

North Texas State Soccer Association, Inc.
Policy on Rules of Play for TOPSoccer

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for SOCCER)

1.1 PLAYERS

1.1.1 Registration

Members will consist of individuals that are physically and/or mentally challenged. Eligibility will be determined by a TOPSoccer committee that will consist of Parents, Coaches from TOPSoccer teams, and representatives of the sponsoring association.

Must be a minimum of four (4) years of age.

Recommended Number of Players, one of whom may be the goalkeeper:

Junior Division - 6

Senior Division - 7

Adult Division - 8

1.1.2 Helpers

Players may have at their side a helper if needed. The helper is not to interfere with the play of the game in any way. They are there to support the player if needed.

Depending on the number of players that show up at game time, coaches may adjust the numbers of players to play the game less than the recommendation in order to not have the players get exhausted. As more players show up, coaches may ask the Referee to add players to the field as needed. It is suggested that coaches also consider sharing players between the teams to allow the game to be played if needed

1.1.3 Player Equipment

Conform to **IFAB** with the following exceptions:

Footwear: Tennis shoe or soft-cleated soccer shoes

Shin-guards: Mandatory

Wheelchairs: Players may play in their wheelchairs.

1.2 TEAM ASSIGNMENT

1.2.1 Divisions

1. Junior Division:

Those players with minimum ambulatory abilities and /or minimum playing abilities. Age of player is not the determining factor. Teams may be coed.

2. Senior Division:

Those players with greater ambulatory abilities and /or greater playing abilities. Age of player is not the determining factor. Teams may be coed.

3. Adult Division:

Those players over the age of twenty-one (21). Teams may be coed.

If, due to limited registration, an association cannot field a Division as stated above, they can combine players to form a team and play in the Division that best meets the needs of these players.

Younger age players (i.e. four (4) to six (6) year old players), should be assigned together when possible.

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1.2.2 Player Assignment

All players will be assigned to a team by their ambulatory ability and playing abilities. These abilities will be periodically reviewed and team assignment adjustments made accordingly.

1.3 RECOMMENDED FIELD SIZE

The field of play shall be rectangular and the length in all cases shall exceed the width.

	<u>Field Size</u>	<u>Goal Size</u>
Junior Division	40 yds. x 60 yds.	6 Ft High x 4 yds. Wide
Senior Division	50 yds. x 80 yds.	7 Ft High x 7 yds. Wide
Adult Division	50 yds. x 80 yds.	7 Ft High x 7 yds. Wide

The field sizes are recommended and may be adjusted to fulfill the needs of the players. Younger age teams should play on a field similar to a 4 v 4 field; field size 20-25 yards in width by 30-35 yards in length. Goal size four (4) feet high by six (6) feet in width.

1.3.1 Recommended Additional Field Markings

	Junior Division	Senior/Adult Division
Goal Area Size	6* yds. x 16 yds.	Goal Area Size 6* yds. x 19 yds.
Penalty Area Size	10* yds. x 24 yds.	Penalty Area Size 14* yds. x 35 yds.
Center Circle**	6 yd. radius	Center Circle** 8 yd. radius
Corner Arcs	2 Ft radius	Corner Arcs 1 yd. radius

Younger age teams goal area should be 3* yards by 12 feet. There should be no penalty area marked. The center circle should be a 10-foot radius and 2-foot radius corner arcs. This is similar to a 4 vs. 4 field.

** Indicates the distance the area shall extend into the field of play and also the distance from each goal post for the lines at right angles to the goal line.*

*** The center circle radius is also the distance the team on defense shall remain from the ball during the taking of a free kick or corner-kick.*

1. All Divisions' fields should have:
 - a. Distinctive lines not more than five (5) inches wide;
 - b. A halfway line that shall be marked out across the center of the field;
 - c. A goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

1.4 THE GAME

1.4.1 Recommended Ball Size

1. Junior Division - size 3
2. Senior Division - size 4
3. Adult Division - size 5

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1.4.2 Playing Time

Coaches are required to play every player a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of each game unless the player or parent of the player asks not to play for a period of time.

1.4.3 Substitutions

1. Open as needed - during play, if a player needs to be substituted because they do not want to play, notify the Referee of the substitution, call the player off the field and allow the new player to enter the field. Otherwise, follow the substitution rules as stated below with the Referee's permission.
2. Prior to a Throw-in/Kick-in from either team.
3. Prior to any Goal Kick.
4. After a goal by either team.
5. After an injury.
6. At the end of a quarter or half-time.

1.4.4 Referee/Assistant Referee

1. Registered Referee/Assistant Referee.
2. Coach or Assistant Coach (logical choice).
3. All rule infractions shall be briefly explained to the offending player.
4. Assistant Referees are not necessary.

1.4.5 Duration of the Game

1. The game shall be divided into four equal twelve (12) minute quarters (fifteen (15) minutes for Adults).
2. There shall be a break between the first quarter and the second quarter and between the third quarter and the fourth quarter. Try to make the breaks as short as possible - two (2) to four (4) minutes.
3. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes between the second and third quarters.
4. Coaches may adjust the total game playing time to less than the above noted times due to the number of players on the teams, the weather conditions or if the teams consist of very young players that do not have the endurance to play more than 10-minute quarters.

1.4.6 Start of Play

1. Conform to **IFAB** with the following exception:
 - a. Opponent must be six (6) yards away from the center mark while the kick-off is in process, eight (8) yards away for the Adult Division.

1.4.7 Ball In and Out of Play and Method of Scoring

Conform to **IFAB**.

1.4.8 Offside

There is no offside.

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1.4.9 Throw-in/Kick-in

A second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to take the second throw-in. Keep in mind that some players cannot throw the ball into play over their head and those players should be allowed to do the throw-in the best way that they can. If the player cannot do a throw-in, they may kick the ball back into play to restart the game from the touchline.

1.5 FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

1. Conform to **IFAB** with the following exceptions:
 - a. All fouls shall result in an indirect free kick with the opponents six (6) yards away from the point from which the kick will be taken. Eight (8) yards away from the kick in the Adult Division.
 - b. The Referee must explain **ALL** infractions to the offending player.
 - c. Slide tackling is not allowed in any division.

1.6 FREE KICKS

1. Conform to **IFAB** with the following exceptions:
 - a. Shall be classified under one heading, **INDIRECT**.
 - b. A goal may not be scored until the ball has been played or touched by a second player of either team.

1.6.1 Penalty Kicks

No penalty kicks are to be taken.

1.6.2 Goal Kick

Conform to **IFAB**.

1.6.3 Corner Kick:

1. Conform to **IFAB**.
 - a. Opponents must be six (6) yards away from the ball. Eight (8) yards away in the Adult Division.

U.S. YOUTH SOCCER RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
2. Do not keep any score or record of the game.
3. Coaches are on the field acting as the referee as needed.
4. Participation awards are given to all players.
5. No alcoholic beverages will be consumed or allowed near the playing field or complex.