



Modifications of the Laws of the Game for ACADEMY Level - FINAL FALL 2026

FIFA Laws of the Game:

<https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/laws-of-the-game-2023-24?l=en>

Authority and Interpretation:

Questions concerning interpretation or officiating shall be directed to the MTYS Referee Coordinator and appropriate program leadership. Any modification affecting officiating must be approved and communicated uniformly before being implemented.

The published MTYS rules are the standard used by coaches, players, directors, and referees. Individual coaches or division directors may not independently modify these rules or instruct referees to disregard or differently enforce a published rule.

These MTYS modifications to the Laws of the Game govern play for this division.

Law 1 – *Field of play:*

- The field will be about 45x60 yds.
- Penalty Area will be 14 yds from each goal post and 14 yds from the goal line. Goal area will be 6yds from each goal post and from the goal line.
- 6x18 or 6x24 goals.
- Corner Flags.

Law 2 – *The Ball:*

- Size 4.

Law 3 – *Number of Players:*

- 7 on the field.
- A game will be played by 2 teams consisting of no more than 7 players a side. 6 field players and a goalie.

Law 4 – *Players Equipment:*

- Players required to wear their issued jersey/t-shirt, shin guards (must be covered by socks), cleats, and black soccer shorts.
- No jewelry of any kind is allowed.

- Players with glasses must either remove them or have approved sports goggles to play. Soft hats are ok, however they must not have strings dangling.
- If wearing a hoodie, the hood **MUST BE** tucked in.
- Long hair must be tied back or a headband be worn.
- Pinnies (or distinguishing attire) must be worn by the goalkeeper.

Law 5 – *The Referee:*

- MTYS recreational games are generally officiated by youth referees who are continuing to learn and develop. Coaches, players, and spectators are expected to treat referees with respect. Referees are trained and evaluated by MTYS and the Referee Coordinator. Coaches and division directors shall not provide referees with instructions that conflict with the published MTYS rules.

Law 6 – *The Assistant Referee:*

- Parents (or a responsible young person) should run flags to help the youth referee judge when the ball is out of play. The referee will determine possession for the throw-in.

Law 7 – *Match Duration:*

- Teams will play two 30-minute halves, there should be a 5 min break between halves.

Law 8 – *Start and Restart of Play:*

- Play will start normally by a player kicking the ball forward. The other team should be at least 10 yds away.

Law 9 – *The Ball in and Out of Play:*

- The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed the goal line or sideline, either on the ground or in the air.

Law 10 – *The Method of Scoring:*

- A goal is scored when the ball passes between the goal posts and the whole ball has completely crossed the goal line.

Law 11 – *Offsides:*

- An attacking player is in an offside position if any part of their body, with the exception of their hands and arms, is in the half of the opposing team and there isn't another player from the opposing team between them and the goalkeeper before the ball is played forward.
- Exceptions to offside: a player cannot be called offside if they receive the ball directly from a goal kick, throw-in, or corner kick. Referees shall enforce the published offside rule using their judgment as trained by MTYS.

Law 12– *Fouls and Misconduct:*

- There should be consideration for whether it was truly a foul or just players losing control of their body. The objective is to stop play as little as possible. Play should

stop immediately for any head injury. No Cards will be issued. Slide tackling is prohibited and will result in an indirect kick for the other team at the spot of the foul.

Law 13 – Free Kicks:

- All free kicks are indirect. The ball shall be placed on the ground and opposing players must remain at least 8 yds away. The ball must be kicked and clearly move to be put into play. Players may NOT rush or encroach upon a free kick before the ball is properly put into play. Players may create a wall at the required 8 yd distance. If a defensive player rushes or encroaches before the ball is put into play, the kick will be retaken. A goal cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick; the ball must touch another player before entering the goal. **ABSOLUTELY NO DROP BALLS.**

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick:

- NONE.

Law 15 – The Throw in:

- A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player that last touched the ball after the whole of the ball has crossed the sideline, on the ground or in the air. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw in. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.
- **For all games:** If it is a foul throw is made, the other team gets the throw in.
- A correct throw-in:
 - stand facing the field of play.
 - have part of each foot on the sideline or on the ground outside the sideline.
 - throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where it left the field of play.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick:

- A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team. Opposing players must be outside the penalty area. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick:

- A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team. Opposing players should be 10 yds away. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.

Notes for Coaches:

- NO **intentional** “heading” of the ball. In the event of an intentional header, the ball will be given to the opposing team and the free kick rule will be invoked. It will be an indirect kick. **Unintentional contact or deflection with the head or face does not constitute an intentional header.**

- Goalkeeper CAN punt in Academy, **however, opposing players may NOT obstruct, charge, or interfere with a goalie while punting the ball, else an indirect kick will be awarded to the goalie's team at midfield.**
- Good sportsmanship, fun, and learning are a priority.
- Players can be substituted on any stoppage where the ball is out of play or an injury. Substitutions must be reported to the referee.
- Coaches may only enter the field of play during the game at the invitation of the referee (e.g. for an injury).
- If the coach enters the field of play, at the invitation of the referee, to check on an injured player, the injured player must leave the field of play in favor of a substitute, until the next opportunity for substitution.
- Coaches and players not on the field or waiting for substitution must remain behind the coach's line. Spectators must remain behind the spectator line on the opposite side of the field from players. Spectators are not permitted at either end line or on the players' side. Those assisting the referee with flags can be between the sideline and coaches/spectator line.
- We no longer have the 6-goal rule, however your goal differential will not be recorded as any more than 6, and a victory by more than 6 goals will receive two points in standings rather than 3. Please be respectful of the other team and its players. Don't blow another team out. Here is a list of things that can be done to not run the score up:
 - Remove players - play with 6 instead of 7.
 - Shoot wide of the goal
 - Pass the ball around
 - Make the other teams keeper look good, pass the ball to him
 - Put restrictions on your players after being up by 3 goals, such as having to pass 5 times before shooting
- **Playoff tie-breaker: If the game is tied at the full time for the game, an untimed overtime period will be played until a "golden goal" is scored. Full teams are fielded. Every 3 minutes, the referee will indicate, without stopping the game, when 1 player from each team must immediately exit the field. This continues even when only 1 player remains for each team, who will play until a winning goal is scored. Failure to timely pull a player when prompted by the referee may elicit a free kick. No substitutions can be made. If the game is stopped for an injury, the injured player will leave the field before the game is restarted along with 1 player from the opposing team. If an injury occurs with only 1 player remaining on the field, teams may field 1 player each to continue. Designated goalkeeper only may act as goalkeeper within their penalty area – if removed from the field, no other player may act as goalkeeper (use hands, etc.). All other standard Laws of the Game apply in the overtime period.**

The referee has final authority regarding decisions made during a match. Coaches, spectators, and division directors shall not attempt to change a referee's decision or provide conflicting instructions during a match.

Questions or concerns regarding officiating should be addressed after the match through the appropriate MTYS process, not argued on the field.

Once these Fall 2026 rules are issued, no coach, referee, or individual division director may independently modify them. Any proposed rule change or officiating interpretation must be reviewed through the appropriate MTYS leadership/referee process and, once approved, communicated uniformly to all affected coaches and referees.

- Code of Conduct MUST be followed
- Town Director is the only person that can cancel games.
- Visit WWW.MTYS.ORG for any updates on weather and games schedules