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**SOCCER RULES**

**2008-2009 INDOOR SEASON**

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# The Laws of the Game

All aspects of play during the West Rouge Soccer Club Indoor Season shall confirm to the FIFA "Laws of the Game" and "Laws of the Game for Futsal", except as noted in the sections following.

## 1.1 THE FIELD

### 1.1.1 Dimensions

The field of play shall be rectangular so that in all cases, the length shall exceed the width.

The field of play shall be the thick black lines of the basketball court along the sides and the white/cream line closest to the walls along the ends.

The net will be pushed up against the wall

No walls are considered in the field of play.

### 1.1.2 Markings:

A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. (A center spot may suffice.)

Goal Area - Arc as allocated by the club.

### 1.1.3 Goals:

Size of hockey goals to 2m high x 3m wide.

## 1.2 THE BALL

A regulation Futsal ball with reduced bounce is to be used. Size is dependent upon the age group, but generally, Size 3 will be used for Years 7 and Under and Size 4 will be used for Years 8 and Over.

Each team is given one (1) game ball, which is to be returned to the club at the end of the season.

The Home Team is responsible for providing the ball for each game.

## 1.3 PLAYERS AND TEAMS

### 1.3.1 Playing Time

. Coaches must ensure that all players receive equal playing time." - all players being young, old, male, female - everyone is a "player" - and all are to receive as equal as possible playing time, regardless of sex or age.

### 1.3.2 Teams

Teams and games may be co-ed.

The maximum number of players on the field is as follows:

- U7 and younger: 4 with no goalie

- U8 and older: 4 plus a goalie (total = 5)

The minimum number of players required to start the game is as follows:

- U7 and younger: 3 with no goalie
- U8 and older: 3 plus a goalie (total = 4)

### 1.3.3 Substitutions

Substitutions “on the fly” ARE permitted for any age group. Substitution shall be allowed at kickoff and goals for both teams and for kick-ins and goal clearance for the team in possession of the ball at the time. If the team with possession is making a change at a stoppage in play, the opposing team will be allowed to make a change as well.

- In addition to the above, for age group 6 years and under, the referee will blow the whistle approximately every 5 minutes - at an appropriate stoppage of play - to allow for player changes from both teams

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At the discretion of the League Director each season and depending upon the age groups determined for the current season, “timed changes” called by the referee can be extended up to U8 age division. Otherwise, all age groups 7 years and older will make changes at “own possession” as defined.

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If player substitutions are available on the bench, NO player shall be permitted to play the entire game. Notice or complaint of blatant overuse of a player (s) may result in sanctions against the coach / team as decided upon by the Disciplinary Committee and / or the current Board of Directors

A player who has been replaced may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player

A single player substitution can be made to replace a player who has been injured

## 1.4 PLAYER EQUIPMENT

Footwear: Non-marking running/tennis shoes or indoor soccer boots. Soccer cleats are NOT permitted

Shin-guards are mandatory

In compliance with FIFA and OSA circulars, **no jewelry of any kind will be tolerated**

## 1.5 GAME OFFICIATING

### 1.5.1 Referee

The Referee will be a Certified Referee as provided by the Club

The Referee will undertake the duty of timekeeping of the match

The Referee shall briefly explain all rule infractions to the offending player

No Assistant Referee is required

In the event that the referee does not show up within 5 minutes after the schedule start of the game, a Parent, Coach or Assistant Coach can referee, as agreed upon by both coaches

- Both coaches must agree to a substitute official. Under no circumstances can the game be cancelled by either coach and rescheduled.

## 1.6 DURATION OF GAME

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves.

Each half will consist of twenty-five (25) minutes of play. This may vary with regards to each age group.

There shall be a half time interval of five (5) minutes.

## 1.7 START OF PLAY

Opponents must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Ball can be played in any direction

Goals cannot be scored from a kick-off.

## 1.8 BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

### 1.8.1 Goal Clearance

Goal Kicks are replaced by “goal clearance”. When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line excluding that portion between the goal posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by a player of the attacking team, the goalkeeper, standing within his own goal area, shall throw it back into play beyond his own goal area but not further than the halfway line. The goal clearance is deemed to be correct and the ball in play when the ball has touched the ground outside the goal area but within the respective goalkeeper's own half of the pitch. The players of the opposing team shall remain *outside* the goal area until the ball is in play.

If the ball passes beyond the goalkeeper's half of the pitch without first having touched the ground, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team from any point on the halfway line.

- At the referee's discretion, he/she may allow the goalkeeper to “retry” the goal clearance. The circumstances where this action would be appropriate include the U8-U10 divisions, or any division within the first two games of the season.

If the ball is touched or played by a player of the same team as the goalkeeper who is making the goal clearance or by a player of the opposing team, inside the goalkeeper's goal area, the goal clearance shall be retaken.

If, after having cleared the ball, the goalkeeper touches the ball again (with either their feet or hands) before it has been touched or played by another player, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred.

If, after having cleared the ball, the goalkeeper receives it back from a player of the same team and touches or controls it with his hands, an indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team. The indirect free kick shall be taken on the goal arc nearest to where the infringement occurred.

If the goalkeeper makes a save in the normal course of play, the rules for goal clearance do not apply and the ball will be in play as soon as the goalkeeper releases the ball and the ball does not have to clear the goal area when released.

For the U7 age group, the Goal Clearance will not be used. They will be replaced by Goal Kicks and their normal procedure as outlined in Law 16 by FIFA

### **1.8.2 Corner Kicks**

Corner kicks will be taken from the point where the goal line and the touch line intersect

A goal may not be scored directly from a corner kick.

If the player taking the corner kick plays the ball a second time before it has been played by another player, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

### **1.8.3 Throw-Ins and Kick-Ins**

Throw-Ins will be replaced by kick-ins.

A kick-in is considered as an indirect free kick with the opponent five (5) yards away from the ball

A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in

## **1.9 OFFSIDE**

There shall be no offsides.

## **1.10 METHOD OF SCORING**

*Statistics will NOT be maintained for any age division Under 8-Years.*

For the others, three (3) points are awarded for a win; one (1) point is awarded for a tie, and zero (0) points are awarded for a loss. Ties are allowed in regular season play. If two or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season, then the following criteria will be used in this order to break the tie:

1. Most wins.
2. Winner of the majority of games between the two teams. (only when it is a two-team tie.)
3. Least goals against.
4. Most goals scored.
5. By taking of penalty kicks according to F.I.F.A. regulations.

In the event of tied games in Semi-Final or Final rounds, the following procedure will be used to determine game winners:

1. Golden Goal: Two five (5) minute over-time periods, "sudden death".
2. If still tied, best of three (3) kicks taken alternately by three (3) different players from each team who were on the playing field at the completion of over-time play. All kicks are taken from centre with no keeper in net.

3. If still tied, alternate kicks by the balance of the team who were on the field at the completion of over-time play until a decision has been made (the sudden death rule will apply at this point).

## **1.11 FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

### **1.11.1 General**

The referee/coach/parent must explain ALL infractions to the offending player.

All fouls, will result in an indirect free kick with the opponents five (5) yards away.

A goal may not be scored from an indirect kick until the ball has been touched by a second player of either team

Should an infraction occur within the goal area, the referee will bring the ball to the goal arc, nearest to where the infraction occurred, for the kick to be taken.

A slide tackle by any player (including the Goalkeeper) is not allowed. A slide tackle will be defined as follows: "Any player who leaves his feet and goes to ground in an effort to win possession of the ball, whether it was originally his possession or not, is to be punished for a slide tackle at the discretion of the referee."

Goalkeeper:

- A goalkeeper cannot touch by hand, any ball 'intentionally' played back to him/her including those off the head or chest.
- There is no limitation as to how many steps a goalkeeper may take after gaining possession of the ball in her/his hands.
- He or she must play the ball within six (6) seconds
- A goalkeeper may slide with his hands or chest.

### **1.11.2 Yellow Cards**

An automatic Yellow Card will be issued for:

- Unsporting Behaviour
- Dissent by word or action
- Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Delays the restart
- Fails to respect required distance at restart
- Enters or reenters the field without referee permission
- Deliberately leaves the field without referee permission

The Yellow Card will result in an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team at the point on the field where the infraction occurred.

### **Red Cards**

An automatic Red Card will be issued for:

- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spits
- Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures
- Receives a second caution (Yellow Card)
- Denies obvious goal by hand foul
- Denies obvious goal by other foul

The Red Card will result in automatic ejection of the offending player from the game and an INDIRECT free kick awarded to the opposing team

In addition, the player shall be subject to a minimum of one (1) game suspension as decided upon by the Disciplinary Committee and / or the current Board of Directors

### **1.11.3 Penalty Kicks**

A penalty kick will be awarded if a player *intentionally* commits any of the following offenses in the penalty / goal area:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent with the shoulder or in a violent or dangerous manner
- Charges an opponent from behind
- Strikes or attempts to strike at an opponent or spits at him / her
- Holds or pushes an opponent
- Slides in an attempt to play the ball, when it is being played or attempted to be played by an opponent (slide tackling)
- Handles the ball, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with his / her hand or arm (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own goal area)

The penalty kick will be taken from the top of the arc with all players other than the keeper out of the arc