

PLAYING RULES

The Fox Valley Soccer League will be using the FIFA and USYSA rules. The following are either highlights or modifications to these rules:

SPECTATOR LINES

It is recommended that spectator lines be put on all fields a minimum of 3 yards from the sidelines.

PLAYER AND COACH LOCATIONS

Where teams cannot use separate sides of the field, players and coaches must stay in their own half of the field (from 18 yardline to midfield). Where sidelines are not shared, coaching may take place in the area between each 18 yardline. No more than two coaches per team.

DURATION OF THE GAME

U8	(4) 15 minute quarters
U10	(2) 30 minute halves
U12	(2) 35 minute halves
U14	(2) 35 minute halves
U16	(2) 40 minute halves
U19	(2) 45 minute halves

BALL SIZES

U8	Size 3
U10	Size 4
U12	Size 4
U14+	Size 5

MINIMUM NUMBER OF FIELDED PLAYERS

The FVSL requires only 7 players to start a game. The starting time cannot be delayed if a team has 7 players. If a team has less than 7 players, the game may be delayed for 15 minutes. If at the end of that time a team still cannot field 7 players, they must forfeit the game. A delayed game must end by the time the next game is scheduled to start.

INCLEMENT WEATHER GEAR

The FVSL will allow the wearing of plain stocking hats (no tassels), long pants, gloves and jackets during inclement weather. When jackets are worn the soccer jersey must be worn on the outside and jacket hoods must be tucked inside.

RULES AND FIFA LAW CHANGES

According to revised 1995 FIFA Law Changes, the following wording has been emphasized, deleted, and/or modified (as the specific law changes apply to youth soccer):

LAW VII DURATION OF THE GAME

Length of Half-time – the maximum length of half-time has been changed from five (5) to fifteen (15) minutes, altered only with the permission of the referee. [FVC: Half-time interval: minimum 5 minutes to a maximum of 15 minutes; referee's decision final.]

LAW XI OFFSIDE

The phrase “seeking to gain an advantage”, has been replaced with “gaining an advantage” and the LAW now requires that a player in an offside position be “involved in active play” before the player can be called offside. Note: Paragraph two of LAW XI now reads: 2. It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position. A player shall only be penalized for being in an offside position if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:

1. interfering with play, or
2. interfering with an opponent, or
3. gaining an advantage by being in that position

New diagrams illustrating offside are promised for the 1995 edition of the FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME (printed for distribution in August 1995).

LAW XII FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

The Ten Penal Fouls. There are now ten penal fouls, rather than nine. The word “intentionally” has been removed from LAW XII (and this is the most significant change in the LAW), but handling the ball must be “deliberate” to be a foul. In part, LAW XII now reads:

A player who commits any of the following six (6) offences in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force:

1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent; or,
2. trips an opponent; or,
3. jumps at an opponent; or,
4. charges an opponent; or,
5. strikes or attempts to strike an opponent; or,
6. pushes an opponent;
7. or who commits any of the following four (4) offences:

LAW XII FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (CONT.)

8. when tackling an opponent makes contact with the opponent before contact is made with the ball; or,
9. spits at an opponent; or,
10. holds an opponent; or
11. handles the ball deliberately,

shall be penalized . . . RESTART: Direct Free Kick.

Another significant change is that the non-penal foul “obstruction” has been renamed, “impeding the progress of an opponent”.

Please encourage your soccer programs to obtain the 1995 FIFA LAWS for all referees!

OFFICIATING AND COACH/PLAYER CONDUCT

These rules are not designed to supersede any existing FVC rules; all previously established rules not covered below remain in full force and effect.

DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE ARE FINAL

The determination of any offense (foul) or instances of misconduct are the sole responsibility of the game referee. Most Laws of the Game are subject to the judgment of the referee. Therefore, there are no “protests” by any coach, player, spectator, nor program. [FVC is recreational; “standings” are not kept; protests do not exist.]

GAME CONDUCT

Coaches are responsible for setting the tone of good sportsmanship and ethical/honest play and conduct of their players and spectators. If a player is sent off (red card), the coach is to make sure the player leaves the field area, and is not allowed to play in the team’s next scheduled game.

If a spectator or parent is demonstrating inappropriate behaviors or remarks toward players, coaches, or the officials, the team coach is expected to deal with the situation before the official is forced to intervene and, ultimately, send off the coach (same consequence as a sent off player). The need for this type of statement stems from the facts that the game is for the players and the referee can officiate best when least distracted.

GAME CONDUCT (CONT.)

To assist the flow of the game, there are a few rules for the sidelines:

1. Coaches (maximum two per team) shall coach from an area ten (10) yards in each direction from the half-line (center line);
2. Coaches, other officials, or spectators shall not enter the field of play unless requested to do so by the referee.
3. Linesmen may not “coach” a team while officiating the line;
4. No one is allowed to spectate any game beyond the penalty area toward the goal line, nor from behind the goal line;
5. Side-lined players and all spectators shall be away from the touch line so officials have an unobstructed view and path;
6. There shall be no discussions/arguing/disrupting the referee during play (questions may be asked at the half or game’s end).

PRE-GAME INSPECTION OF PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

This is the time referees should clarify how the game will be officiated and the most appropriate time to ask the referee for clarification of any Laws/rules. It is the primary duty of the referee to make sure each game is safe for all players. Rules regarding uniforms and equipment are as follows (and will be checked prior to the game by the referee):

1. All players must wear commercially-manufactured shinguards, which are to be worn under their uniform socks;
2. Regulation soccer shoes, “gym” or turf shoes (with or without rubber cleats are allowed (no metal, toe, or squared cleats);
3. No jewelry, watches, hard or metal hair-wear, bandanas, hats, etc., may be worn nor gum/candy chewed by any player. All ear (nose) rings must be removed (unless “starter” posts are cushioned in the back with cotton or gauze and taped securely). [Note: a religious necklace need not be removed, but must be taped down inside and under the jersey.] All jerseys are to be tucked into the uniform shorts (safety reason), and any “spandex”-type shorts must match the uniform shorts, and not extend below the top of the kneecap.
4. No player is allowed to participate in any game who is wearing any type of cast or splint of any kind on any part of their body. Knee, body, or ankle braces or elastic “wraps” must be soft and free of any metal or plastic “stays” or any other hard materials.
5. If hooded sweatshirts are worn on very cold days, the hood must be tucked inside the uniform jersey (stocking caps are best to wear). The game referee has final decision as to the wearing of “sweats” under a player’s uniform.

