



## **Spring Soccer Rules & Guidelines**

**Game Duration:** U6 ages play four 10-min quarters. All other ages play four 12-min quarters.

**Team/Player Parity:** At the beginning of each game, both coaches shall assess the players that have shown up for that game, and shall lend/borrow as needed to maximize the team parity, which will hopefully result in the most balanced and competitive game possible.

**Kick Off:** May go any direction.

**Throw-Ins (U6 and U8):** Illegal throw-in's shall be retaken, but will not result in a change of possession.

**Kick-Ins (U10 and older):** A kick-in (Free Kick) shall be taken in-lieu of a traditional throw-in.

**Free Kicks:** All fouls will result in an INDIRECT free kick. If a free kick is awarded within five yards of the goal, the ball will be moved back to five yards from the goal, as placed by the referee or on-field coach.

**Goal Kicks:** May be taken from any point within the defined goal area.

- For U6 and U8, the defending team shall push back to the midfield line until the ball is in play.

**Penalty Kicks:** There are no "penalty kicks". If, in the referee's opinion, a scoring opportunity was nullified by a foul, the penalized player will need to sit out a minimum of one quarter. Restart with a Free Kick.

### **Goal Scoring:**

1. All goals must be scored from the run of play. No goal may be scored directly from a restart (kick-off, throw-in, goal kicks, etc), since all such restarts are Indirect.
2. A goal may only be scored from a touch within the team's offensive half on the field. If a ball is kicked from the defensive half and is not touched before going into the goal, a goal kick is awarded.
3. All players need to push up into the attack and be part of the play. If, in the opinion of the on-field coach or referee, a goal is scored, while a member of the attacking team is not making any effort to be involved in the play (ie: standing back by the goal), the goal will be disallowed.
  - This rule does not apply to the U6 age.
4. If a defender blocks a shot, while standing within the defined goal area, AND the shot was taken OUTSIDE of the defined goal area, then a goal is awarded (similar to "goaltending" in basketball). However, if the shot is taken INSIDE the goal area, play shall continue. This rule is to encourage the defense to "push out" away from goal.
  - This rule does not apply to the U6 age.

**Extra Player Rule:** If a team is leading a game by 3 or more goals the opposing coach **shall** add a player. When the trailing team gets back to a 2 point deficit, the teams are brought back to even player numbers.

**Five Yard Rule:** In all dead-ball situations, defending players must stand at least five yards away from the ball.

**Substitution:** Substitutions may ONLY be made during dead-ball situations, regardless of possession, only after receiving permission from the referee or on-field coach.

**The “No” Rules:**

- No goalkeepers
- No off-sides
- No slide tackling. A slide tackle will result in a Free Kick.

**Player Equipment, Protective Casts & Jewelry:** All players must wear shin guards, or will not be allowed to play. Soccer cleats are not mandatory, but recommended. All players must wear same color jerseys/shirts during play. Players wearing protective casts must receive approval by the Spring Soccer Committee, and will be required to check in prior to each game with the on-field referee to be permitted to play. If the referee on the field of play deems a player’s protective cast is unsafe in any way, the player will not be allowed to play. No jewelry will be allowed, including earrings of any type, rope necklaces and bracelets. The only exception will be players wearing medical bracelets.

**Referees:** Paid referees are provided for U10 and Middle School games. There are no Refs for U6, U8, or High School games. For U6 and U8, each team’s head coach is responsible to ref half of the game. Abuse of the Refs will not be tolerated. If a Referees is a no show, each team’s head coach is responsible to ref half of the game.

**Code of Conduct for Coaches, Parents, Players:** Spring Soccer Committee reserves the rights to dismiss (without refund) any coach, parent, or player that exhibits improper behavior.

**Weather Related Issues:** Spring soccer committee reserves the right to modify, reschedule, or cancel games due to inclement weather.

**Questions or Problems:** Please email the spring soccer committee at [Info@celticfl.net](mailto:Info@celticfl.net)