct Kick

- Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity through such action will warrant a red card and ejection.
- Handling
 - A player shall be penalized for intentionally handling, carrying, striking, or propelling the ball with a hand or arm. Penalty-Direct Kick
 - Unintentional handling occurs when the ball strikes the hands or arms of a player who has not moved the hands or arms to play the ball. This shall not be penalized.
 - An intentional handball that prevents a goal from being scored (either a shot on goal or a pass to another player with an open shot) will warrant a red card and ejection.
- Charging
 - A player shall not intentionally charge an opponent unfairly. An unfair charge is one in which a player does not use shoulder-to-shoulder contact with an opponent of does not have arms and elbows close to the body. Penalty-Direct Kick
 - Any player who flagrantly charges an opponent shall receive a red card.
 - A player shall not charge into the goalkeeper in the penalty area. Penalty-Direct Kick
- Dangerous Play
 - In the opinion of the Official, all high kicks above the waist in a dangerous manner will be prohibited. In addition, a player lying on the ground may not attempt to play the ball if other players are nearby. Penalty-Indirect Kick
- Obstruction
 - A player who does not have possession of the ball may not intentionally run between an opponent and the ball or use his/her body as an obstacle. Penalty-Indirect Kick
- Misconduct
 - A player shall be given a yellow card for persistent infringement of the rules of the game, acting in an unsportsmanlike manner, and/or objecting by word of mouth or action to the decisions given by an Official.
 - A player shall be given a red card for persistent misconduct, exhibiting violent conduct, and/or using violent or abusive language. A red card (or a second yellow card) will result in an automatic ejection from the game.

VIII. Free Kicks

- Description of a free kick:
 - Direct-a goal may be scored against the offending team.
 - Indirect-a goal may not be scored unless the ball is played by another player from either team.
- Rules for a free kick:
 - Opposition players must be at least ten (10) yards from the ball until it is kicked.
 - Any player of the offended team may take a free kick (in any direction).
- Direct kick offenses include:
 - Tripping an opponent or intentionally kicking an opponent
 - Deliberately handling ball; Pushing or Holding
 - Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball
 - Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
 - Jumping at an opponent
 - Using foul or abusive language
 - Slide tackling with excessive or dangerous contact (i.e. cleats up)

- Any other unsportsmanlike act
- Indirect free kick offenses:
 - Entering the field of play without permission
 - The same player playing the ball after a free kick, penalty kick, goal kick, corner kick, or throw in before another player plays the ball
 - Kicking or attempting to kick the ball while it is possession of the goalkeeper
 - Obstruction, Dangerous Play, Delay of game
 - Goalkeeper illegally handling the ball after relinquishing possession
 - Goalkeeper handling an intentional pass or throw in
- Penalty kicks:
 - A penalty kick is awarded for any direct kick offense by the offending team within the penalty area. It can be awarded regardless of the position of the ball, if the infraction by the defending team is committed in the penalty area.
 - The penalty kick is taken from the penalty line mark on the field (ten yards)
 - All players (except for the kicker and the goalkeeper) must be outside the penalty area. The goalkeeper must stand on his/her own goal line until the ball is kicked.
 - If the ball hits the goalpost or the crossbar and returns to play, the kicker may not play the ball until another player has played it.
 - If there is an infringement by the defending team and the goal is scored, the goal will count. If the goal is not scored, there will be a re-kick.
 - If there is an infringement by the attacking team and the goal is scored, the goal will not count and the kick shall be retaken. If the goal is not scored, there is no re-kick.
 - In cases where players from both teams are guilty of infringements, the kick shall be retaken regardless of the outcome of the kick.

IX. Overtime Procedure

- There will be no overtime period in the case of a tie game after regulation.
- Kicks from the Penalty Mark will determine the winner.
- Each team will have five (5) kicks from the penalty mark, to be administered as a normal penalty kick would during regulation.
- The team with more goals at the end of the five (5) kicks will be the winner. If tied after the original five (5) kicks, sudden death penalty kicks will be taken (i.e. one kick for each team at a time) to determine the winner.
- All team members are eligible to take the penalty kicks. No team member may take a second kick until all members have taken a first kick.

X. Sportsmanship

- The mission of LU IMS is to provide a recreational environment for the LU community that is safe and enjoyable. While the game atmosphere is often competitive, ensuring participant safety, providing a fun, social atmosphere, and promoting sportsmanlike behavior among participants, spectators, and team followers are our primary concerns. The game atmosphere should remain good-natured at all times. Participants shall maintain good sportsmanship throughout their participation in all facets of LU IMS.
- The LU IMS Sportsmanship Rating System is intended to be an objective scale by which teams' attitude and behavior can be assessed throughout the LU IMS league and playoff seasons. Behavior before, during, and after an LU IMS contest is included in the rating.

The team captain is responsible for educating and informing all players and spectators affiliated with his/her team about the system.

- A team is responsible for the actions of the individual team members and spectators related to it. Additionally, LU IMS does not recognize the use of coaches. Only the team captain shall speak to the officials regarding administrative matters (protests, ejections, disqualifications, etc.). Furthermore, the team captain's effort in assisting officials/staff to calm difficult situations and to restrain troubled teammates is vital in controlling team conduct.
- Sportsmanship is vital to the conduct of every LU IMS contest. In order to encourage proper conduct during games, officials, administrative personnel, and supervisors shall make decisions on whether to warn, penalize, or eject players or teams for poor sportsmanship. These decisions are final! The LU IMS administrative staff will rule on further penalties due to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Each participant should choose his/her team members carefully, as all team members will suffer the consequences of any disciplinary action taken by the LU IMS staff against that team for violation of the LU IMS rules and sportsmanship guidelines. Protest or appeals of sportsmanship ratings will not be recognized. The LU IMS administrative staff reserves the right to review any rating given to a team.
- Additional information regarding team and participant sportsmanship including the rating method, factors, and scale is available in the Sportsmanship section of the LU IMS Handbook, available online at www.liberty.edu/ims.