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# **The Arena Club Soccer Rules**

All rules are those of FIFA Laws of the Game unless amended as follows by The Arena Club.

## **The field**

The field is smaller than a regulation outdoor field therefore, there are NO offsidess.

## **The ball**

The home team must provide a game ball. The Arena Club is not responsible for providing a game ball. U13 and above should play with a size 5 ball.

## **The number of players**

Each team is allowed 5 field players and a goalie to start. You can finish with less but must have four players to start the game. For coed soccer two females must be on the field at all times. If a team only has one female then that team must play a person down. U8 and below start with 7 players.

## **Substitutions**

Substitutions are on the fly and can be done throughout the game and have to be done through the midfield line. COED only: guaranteed subs on goal kicks only.

## **Roster**

Every team must have a roster before the session can begin. It is up to the league administrators to collect these roster. Every player can only be on one roster and can only play on one team. If a player plays on a different team then that team will receive a forfeit for that game.

## **Conduct**

Game referees and The Arena Club reserve the right to suspend or remove a player from a league at any time for disorderly conduct. Harassment of officials will not be tolerated. Officials can end a game at any time if they feel the game is out of control and may cause harm to players or spectators. Officials can penalize teams if the players' benches or spectator areas are abusing any of the rules in the codes of conduct.

## **Equipment**

All players are required to wear tennis shoes or indoor soccer shoes. NO CLEATS ARE ALLOWED. Shin guards MUST be worn by all players in leagues U18 and below. Shin guards are strongly recommended for all players U19 and above. All team members must wear the same color of team shirts. The goalkeeper must wear a different color of those on his/her team. Home team is responsible for uniform change in case of conflict. A player wearing a cast will not be permitted to play. Jewelry is not allowed to be worn

during a game. The only exception made is if a player has starter studs and they must be covered.

### **Cards/Suspensions**

Any player, parent or coach that is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for at least one game. Suspension time will be decided by officials and Arena Club management. If a player's conduct results in an offense, it is the sole discretion of the Official to decide if the offense warrants a yellow card or a red card. Two yellow cards issued in one game will earn a player an automatic red card. If a goalie commits a yellow card offense, the goalie must be the one to serve the penalty and the team must put in a replacement for the goalie. If a player is issued a yellow card, that player will serve a (2) minute penalty and there will be no substitution for that player. If a player is serving a penalty for a yellow or a red card, and the team with the advantage scores a goal, then the goal scored will cancel out the penalty time. If the ball is not in play, and a player on the field is given a yellow or a red card (example: language) than that team will play short. If a player on the bench is given a yellow or a red card, then the coach or team captain will have to select a player on the field to remove and serve that penalty. If a player is issued a second yellow card, then the time penalty served is (5) minutes. If a player is issued a red card, that player's team will play a man down for five (5) minutes and that player is ejected from the game and the following game minimally. A coach may NOT designate another player to serve a penalty. If a player or coach should receive a red card, he/she must give the official their name and phone number. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the Arena Club for one year. It is the sole discretion of the official if a slide tackle offense will result in a red card. If play has to be stopped to control a coach or a spectator, the ball will restart as a drop ball wherever the play had to end. Anyone in the arena can be asked to leave by a referee or Arena Club management for any unacceptable behavior. All suspensions will be listed in the officials' communication log.

### **Game time**

Games will be played in two (2) 24 minute halves. Half time will be five (5) minutes. No overtime periods. Each team is allowed one thirty (30) second time out per half. Timeouts may only be called during a team's possession. Game time is forfeit time. The score will be recorded as a 0-1 loss for the forfeiting team. Clock will start at game time.

### **Penalty Kicks**

Any foul committed in the penalty area that would result in a penalty kick outdoors and for which the ref gives a red or yellow card will result in a penalty kick here as well. The penalty kick will be placed at the top of the goalie box.

### **Standings**

A win is three (3) points, a tie is one (1) point, and a loss is zero (0) points. In case of a tie for league champion, the following tie breaker will apply:

- ◆ Head to Head
- ◆ Most Wins
- ◆ Fewest Goals Allowed
- ◆ Highest Goal Differential – maximum of three (3) per game

### **General Rules**

- ◆ An opposing player must be 6 feet from the ball in dead ball situations on the sideline and 10 feet for restart on the field.
- ◆ A maximum of 2 coaches are allowed in the coaches and players area. Family, friends, and parents are not allowed in this area.
- ◆ No one is allowed to stand behind the goal area. Coaching is not allowed from the sidelines or behind the goal.
- ◆ On a throw-in or a kick-in if a ball does not cross the field of play, the possession is given to the other team.
- ◆ On a corner kick, the ball should be placed one (1) foot off of the corner. All balls are direct except for sidelines. You will be given 10 feet upon request.
- ◆ If a ball hits the ceiling, lights, or superstructure, the ball should be kicked directly from the spot it hit the ceiling and is a direct kick.
- ◆ Any foul against the defensive team that is committed in its own penalty area that does not result in a red or yellow card, the restart is moved to the top of the large circle. This is not a penalty kick.
- ◆ **NO Slide tackling (goalies okay inside of box)**
- ◆ Individuals utilizing the facility do so at their own risk. The property owners, league administrators and the staff of Harford Health & Fitness, Inc and The Arena Club assume no liability for any injuries or accidents
- ◆ No tobacco products or alcoholic beverages are permitted inside/outside the facility
- ◆ No foul or abusive language at any time
- ◆ No fighting or arguing of any kind will be tolerated; You will be removed from the building immediately and if carded will not be allowed to return for the following game
- ◆ Warm-up time before your match is not guaranteed. It is the referees job to maintain the game schedule on the hour
- ◆ Coaches are responsible for making sure their players clean their bench area before leaving the game (please do not leave your trash for another team to clean)
- ◆ Coaching behind the goals or on the sidelines is not permitted
- ◆ Spectators are allowed to view the game from the bleacher area only. Do not stand behind the goal area or on the players and coaches sidelines. Siblings are not allowed to sit on the players or coaches side either.
- ◆ Goalie cannot play the ball to himself into the goalie box and pick it up.

### **Additional Rules for Coed:**

- ◆ The ball is not live; ie a goal cannot be scored, until a female touches the ball in their attacking half of the field.
- ◆ A female must take all free kicks in their attacking half of the field.
- ◆ A ball is still live in the offensive zone until it crosses the center line after the offensive team has a female player touch the ball. So until the defensive team clears the ball out of their half the ball can still be scored.
- ◆ Any player can score a goal from the defensive half of the field.