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## **Sand Soccer Tournament Rules**

All games shall be in accordance with the FIFA "laws of the game", except as modified.

### **FIELD OF PLAY, GOALS, AND BALL:**

- Field shall be 30 yards wide by 40 yards long.
- A Penalty Box will be marked at each end of the field 9 yards from the goal line and extending from the touchlines to touchline
- Goals shall be 7 feet tall by 18 feet wide.

### **PLAYING THE GAME**

- The referee will conduct a coin toss, with the winner given the choice of kickoff/court side options.
- Opposing players must remain at least 5 yards away from the ball during all free kicks, kickoff, and penalty kicks.
- A goal **CANNOT** be scored directly from the kickoff.
- All games shall employ two 15 minute halves, separated by five minute half-time period.
- **PASS BACK RULE**--The goalkeeper **CANNOT** touch the ball with his hands or arms when a ball is returned to him by a teammate **twice consecutively**, including heading the ball to the goalkeeper or playing the ball from an inbounds pass to the goalkeeper without the ball having touched an opponent. Infraction results in the opposing team being awarded a free kick from the center of the field.
- **NO OFFSIDES!!**
- **SLIDE TACKLING IS NOT ALLOWED – NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

### **TEAMS:**

- A team may a maximum of 10 on a roster. The game is played by 2 teams of 5 players on each team, 1 of which shall be the goalkeeper. A match may not start or continue if either team consists of fewer than 3 players. Changes may be made to the roster prior to the start of the first game and thereafter cannot be changed. Teams having an ineligible player will be required to **FORFEIT** that match. A 10-minute grace period is allowed. If after 10 minutes, a team is unable to field 3 players, the game will be declared a forfeit and scored 3-0.
- Co-ed teams shall have a minimum of 2 women on the field at all times during the match excluding the goalkeeper. If a female is in the "Sin Bin", she is considered to be on the field since the team is playing down a player. If no female is available due to injury, the team must play down a player.
- Unlimited Substitutions. Substitutes shall enter at midfield with the referee's permission.
- A goal **CANNOT** be scored directly by a goalkeeper either throwing or punting the ball.

### **REFEREES:**

- The referee shall be located on the halfway line at the touch line. All decisions by the referee are **FINAL**. The referee will serve as timekeeper and scorekeeper, including controlling suspended players in the "Sin Bin". The Tournament Committee shall determine, before the game, or during play, if conditions are suitable for safe play. Certain games may employ two referees on the field.

### **PLAYER EQUIPMENT:**

- Footwear includes bare feet, socks taped up and/or elastic ankle and/or foot wraps.
- Teams will wear uniforms of matching design and color, and must have numbers. In the event of a conflict in uniform color, the home team will be required to change.
- The goalkeeper must wear a distinctly different color from both teams and the referee.

### **FOULS AND INFRACTIONS**



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- If any player commits any of the below infractions, there will be a **DIRECT FREE KICK** taken from the spot of the infringement by the player who is faulted unless he is seriously injured.

- **ALL FREE KICKS ARE DIRECT EXCLUDING KICK-INS, KICKOFFS, AND GOAL KICKS**

- **CAUTIONS (SIN BIN)**—A player cautioned shall be suspended for 2 minutes and the team of penalized player will continue to play without a replacement until the two-minute period is over, as notified by the referee. Suspension will be served in the “Sin-Bin” immediately next to the referee’s chair or position. The two-minute penalty will carry over from one period to the next.
- If play is stopped for unsporting behavior, restart will be a direct free kick at the center of the field.
- **SEND-OFFS**—A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play. The penalized team shall continue to play without a replacement for 2 minutes. **Another player may substitute a teammate who has been sent off, after a lapse of two minutes, with the authorization of the referee.**
- The Tournament Director shall determine the length of suspension for a player that has been sent off. All decisions made by the Tournament Director are final.
- A player sent off during a match shall not be eligible to compete in future tournament matches **UNLESS** the player pays a \$25 fine to the Tournament Director.
- **FIGHTING WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT BE TOLORATED. Any player ejected for fighting will not be allowed to play for the remainder of the tournament.**

## **FREE KICKS:**

- The referee will award a Direct Free Kick where a foul has been committed. Player who received the infraction, unless injured, must take the free kick. Opponents will approach no closer than 5 yds.
- **WALLS ARE NOT PERMITTED.** Opposing players must be at least 5 yards away from the ball.
  - If the infraction is committed in the kicking team’s **DEFENSIVE END** of the court, an imaginary “**NO MAN’S LANE**” will be established from the point of the foul to each opponent’s goal post. Players of **BOTH** teams **MUST** remain outside of this lane until the Free Kick is taken.
  - If the infraction is committed in the kicking team’s **OFFENSIVE END** of the court, players of **BOTH** teams must position themselves behind, or on the same line, as the ball placed at the point where the foul was committed.
- When taking a Free Kick, Corner Kick, or In-Bounds Kick, a player may place the ball on the spot of the foul and make a small mound to elevate the ball’s position.
- **Infractions During Free Kicks**—If any irregularity occurs when a Free Kick is being taken, the following will apply:
  - If the irregularity is committed by the team taking the free kick and the goal is scored, the shot will be repeated
  - If the irregularity is committed by the infringing team, the free kick will be repeated unless a goal was scored, in which case the goal will stand.
  - If a free kick taken from the **DEFENSIVE END** is touched by a defender, not including the goalkeeper, prior to the ball hitting or entering the goal, touching the goalkeeper, hitting the sand, or being touched by a teammate of the kicker, a **DIRECT FREE KICK** will be awarded from the point of the infraction.
- **Injury or Interference Restart:** Indirect free kick from the center of the field by team in possession at time of stoppage, or restart as applicable, i.e. ball out of touch.

## **PENALTY KICKS:**

- A penalty kick shall be awarded when a foul is committed by an opponent inside the penalty box of the infringing player. The penalty kick must be taken by the player that suffered the infraction, unless otherwise injured, and is taken from a point in the center of the goal on the penalty box line.
- The player who takes the penalty kick must do it in a continuous movement.

## **RESTARTING THE GAME**

- **GOAL KICK**



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○ The goalkeeper shall restart play from anywhere in the penalty area with hands or feet. **A goal cannot be scored directly from the restart.** If the goalkeeper delays the game, the opposing team shall be awarded a free kick from the center of the field.

- A goalkeeper **cannot score** by directly throwing the ball with their hands into the goal of the opposing team.
- The goalkeeper **cannot score** if he kicks the ball in the air before it touches the ground after releasing it from their hands.

- **CORNER KICK**

- A goal may be scored directly off a corner kick. Opposing players may not approach the player taking the kick closer than five 5 yards.
- Delay in restarting a corner kick will result in a Goal Kick.

- **KICK-IN/THROW-IN**

- Restart will be by standard throw-in, **or kick-in**, at the point of infraction. Opposing players may approach no closer than five 5 yards. A goal cannot be scored off a Kick-in/Throw-In
- Delay in restart will result in possession being reversed to the opposing team.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**—Regardless of weather conditions coaches and their teams must appear on the field of play, ready to play as scheduled. Failure to play will result in the forfeit of the match. Only referees and/or Tournament Director may cancel or postpone a match. Should a match's progress be terminated due to weather conditions after one half has been completed the match will be considered official and the score at the time will stand.

## **DETERMINATION OF WINNERS**

- Group Play—In group play, there will be no overtime games. Standings in a group will be determined by:
  - WIN = 3 pts                      TIE = 1 pts                      LOSS = 0 pts

- **TIEBREAKERS** (in the following order)

- Head-to-head competition
- Goal differential (Maximum 5 goals for, no max for goals against)
- Least goals against
- Most goals scored (Maximum 5 goals)
- Penalty Kicks.

Note: If more there are more than 2 teams tied, the following order shall be used until the number of teams is reduced. Then, the procedure shall be repeated for the remaining teams.

**FORFEITS**— Games should start at the given time. In case a team does not have 2 players present, it should be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes grace period before awarding the game to the opponent. A forfeit will be scored with the winning team getting all points for the win and the maximum goal differential for that match.

**TERMINATED GAMES**—Any game terminated for other than inclement weather will not be replayed. The decision as to the score of the game and whether the teams advance will be made by the Tournament Director.

**PROTEST**—No protests will be allowed

**THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR HAS THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE TOURNAMENT. SITUATIONS OR OCCURRENCES THAT THESE RULES DO NOT ADDRESS SHALL BE LEFT TO THE SOLE DISCRETION OF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ARE FINAL.**