



ROYSE CITY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

PLAYING RULES

**Adopted June 2003
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ROYSE CITY SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

INDEX TO LAWS OF THE GAMES

These Laws are presented as a general guide to coaches. A coach should refer to the FIFA Laws of the Game for the exact interpretation of the Laws. Exceptions are noted for Under Four, Five, Six, Eight and Ten small sided games.

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LAWS OF THE GAME

LAW 1. THE FIELD OF PLAY

Recognizing that games will generally be played on fields furnished by the Royse City Parks and Recreation Department, the following are recommendations pursuant to North Texas Soccer Association:

AGE GROUP	WIDTH	LENGTH	GOAL SIZE
U4 - U8	15 - 25 yds	25 - 35 yds	4' x 6'
U10	35 - 45 yds	55 - 65 yds	Max: 6.5' x 18.5' Rec: 6.5' x 12'
U12	44 - 55 yds	70 - 80 yds	Max: 7' x 21' Rec: 6.5' x 18.5'
U14	Max: 75 yds	Max: 112 yds	8' x 24'
U16	Max 75 yds	Max: 112 yds	8' x 24'

NOTE: Coaches, Players and Spectators boxes located on each side of the playing field in which all persons are required to confine themselves during play. The Spectators' must sit on the opposite side of the field directly across from their team. Exception: U11 and above stadium seating.

These boxes shall be:

- One (1) yard back from the touch line.
- Extends to the top of the penalty area.

No coaches, substitutes or spectators will be permitted from the top of the penalty area to the corner flag. No one is permitted along the goal line or behind the goal, including but not limited to, the parking spots directly behind the goal and goal line.

No individual will be allowed to run the length of the field except participants of the game.

Failure to remain in the designated area can result in sanctions by the referee or RCSA.

Coaching from the sidelines will not be permitted. Limited positive instruction will be allowed in U8 and Under divisions.

LAW 2. THE BALL

The ball should be spherical and the outer casing shall be of leather or approved all-weather material. The ball shall not be changed during the game unless authorized by the referee.

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>CIRCUMF.</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
U4 - 8	#3	19-20 in.	6-9 oz.
U10 & 12	#4	23-24 in.	10-12 oz.
U14 & Up	#5	27-28 in.	14-16 oz.

Each team is required to have a ball which meets the league standards. This is to be used as the game ball, which will be presented to the referee at the beginning of each game. The referee's decision is final regarding the ball that is to be used.

LAW 3. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- A. A match shall be played by two (2) teams, each consisting of not more than eleven (11) players and not less eight (8) to start and seven (7) to finish, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.

	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	
• U12:	9	6	(9v9)
• U14 and up	11	7	(11v11)

Exceptions:

The U10 and Under age divisions shall play under the additional Developmental Player Program modified Rules for Under 6, Under 8, and Under 10. Max and Minimum players on field:

	<u>Max</u>	<u>Min</u>	
• U4 – U6:	4	2	(4v4 - No Goalie)
• U7/8:	4	3	(4v4 - No Goalie)
• U10:	7	5	(7v7)

B. Substitutions:

Coach must have the referee's consent before substituting. A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee.

1. Throw-ins: Substitution will be allowed, with the referee's consent, by the team in possession only.
2. Goal Kicks: Either team may substitute, with referee's consent.
3. After a goal: Either team may substitute, with referee's consent.
4. Half-time: Either team may substitute.
5. During a stoppage for an injury: By either team, with referee's consent.
6. When a caution (yellow card) is given: that player may be substituted.

Exceptions: U8 and Under Leagues – Shall additionally allow quarter substitutions. A two-minute break between quarters 1 and 2 and between 3 and 4 is allowed.

C. Any of the other players may change places with, and any substitute may replace, the goalkeeper, provided that the referee is informed of the change or the replacement before it is made. The referee does not have to be notified if the substitution occurs between halves or quarters. Changing the goalkeeper with another player on the field for the taking of a penalty kick may be done with the referee's permission. If the goalkeeper is substituted and the referee is not notified of the substitution before it takes place, the referee shall:

1. Stop the game, caution the new goalkeeper and remove him from the field then restart the game with a drop ball at the point of the infraction in the penalty area or;
2. Apply the advantage and allow play to continue until the ball goes out of play. At that time, the referee shall caution the new goalkeeper and remove him from the field, then restart the game as appropriate (throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick).

LAW 4. PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

A. A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player as determined by the referee.

B. The equipment of a player shall consist of:

1. Jersey (provided by RCSA);
2. Shorts – No pockets allowed. If thermal under shorts are worn, they are of the same main color as the shorts;
3. Stockings – must cover shin guards;
4. Footwear – League approved shoes as authorized for all divisions;
5. Shin guards
 - a. are covered entirely by the stockings;

- b. are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, or similar substance); and provide a reasonable degree of protection.

NOTE: The following types of shoes are **not** allowed for use in league play: baseball shoes, football shoes, track shoes with metal spikes.

A player who is instructed to leave the field to adjust his equipment or obtain missing equipment shall not return without first reporting to the referee, who shall satisfy himself that the player's equipment is in order. The player shall only re-enter the game at a moment when the ball has ceased to be in play.

- C. Each goalkeeper wears colors that distinguish him/her from the other players, referee, and assistant referees.
- D. If two (2) playing teams have comparable color combinations, the away team shall change jerseys or wear pennies. If the referee refused to call the game because of a color conflict and the home team has not provided alternate jerseys within fifteen (15) minutes of scheduled starting time, they will forfeit the game.
- E. Jerseys or shirts must have sleeves.
- F. Cut-offs or shorts with pockets will not be permitted, nor will hard-billed head wear be worn.
- G. All jerseys must have a number on the back not less than four (4) inches high, and each player must have a different number. All jerseys for a team must be of a consistent style, color and markings.
- H. Knee pads will be allowed, provided in the opinion of the referee they are not dangerous to another (i.e. hard plastic, hardened rubber, etc.).
- I. Warm-ups can be worn in cold weather, provided the jersey is worn over the warm-ups (assuming the warm-ups are not numbered).
- J. Hard casts may be worn by any player in any game so long as it is bubble wrapped, provided in the opinion of the referee, that it is not dangerous to another player.
- K. All items of jewelry are forbidden and must be removed; using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.

LAW 5. REFEREES

He/she shall:

- A. Enforces the laws and decides any disputed point.
- B. Keep a record of the game; act as official timekeeper and allow the full or agreed time, adding thereto all time lost through accident or other cause.
- C. Have discretionary power to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws and to suspend or terminate the game whenever, by reason of the elements, interference by spectator, or other causes, he deems such stoppage necessary. In the event of

spectator interference, the referee may warn or caution the coach or abandon the game depending on the severity.

- D. Have discretionary power, from the time he/she enters the field of play, to caution any player, coach, or spectator guilty of misconduct or ungentlemanly behavior and, if he/she persists, to suspend him/her further participation in the game. Team officials guilty of misconduct can be shown a YC/RC; if an offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC.
- E. Allow no other person other than players and the Assistant Referees enter the field of play without permission.
- F. Stop the game, if in his/her opinion; a player has been seriously injured. If a player is slightly injured, the game shall not be stopped until the ball has ceased to be in play.
- G. Ensures that any player bleeding from a wound must leave the field of play and may not be permitted back on the field of play until the bleeding has stopped. In any event, such a player may only return to the field on receiving a signal from the referee.
- H. Have discretionary power to suspend from further participation in the game, without previous caution, a player guilty of violent conduct.
- I. The power and authority of the referee commences at the time he/she arrives at the playing location and ends at the time he/she leaves the playing location. Thus a player, coach, assistant or spectator could be ejected before a game is actually started or after the referee blew his/her whistle for the end of the game.

NOTE: If a player, coach, assistant or spectator should be sent off for any reason by the referee, they must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.

LAW 6. ASSISTANT REFEREE

Two assistant referees shall be provided by the Referee Association for Under 10 and older games.

LAW 7. DURATION OF GAME

<u>AGE GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PERIODS</u>	<u>LENGTH OF OVERTIME</u>
U4	4 - 8 min. quarters	None
U5	4 - 8 min. quarters	None
U6	4 - 8 min. quarters	None
U7 - 8	4 - 10 min. quarters	None
U10	2 - 25 min. halves	2 - 10 min.
U12	2 - 30 min. halves	2 - 10 min.
U14	2 - 35 min. halves	2 - 10 min.
U16	2 - 40 min. halves	2 - 15 min.

A team must be ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time or 5 minutes after the referee has signaled the end of the half-time period, or forfeit the game. A team may not refuse to begin a game if they have eleven (11) players present, unless they have no time for warm-up. In this case, five (5) minutes shall be allowed provided it does not exceed the specified 15 minute delay.

All games shall have a half-time period not less than 5 minutes and not more than 10 minutes. U8 and Under leagues shall also have two minute quarter breaks. Evening games which are in jeopardy of not being completed before darkness may be shortened by 5 to 10 minutes each half if both coaches agree the game must be played. Allowance shall be made in either period for all time lost through accident or other cause, at the discretion of the referee.

Time shall be extended to permit a penalty kick being taken at or after the expiration of the normal period in either half.

Mandatory Playing Time – In order that players have an opportunity to develop their abilities and skills, learn teamwork and sportsmanship, RCSA requires each “Association Team” member be played in every game, except for illness, injury, disciplinary reasons, accordingly the minimum playing time as set forth in the RCSA League Rules.

LAW 8. THE START OF PLAY AND RESTART OF PLAY

- A. At the beginning of the game, the referee shall call the captains of each team to the center of the field, toss a coin and give the call to the visiting team captain. The team that wins the toss of a coin decides which goal to attack in the first half or to take the kick-off. Depending on the above, their opponents take the kick-off or decide which goal to attack in the first half. The team that decided which goal to attack in the first half takes the kick-off to start the second half. For the second half, the teams change

ends and attack the opposite goals. After a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by their opponents.

B. For every kick-off:

- all players, except the player taking the kick-off, must be in their own half of the field of play
- the opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the ball until it is in play
- the ball must be stationary on the center mark
- the referee gives a signal
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- a goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents

Exception: U8 and Under leagues - Opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball.

Offenses and sanctions - If the player taking the kick-off touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick, or for a handball offense, a direct free kick, is awarded. In the event of any other kick-off procedure offense, the kick-off is retaken.

C. The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in their penalty area if, when play was stopped:

- the ball was in the penalty area or
- the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area

In all other cases, the referee drops the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched a player, an outside agent or, as outlined in Law 9.1, a match official. All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 4 m (4.5 yds) from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it touches the ground.

Offenses and sanctions: The ball is dropped again if it touches a player before it touches the ground or leaves the field of play after it touches the ground, without touching a player. If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick if it enters the opponents' goal; a corner kick if it enters the team's goal.

Exception: U8 and Under leagues – The 2nd and 4th quarters shall be restarted with a kick off if the ball was in play when time expired or with the appropriate restart if the ball was out of play.

- D. No goalies in 4v4 play – A “Build Out Line” from the goal box is in place for small sided fields. No player shall be behind their build out line once the ball has crossed half field. No defender/sweeper may be in the goal box without an offensive player.

Offenses and sanctions: An indirect free kick from the center line will be awarded to the opposing team.

LAW 9. BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

- A. The ball is out of play:
1. when it has completely crossed the goal-line or touch-line, whether on the ground or in the air;
 2. when the game has been stopped by the referee;
 3. it touches a match official, remains on the field of play and:
 - a. a team starts a promising attack or
 - b. the ball goes directly into the goal or
 - c. the team in possession of the ball changes

In all these cases, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

NOTE: The lines belong to the areas they enclose. Therefore, touch-lines and goal-lines belong to the field of play.

- B. The ball is in play at all other times from the start of the match to the finish including:
1. If it rebounds from a goal post, cross or corner flag into the field of play;
 2. In the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws, until a decision is given.

NOTE: Players must continue to play in the event of a supposed infringement of the Laws until the referee’s whistle is blown.

LAW 10. METHOD OF SCORING

1. Goals Scored – A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goal posts, and under the crossbar, provided that no infringement of the Laws of the Game has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal. Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents’ goal.
2. Winning Team – The team scoring the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals, or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

Exception: U8 and Under leagues – Teams will not keep score. There will be no winning or losing team.

LAW 11. OFF-SIDE

For U8 and Under there will be NO off-side. For U10, there is no off-side between the halfway line and the build out line. However if in the opinion of the Referee an attacking player is placed within the Penalty Area of the Defensive Goal or close proximity to the Goalkeeper for the purpose of distracting or gaining an unfair scoring position on the goalkeeper, that player will be considered an obstruction by the referee and any goals made while this player is in the position will be disallowed with an Indirect Free Kick being awarded to the defending team.

For U12 and above:

- A. A player is in an off-side position if he is nearer to his/her opponent's goal-line than the ball, unless:
 - 1. he is in his/her own half of the field of play, or
 - 2. There are at least two of his opponents nearer their own goal-line than he/she is.
- B. A player shall only be declared off-side and penalized for being in an off-side position, if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his/her team, he/she is, in the opinion of the referee:
 - 1. interfering with play or with an opponent, or
 - 2. seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.
- C. A player shall NOT be declared off-side by the referee:
 - 1. merely because of being in an off-side position, or
 - 2. if he/she receives the ball, direct from a goal-kick, a corner kick, a throw-in or it has been dropped by the referee.
- D. If a player is declared off-side, the referee shall award an indirect free-kick, which shall be taken by a player of the opposing team where the infringement occurred, unless the offense is committed by a player in his opponent's goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within the goal area.

Note: Off-side shall not be judged at the moment the player in question received the ball, but at the moment the ball is last touched by a teammate.

LAW 12. FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

A. Handball

A handball is when a player deliberately touches a ball with their hand/arm or gains advantage after the ball hits a player's hand/arm unintentionally.

B. Direct Free Kick

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offenses against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip

If an offense involves contact, it is penalized by a direct free kick.

- Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed
- Reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned
- Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offenses:

- a handball offense (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- holds an opponent
- impedes an opponent with contact
- bites or spits at someone
- throws an object at the ball, an opponent or a match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object

See also offenses in Law 3.

C. Handling The Ball

It is an offense if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
 - scores in the opponents' goal
 - creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

It is usually an offense if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
 - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
 - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

The above offenses apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.

Except for the above offenses, it is not usually an offense if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger
- when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. Inside their penalty area, the goalkeeper cannot be guilty of a handling offense incurring a direct free kick; or any related sanction but can be guilty of handling offenses that incur an indirect free kick. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction.

D. Indirect Free Kick

An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:

- Deliberate heading of the ball (U10 and Under)
- Plays in the goal box without an offensive player (U8 and Under)
- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- Is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures or other verbal offenses; all verbal offenses are penalized with an indirect free kick.
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- Commits any other offense, not mentioned in the Laws, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player

An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offenses:

- controls the ball with the hand/arm for more than six seconds before releasing it
- touches the ball with the hand/arm after releasing it and before it has touched another player
- touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after:
 - it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
 - receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with the hand(s) when:

- the ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g. ground, own body) or by touching it with any part of the hands or arms, except if the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper or the goalkeeper has made a save
- holding the ball in the outstretched open hand
- bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air

A goalkeeper cannot be challenged by an opponent when in control of the ball with the hand(s).

E. Playing In A Dangerous Manner

- Playing in a dangerous manner is any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to someone (including the player themselves) and includes preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.
- A scissors or bicycle kick is permissible provided that it is not dangerous to an opponent.

F. Impeding The Progress Of An Opponent Without Contact

- Impeding the progress of an opponent means moving into the opponent's path to obstruct, block, slow down or force a change of direction when the ball is not within playing distance of either player.
- All players have a right to their position on the field of play; being in the way of an opponent is not the same as moving into the way of an opponent.
- A player may shield the ball by taking a position between an opponent and the ball if the ball is within playing distance and the opponent is not held off with the arms or body. If the ball is within playing distance, the player may be fairly charged by an opponent.

G. Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offense inside their penalty area or off the field as part of play as outlined in Laws 12 and 13.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Exception: U8 and Under leagues: Direct Free Kicks or Penalty Kicks shall NOT be awarded. All free-kicks shall be indirect free-kicks with opponents six (6) yards from the ball. All kicks shall be taken outside of the defending team's goal box.

H. Cautionable Offenses – A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following seven (7) offenses:

1. Is guilty of unsporting behavior (including kicking or throwing an object)
2. Shows dissent by word or action
3. Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. Delays the restart of play
5. Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
6. Enters or reenters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

I. Sending Off Offense – A player is sent off and shown the red card if he/she commits any of the following seven (7) offenses:

1. Is guilty of serious foul play
2. Is guilty of violent conduct
3. Spits at an opponent or any other person

4. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area)
5. Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to the opponent moving towards the players goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. Using offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
7. Receives a second caution in the same match

NOTES:

1. A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and technical areas (sideline)
2. If a player is sent off for a second cautionable offense in a match, the referee is required to first show the yellow card for the second cautionable offense and then shows the red cards to indicate that the player is being sent off for persisting in misconduct after having received a caution.
3. If a player must be stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field of play for an offense without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposite side from the place where the infringement occurred.
4. If the goalkeeper either intentionally strikes an opponent by throwing the ball vigorously at him/her with, or pushes him/her with the ball while holding it, the referee shall award a penalty kick, if the offense took place within the penalty area.
5. Any player, coach, assistant coach or spectator, whether he/she is within or outside the field of play, whose conduct is unsporting or violent, whether or not it is directed towards an opponent, a colleague, the referee, an assistant referee or other person, or who uses foul or abusive language, is guilty of the offense committed.
6. If a player is given, or ejected from the game or playing field, the referee shall notify the player's coach of the offense committed at half-time or the end of the game. All cards shall be noted on the game report.
7. Coaches and assistant coaches are subject to the same game disciplinary procedures by the referee as are the players (i.e., cautions and/or ejections). The referee may display the yellow or red card to coaches or assistant coaches. However, the referee will not "card" a spectator but may "card" a coach before the game, during the game, or after the final whistle. The referee will warn the coach that the spectator's behavior is unacceptable and if needed dismiss the coach and/or spectator. If they fail to dismiss themselves from the playing field area, the referee will abandon the game and complete a misconduct report. It's strongly suggested that you never exclaim your opinion from the sideline.
8. U8 and Under: players will not receive yellow or red cards. The referee will warn them on the field of the misconduct or foul. If the player continues to

violate the laws of play, the referee will escort the player to the coach and explain the misconduct or foul to the coach. The coach will substitute the player without argument to the referee and explain to the player the infraction or misconduct.

9. No cautions or ejections shall be issued except by an independent neutral referee.

RCSA/North Texas Soccer Rules To Law 12

1. Charging the goalkeeper in possession of the ball is NOT ALLOWED in any youth play in RCSA. Possession is defined as:
 - while the ball is between his hands or between his hand and any surface (e.g. ground, own body)
 - while holding the ball in his outstretched open hand
 - while in the act of bouncing it on the ground or tossing it into the air
2. It is not an intentional "hand-ball" offense for any player to attempt to protect the vital areas of his or her body (chest, crotch, face) by placing hands or arms across them to protect them from being struck at close range by the ball. The match referee shall be the sole judge of whether the hands or arms were used to deliberately propel the ball.
3. U10 and younger – No punting is allowed. When the goalkeeper has possession of the ball either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the goalkeeper puts the ball back into play. The goalkeeper must pass, roll or throw the ball to a teammate.
4. U12 and younger: No heading, either in practice or in games is allowed. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.
5. U8 and Under: players will not be allowed to slide-tackle the ball. The referee will use their judgment to determine if the play was incidental and/or dangerous, for which a free indirect kick will be awarded.

LAW 13. FREE-KICK

- A. Free-kicks shall be classified under two (2) headings: "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 played or touched by a player other than the kicker before passing through the goal).

- B. Any free-kick awarded to the defending team, within its own goal-area, may be taken from any point within the goal area. When a player is taking a direct or an indirect free-kick inside his/her own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten (10) yards from the ball and shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball has been kicked out of the area. The ball shall be in play immediately when it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area. The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his/her hands in order that he/she may therefore kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked directly into play, the kick shall be retaken.
- C. When a player is taking a direct or indirect free-kick outside his/her own penalty area, all of the opposing players shall be at least ten (10) yards from the ball, until it is in play unless they are standing on their own goal line, between the goal posts. The ball shall be in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. Any indirect free-kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal area shall be taken from the part of the goal or line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offense was committed.
- D. If a player of the opposing side encroaches into the penalty area, or within ten (10) yards of the ball, as the case may be, before a free-kick is taken, the referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the Law is complied with.
- E. The ball must be stationary when a free-kick is taken, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time, until it has been touched or played by another player.

NOTE:

- 1. If the kicker, after taking the free-kick, plays the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team.
- 2. For an indirect free-kick, the referee shall raise his/her arm; no signal is required in the case of an indirect free-kick.

Exception: U8 and Under league: All free-kicks shall be classified as "Indirect" with all opponents ten (10) feet from the ball. No free-kicks shall be awarded within the defending side goal box.

LAW 14. PENALTY KICK

A **Penalty Kick** shall be taken from the penalty mark and, when it is taken all players with the exception of the player taking the kick and opposing goalkeeper, shall be within the field of play and outside the penalty area, behind the penalty mark, and at least ten (10) yards from the penalty mark. The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net, until the ball has been kicked. The player taking the kick must kick the ball forward; he/she shall not play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player. When

the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line. A goal may be scored directly from such a penalty kick; the ball is in play when it has been kicked and moves forward. If the ball touches the goalkeeper before passing between the posts, when a penalty kick is being taken after the expiration of a half-time or full-time, it does not nullify the goal. If necessary, time of play shall be extended at half-time or full-time to allow a penalty to be taken.

NOTES:

1. For any infringement of this Law by:
 - a. The defending team, the kick shall be retaken, if a goal has not resulted.
 - b. The attacking team, other than by the player taking the kick, if a goal is scored, it shall be disallowed and the kick retaken.
 - c. The player taking the penalty kick, committed after the ball is in play, a player of the opposing team shall take an indirect free-kick from the spot where the infringement occurred.
2. The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net, until the ball has been kicked.

Exceptions: U8 and Under leagues – No penalty kicks shall be awarded. All free-kicks shall be classified as “Indirect” with all opponents ten (10) feet from the ball. No free-kicks shall be awarded within the defending side goal box.

LAW 15. THROW-IN

When the whole of the ball passes over the touch-line, either on the ground or in the air, it shall be thrown in from the point (one yard either side of the point, judged when the ball is released) where it crossed the line, in any direction, by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it. The thrower at the moment of delivering the ball must face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the touch-line or on the ground outside the touch-line. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head. The ball shall be in play immediately when it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not again play the ball until it enters the field of play, but the thrower shall not play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player. A goal shall not be scored directly from a throw-in.

NOTES:

1. Opponents must be at least 2yds from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line
2. If the ball is improperly thrown in, the throw-in shall be taken by a player of the opposing side.

3. If the thrower plays the ball a second time (other than handles the ball) before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free-kick shall be taken by a player of the opposing team. If, however, the thrower handles the ball, a direct free-kick is awarded.
4. If, when a throw-in is being taken, any of the opposing players dance about or gesticulate in a way calculated to distract or impede the thrower, it shall be deemed ungentlemanly conduct, for which the offender(s) shall be cautioned.
5. The ball is to be thrown; it may be just dropped, even from both hands.

Exception: U7/8 league: A re-throw is allowed. Under 4, 5, & 6 League: A kick-in will be awarded at the spot the ball is, as determined by the referee, out of play. Distances maintained by the defending team are the same as in all indirect kicks.

LAW 16. GOAL KICK

The ball must be stationary and is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

Offenses and sanctions: If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the kicker commits a handball offense:

- a direct free kick is awarded
- a penalty kick is awarded if the offense occurred inside the kicker's penalty area, unless the kicker was the goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded

If, when a goal kick is taken, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, the referee allows play to continue. If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken, or enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it is in play, the goal kick is retaken.

If a player enters the penalty area before the ball is in play and fouls or is fouled by an opponent, the goal kick is retaken and the offender may be cautioned or sent off, depending on the offense.

For any other offense, the kick is retaken.

NOTE:

U8 and Under leagues: opponents must be at least ten (10) feet from the ball and all goal kicks are indirect. A player taking a goal kick may not score directly from the goal kick.

If the player taking a goal kick plays the ball a second time after it has passed beyond the penalty area, but before it has touched or been played by another player, an

indirect free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

LAW 17. CORNER KICK

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line (excluding that portion between the goal posts) either in the air or on the ground having last been played by one of the defending team, a player of the attacking team shall kick the ball from inside the corner arc at the nearest corner flag post, which must not be moved, i.e., a corner kick. A goal may be scored directly from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner kick shall not approach within ten (10) yards of the arc until it is in play, i.e., when it is kicked and moves, nor shall the kicker play the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player.

NOTE: For an infringement of the Law, an indirect free-kick shall be awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

Exception: U8 and Under: opponents must be at least ten (10) feet away from the ball.

TIME WASTING TACTICS

Specific instructions to the Referees

The FIFA Board insisted that referees be **much stricter** when dealing with time wasting tactics, particularly in the following five (5) situations:

1. The referee must react strictly if the ball is kicked away or carried away with the hands after a free-kick has been given against a player.
2. The referee must caution and show the yellow card to any player(s) encroaching from the defensive wall.
3. A player who stands in front of the ball when a free-kick has been given against his/her team, in order to waste time to allow his team to organize the defensive wall, must be cautioned and show the yellow card.
4. Control of the ball by the goalkeeper must be strictly implemented by the referee per Law 12 (goalkeeper controlling the ball with his/her hands or arms).
6. If the goalkeeper holds the ball for longer than 5-6 seconds, the referee must adjudge it as time wasting and award an indirect free kick.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Royse City Soccer Association (RCSA) has adopted the following Zero Tolerance Policy for ALL RCSA age groups and teams.

Coaches, players, parents and all members of the RCSA are expected to uphold this policy and respect the referee regardless of their age or experience. Many of the referees in RCSA are young and just starting their careers as soccer referees. Please be respectful and support these young referees, and report any Zero tolerance violations to the V.P. or any RCSA Board member.

Zero tolerance violations will be taken very seriously by RCSA and will result in warnings, suspensions, or removal from RCSA. Additionally, violations may result in escalation to North Texas State Soccer Association where additional sanctions may be imposed.

POLICY

Every coach and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and has the potential to create a hostile environment for players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators. Consequently, RCSA has adopted the following rule:

No coach or spectator is to address the referee during the game!

Coaches Allowable Exceptions:

During the match:

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- Making substitutions
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

At half time or at the end of the match:

- A coach may ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive way. This is not an invitation to debate or argue!
- A coach may give polite and friendly feedback to a referee
- Absolutely no sarcasm, no harassment, and no intimidation

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction - Referee shall give a verbal warning
- 2nd Infraction – Caution with Yellow Card and Misconduct Report submitted to A&D
- 3rd Infraction - Ejection with Red Card and Misconduct Report submitted to A&D

Spectators Allowable Exceptions:

During the match:

- Responding to a referee initiating a communication
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

Penalties:

- 1st Infraction - Referee should stop the game and ask the coach to quiet the offending spectator.
- 2nd Infraction - A verbal warning. Referee should stop the game and caution with a Yellow Card to warn the spectator that the next infraction will result in the spectator and coach's ejection.
- 3rd Infraction - The referee shall eject the spectator and Red Card the coach. A Misconduct Report shall be submitted to A&D.
- The referee should abandon the game if the spectator and/or coach does not leave the field immediately. If the referee abandons the game, the referee shall file a report, and RCSA may impose a forfeit on the spectator's team.

Communications among players and referees are governed by the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Coaching Responsibilities by Age Group

Royse City Soccer Association

As in any coaching situation, there are a number of responsibilities that you are either directly or indirectly linked to on a daily basis. In addition to preparing practices, rosters, refreshments, and conducting practices, the following are a few of the expectations that the RCSA staff has for each coach on game day:

U4-U5:

- Coaches can be on the playing field when needed. As the season moves on, be on the field less and less.
- Only coaches and assistant coaches with a coach's card are allowed on your sideline.
- Do not place players like chess pieces!
- Keep parents on the opposite side of the field from you and the team. This limits distractions for both players and coaches.
- Be a cheerleader of both teams. Be a positive role model for your players.
- If and when the score gets out of hand or lopsided, move players around.
- Make sure that you have players in the game for at least 50% of the game. You be the judge of when or where they play.
- To encourage everyone is playing and developing ball skills, no player should be left back in the goal area.

U6:

- Coaches CANNOT be on the playing field.
- Only coaches and assistant coaches with a coach's card are allowed on your sideline.
- Keep parents on the opposite side of the field from you and the team. This limits distractions for both players and coaches.
- Be a cheerleader of both teams. Be a positive role model for your players.
- If and when the score gets out of hand or lopsided, move players around.
- Make sure that you have players in the game for at least 50% of the game. You be the judge of when or where they play.
- To encourage everyone is playing and developing ball skills, no player should be left back in the goal area.

U7/8:

- Coaches CANNOT be on the playing field.
- Only coaches and assistant coaches with a coach's card are allowed on your sideline.
- Keep parents on the opposite side of the field from you and the team. This limits distractions for both players and coaches.
- If and when the score gets out of hand or lopsided, move players around.
- Make sure that you have players in the game for at least 50% of the game. You be the judge of when or where they play.

- Enforce the defensive posture line. Keep your last player pushed up in the field when your team is attacking. No player should be left back in the goal area.
- Watch the game, and cheer/yell less. This group of players needs to start to figure the game out for themselves. Be a positive role model for your players.

U10:

- Coaches CANNOT be on the playing field.
- Only coaches and assistant coaches with a coach's card are allowed on your sideline.
- Keep parents on the opposite side of the field from you and the team. This limits distractions for both players and coaches.
- If and when the score gets out of hand or lopsided, move players around.
- Make sure that you have players in the game for at least 50% of the game. You be the judge of when or where they play.
- Understand and instruct your players on the offside rule and all the consequences.
- Watch the game, and cheer/yell less. This group of players needs to start to figure the game out for themselves. Make your corrections at half-time. Stay in your technical area. Be a positive role model for your players.

U12, U14 & U16:

- Coaches CANNOT be on the playing field.
- Only coaches and assistant coaches with a coach's card are allowed in the coaches box.
- For games played at home, the home team and their spectators shall occupy the East or South side of the field, depending on the direction of the field. The visiting team and their spectators shall occupy the opposite side of the field.
- All spectators must remain on their side of the field and three (3) yards behind the touchline during the game.
- If and when the score gets out of hand or lopsided, move players around.
- Make sure that you have players in the game for at least 50% of the game. You be the judge of when or where they play.
- Understand and instruct your players on the offside rule and all the consequences.
- Watch the game, and cheer/yell less. This group of players needs to start to figure the game out for themselves. Make your corrections at half-time. Stay in your technical area. Be a positive role model for your players.
- Remember that you are a representative of RCSA wherever you go.
- Abide by the host association rules. If you do not know what they are, get a copy.