

LAWS OF SOCCER FOR HVAA

Every child MUST play at least half of the game

The start of play:

1. A coin flip starts the game.
2. The team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match.
3. Each team must be on its own half of the field and the defending players must be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked.
4. The kicker shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player.
5. After a goal, the team scored upon will kick off.
6. After halftime the teams change ends and the kick off will be taken by the opposite team to that which started the game.
7. A goal can be scored directly from a kick off.

Ball in and out of play

1. The ball is out of play when:
 - (a) It has wholly crossed the goal line or sidelines, whether on the ground or in the air.
 - (b) When the game has been stopped by the referee.

Method of scoring

1. A goal is scored when the entire ball has passed over the goal line, between the goal posts, and under the crossbar.

Offside

1. A player is offside if he is nearer his opponents' goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless
 - (a) He is in his own half of the field of play.
 - (b) There are two of his opponents nearer to their own goal line than he is
 - (c) The ball last touched an opponent
 - (d) He was the last one to play the ball
 - (e) He receives the ball direct from a goal kick, a throw in, or when the referee dropped it
2. If a player is declared offside, 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.

Fouls and misconduct

1. 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.
2. Any of these nine offenses committed in the penalty area by a defender will result in a penalty kick by the offensive team
3. A player committing less flagrant violations, such as offside, dangerous plays, obstruction, or unsporting behavior will be penalized by an indirect free kick
4. A goalie may not pick up a ball which was passed to him by a teammate, if he does, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the other team. The goalie is to treat the ball in that situation the same, as would any other player in the field. An indirect kick is also awarded if a goalkeeper handles the ball after receiving it from a throw in from his own team.
5. A player may receive a caution (yellow card) if he:
 - (a) Persistently infringes the laws of the game
 - (b) Shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the referee

- (c) Is guilty of unsporting behavior
6. A player may be suspended (red card) if he:
- (a) Is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play.
 - (b) Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language
 - (c) Persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

Free Kicks

1. 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).
2. For all free kicks the offending team must be at least ten yards from the ball until it has been kicked.

Penalty Kicks

1. A direct free kick taken at the penalty mark (always 12 yards from the center of the goal line regardless of field size).
2. All players except the player taking the penalty kick and the goalkeeper must stay outside the penalty area and at least ten yards from the ball.
3. The opposing goalkeeper must stand on his own goal line, between the goalposts until the ball is kicked.

Throw Ins

1. When the ball has wholly crossed the, touchline (sideline) it is put into play by a throw in from the spot where it went out and by a player from the opposite team that last touched it.
2. The player throwing the ball in must face the field of play and both of his feet shall be on the touchline or on the ground outside of the touchline. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his head.
3. A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw in.
4. If the ball is improperly thrown in, a player of the opposing team shall take the throw in.

Goal Kick

1. When the entire ball has crossed the goal-line, excluding the area between the goal posts, after being last touched by a player from the attacking team, it is put back into play by a kick from the goal area (usually the six yard line) by the defending team.
2. The ball must travel beyond the penalty area before being touched by another player.
3. A goal can be scored direct from a goal kick

Corner Kick

1. When the entire ball has crossed the goal-line, excluding the area between the goal posts, after being last touched by a player from the defending team, it is put back into play by a kick from a member of the attacking team from the corner on the side the ball went out.
2. A goal may be scored directly from such a kick
3. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner kick shall not approach within 10 yards of the ball until it is in play.

Substitutions

1. The referee must be informed of any substitution before it is made.

2. The substitute may not enter the playing field until the player he is replacing has left, and then only after receiving a signal from the referee.
3. Substitutions may take place only during a stoppage of play.
4. Substitutes should enter the field at the halfway line.
5. Any player may change places with the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed before the change is made, and that the change is made during a stoppage of the game.

Playing Time, Field Size and Number of Players

Intermediate Boys - 25 Minute Halves –8, or 9 players including the goal keeper

Intermediate Girls - 25 Minute Halves – 7 players including the goal keeper

Senior Boys and Girls - 25 Minute Halves – 8 or 9 players including the goal keeper

1. Allowance shall be made for time lost due to substitution or injury, the amount of which shall be at the discretion of the referee.
2. Time shall be extended to permit a penalty kick being taken at or after the expiration of the normal period at each half
3. No more than 5 minutes will elapse between halves except by the consent of the referee.
4. Games will start promptly. If a team does not have the required number of players within fifteen minutes of game time, they will forfeit the game.

Equipment

1. All players must wear shin guards.
2. No metal cleats will be allowed.
3. A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player.
4. Players must wear the uniforms provided by HVAA
 1. The goalkeeper's shirt shall be distinguishable from the other players

Postponements

The Director and the league commissioner will be responsible for determining whether the fields are playable due to inclement weather. Every effort will be made to make up games that were lost due to the weather, however if it becomes impossible, the games will be recorded as ties. Email Blasts will be used to alert the leagues whether games are cancelled. No notification means games are on!

