

# Parent Introductory Soccer Rules

## Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is OUT of play when it has completely crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air, or when the game has been stopped by the referee.



## Offside

USSF laws for OFFSIDE apply only to Division I, II, III and VI (Senior) in the CSC House League. There is NO OFFSIDE called in Division IV.

The general rule is that two (2) defending players (the goalie can be one), must be between the offending player and the goal line, in the opponents half of the field at the time the ball is kicked by his teammate.

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.

A player cannot be offside merely by being in an offside position or receiving the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or drop ball.

Even though a player is technically offside, he is not declared offside unless, in the opinion of the referee, his is interfering with play or with an opponent or is seeking to gain an advantage by being offside.

**Judgment:** Is the player taking advantage or interfering with play by being in the offside position.

**Judgment:** Offside shall be judged when the ball is passed or shot, not when the player receives it.

**Judgment:** Division IV – The referee will stop play if a team consistently has goalthanging players.

## Fouls and Misconduct

This is one of the more difficult areas for the referee, but the most important.

Remember a few key points:

1. **The infraction must be intentional.**
2. After making a call, a referee may realize they made a mistake. **THEY CAN CHANGE THE CALL BEFORE PLAY RESTARTS.** It must not be influenced by the coach or the fans. Remember – **THE REFEREE** is in control of the field.

The following summarizes the offenses and the resulting free kicks that may be awarded during a match

**Fouls – An indirect kick is awarded for:**

1. dangerous play
2. intentional obstruction
3. charging the goalkeeper when he has possession of the ball
4. goalkeeper taking more than 6 seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it
5. charging fairly when the ball is not within playing distance
6. goalkeeper handling the ball when passed to him by a teammate (foot pass only)
7. slide tackling

**Fouls – A direct kick is awarded for:**

1. handball
2. tripping

3. kicking or attempting to kick another player
4. striking or attempting to strike another player
5. charging in a violent or dangerous manner
6. jumping at a player
7. holding
8. pushing
9. charging from behind
10. slide tackling from behind

**FOR DIVISION IV:** *All fouls shall result in an INDIRECT FREE KICK*

## Cautions and Ejections

A player shall be CAUTIONED OR YELLOW-CARDED if:

1. Player enters or leaves the field of play after the game has commenced without permission from the referee.
2. Player persistently infringes on the laws of the game.
3. Player is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct
4. Player uses vulgar or profane language or gestures in an incidental manner.
5. When slide tackling from the front or side, he/she contacts the player and not the ball.
6. Player is guilty of taunting or offensive language.

A player shall be EJECTED OR RED-CARDED from the field of play if, in the opinion of the referee:

1. Player persists in misconduct after receiving a caution (yellow card).
  2. Player uses foul or abusive language or gestures.
  3. Player is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play.
  4. That player, who is other than the goalkeeper, intentionally handles the ball to prevent a goal from being scored.
  5. Player commits an intentional foul against an opponent who is moving toward the goal with an obvious opportunity to score.
  6. Player slide-tackles an opponent from behind.
- **Any player or coach can receive a yellow or red card**
  - A coach shall receive a yellow or red card for misconduct of fans, assistants, or linesmen.
  - When a player is cautioned (yellow card), the cautioned player MUST leave the field until the next legal opportunity to substitute. The player may be replaced by a teammate until their return.
  - A team shall not substitute for an ejected or red-carded player.

## Suspensions

- A player or coach who is red-carded shall be suspended and will not be permitted to participate in his/her team's next game.

## Injuries

In case of an injury, the referee will motion for the coach to check the player on the field and may allow the player's parent to assist. If a player is checked out on the field, they must leave the field. The only exception is for goaltenders.

## Fan Conduct

Fans will be respectful of players, coaches and referees. Please use words of encouragement to cheer on your team. Fowl language, disrespect for players, coaches, or referees can result in your dismissal from the field. If a fan is disruptive, the referee will ask the coach to remove that individual. Any ejections will be reported back to the Board and Referee Coordinator. If you have questions regarding a referee's call, or the conduct or actions of a referee, coach or fan, contact Greg Thrun at 604-5738, Chris Probst at 741-8424 or your Team Manager.

**With Clarence House League, the goal is to learn the game, build skills, entertain, and have FUN!**

*If you want to learn more about the rules of the game, you can visit <http://www.soccer-for-parents.com/soccer-rules.html>  
Even better, if you'd like to become a referee, contact Greg Thrun at [gregt@lifestylesmgmt.com](mailto:gregt@lifestylesmgmt.com) or call at 604-5738.*