



THE BALL

The ball used shall be a five-a-side ball, size four (4) or size five (5).

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

(a) The match shall be played by two (2) teams. One (1) player of each team shall be the goalkeeper, who must wear distinguishing colours.

(b) Three (3) substitutes per team shall be permitted at any time during a game from a maximum of three (3) nominated substitutes.

(c) The Rules of a Competition may allow for "rolling" substitutes to be used. The number of "rolling" substitutions is unlimited except in the case of the goalkeeper (see clause d).

A player who has been replaced may return to the playing area as a substitute for another player. A "rolling" substitution is one which is made when the ball is still in play and is subject to the following conditions:-

(i) the player leaving the playing area shall do so from the sideline crossing over at the substitution area.

ii) the player entering the playing area shall do so from the substitution area but not until the player leaving the playing area has passed completely over the sideline.

(iii) where barricades are used a player must use the opening onto the playing area.

(d) Any of the other players may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed before the change is made, and provided also that the change is made during a stoppage in the game.

(e) A match should not be considered valid if the playing strength of either team is reduced by more than two players.

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

(a) Footwear shall be worn in accordance with the Laws of the Game, and subject to any local regulations.

(b) The wearing of shinguards, which must be covered by stockings, in accordance with the Laws of the Game is compulsory. Any player who fails to wear shinguards does so at their own risk. Pitch Invasion accepts no responsibility for any injury to players due to missing or incorrect equipment.

REFEREES

A referee shall be appointed to officiate in each game. He shall have the same powers and duties as laid down in the Laws of the Game.

TIMEKEEPER/SCORER

An independent timekeeper/scorer may be appointed to assist the referee.

This official shall:-

- (a) record goals scored;
- (b) act as timekeeper and signify half-time and full-time by an agreed signal;
- (c) suspend time on the referee's instructions for all stoppages and add that time to the end of each half.
- (d) supervise the use of "rolling" substitutes if permitted by the Rules of a competition.

If an independent timekeeper/scorer is not appointed the above duties are the responsibility of the referee.

DURATION OF THE GAME

The duration of the game shall be divided into two equal periods of a maximum of Twenty (20) minutes subject to the following:-

- (a) allowance shall be made in either period for time lost through stoppages as decided by the referee and recorded by the timekeeper if appointed;
- (b) the duration of either half shall be extended to enable a penalty kick to be taken. At half time the interval shall not exceed two (2) minutes except by consent of the referee,

START OF PLAY

- (a) At the beginning of a game the choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- (b) The other team will then take the centre Kick OFF

BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

The ball shall be in play at all times from the start of the game unless:-

- (a) the ball rises above the Goal via a shot of Deflection, if its via a shot then the Defending teams Goalkeeper will start with the ball, Via a deflection then FA Freekick will be awarded to the Attacking Team;
- (b) the ball has crossed the goal-line, side-lines or the barricades surrounding the playing area; If the ball leaves the pitch the opposing team will restart game with a Kick in(Which is a Direct Freekick)
- (c) the timekeeper, if appointed, has given the signal for half or full-time;
- (d) the game has been stopped by the referee;

SCORING

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal-line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, 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 is within his own penalty area. A goal is not allowed if the ball was last played by a player of the attacking side whilst within either penalty area. (If the ball is last played by a defending player whilst within either penalty area, unless taking a penalty, a goal shall be allowed,

unless that player entered the penalty area accidentally). All goals result in a Kick off from the Centre spot

OFFSIDE

There is no offside. Players may place themselves in any part of the playing area outside the penalty areas.

FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

(a) Charging/sliding tackles are allowed and only the referee can judge whether it was a fair tackle or a freekick, if a foul is committed then it will be penalised by the awarding of a direct free kick.

(b) A player who unfairly impedes the progress of an opponent when not playing the ball shall be penalised by the awarding of an indirect free kick.

(c) Any Foul that the Referee feels was in an attempt to deliberately injure a fellow player or to stop an attacking player from either influencing a scoring opportunity or an actual scoring opportunity then this will result in a **3 minute Sin bin** for the player involved. This Rule could also come into play if a player is using consistent Foul and abusive Language

Any player who is sent off shall not be allowed to take any further part in the competition on that day. No substitute is allowed for a player dismissed for misconduct during the game in which the offence occurred.

FREE KICK

When a player is taking a direct or indirect free kick all of the opposing players shall be at least 6' (1.82 metres) from the ball until it is in play. All free kicks given against the defending side for infringements committed in or near the penalty area shall be taken from a distance not less than 6' (1.82 metres) outside the penalty area at the nearest point to where the offence occurred.

PENALTY KICK

A penalty kick shall be taken from the penalty mark and, except for the defending goalkeeper, only the player taking the kick can enter the penalty area and for that purpose only. Whether or not a goal is scored from the kick the player concerned must leave the penalty area immediately after taking the kick and before taking any further part in play.

GOALKEEPER RETURNING THE BALL INTO PLAY

After holding the ball the goalkeeper must immediately return the ball into play with an under-arm bowling action. It must not be thrown nor kicked if a height restriction is in operation.

Punishment for Infringement

An indirect free kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team from a point 6' (1.82 metres) outside the penalty area nearest to where the infringement occurred.

PLAY WITHIN THE PENALTY AREA – WHERE APPLICABLE

Players from both teams can enter the area, But they cannot shoot!