

**West
Houston
Christian
Soccer
League Rules
2017**



**WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN SPORTS
SOCCER COMMISSIONERS
2017**

RAINOUT HOTLINE: 713 857-4885

ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Hovanesian Miller
C: 7 857-9422
whcsa@comcast.net

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL

Kari Hazard
C: 210 633-4335
knhazard@gmail.com

THE BRANCH SCHOOL

Betsy West
W: 7 465-0288
westb@thebranchschool.org

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Jacob Spenn
C: 2 924-2065
jacob.spenn@cypresschristian.org

CHAPELWOOD

Cason Sicking
W: 7 354-4416 C: 979 240-5924
csicking@chapelwood.org

CLAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Matt Duston
W: 7 939-1023 C: 936-718-6177
mduston@crbs.org

DUCHESNE

Lance Veazey
W: 713 468-8211 C: 917 696-9321
lance.veazey@duchesne.org

FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY

Rebecca White
W: 7 290-2594 C: 817 701-5884
rebecca.white@hfba.org

GRACE

Wendy Wray
C: 713 248-2670
wwray@gpch.org

HOLY SPIRIT

Mitriell Vinzant
C: 713 299-7735 W: 7 468-5138
mvinzant@hses.org

MEMORIAL DRIVE PRESBYTERIAN

Diane Seckinger
C: 7 501-5725 W: 7 490-9568
dseckinger@mdpc.org

MEMORIAL DRIVE METHODIST

Kim Kennedy
W: 7 468-8356 C: 7 206-2370
kimkennedy@mdumc.org

PARATUS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Beau Dollins
C: 832 647-5698
beau@paratusclassicalacademy.org

REGIS SCHOOL

Anthony Lofton
W: 7 682-8383 x 2225 C: 832 567-2215
alofton@theregisschool.org

SECOND BAPTIST

Joy Johnson
W: 7 465-3408 C: 7 416-7780
joyjohnson@second.org

ST CECILIA

Bradley Grace
W: 832 491-6055 C: 7 397-4900
scsasoccercommissioner@gmail.com

ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON

Johnny Misleh
C: 832 443-3700
mislehj@yahoo.com

ST FRANCIS EPISCOPAL

Scott Moorad
C: 832 928-9000
sjmoorad@gmail.com

ST FRANCIS de SALES

Hope Gassett
W: 7 392-0174
hopegassett@hotmail.com

ST JEROME

Ricky Hernandez
C: 832 576-8658
rickystjeromelifeteen@gmail.com

ST JOHN PAUL II

Deanne Gordon
C: 713 447-8284
dgordon@jp2.org

ST MARK LUTHERAN

Colin Doyle
C: 2 853-5015
colingraydoyle@yahoo.com

ST MICHAEL

Suzie Grech
C: 734 717-1517
sgrech@stmichaelcs.org

ST THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL MEMORIAL

Scott Sugalski
C: 7 725-4554 W: 7 864-4536
s.sugalski@sttheresa.cc

ST THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUGAR LAND

Lamar Holt
W: 2 924-8869
lholt@sttheresacatholicschool.org

WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN SOCCER FIELD LOCATIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL:(ASCENSION) 2525 Seagler Westheimer?Seagler (Across – Grace)

CHAPELWOOD METH: (CWD) 11140 Greenbay Near intersection of Voss/Memorial

DUCHESNE ACADEMY: (DUCHESNE) 10202 Memorial Dr. Just West of Chimney Rock

GRACE PRES: (GRACE): 10221 Ella Lee Lane Westheimer @Beltway 8

MEMORIAL DR METH: (MDUMC) 12955 Memorial Dr. Memorial West of Beltway 8

MEMORIAL DR PRES: (MDP) 11612 Memorial Drive Memorial Drive @ Briarforest

PARATUS ACADEMY: (PA) 1610 Campbell Road/77055 Long Point and Campbell

SECOND BAPTIST: (SB) 6410 Woodway Drive Woodway @ Voss

ST CECILIA: (SCE) 11740 Joan of Arc I-10 and Bunker Hill

ST ELIZ ANN SETON (SEAS) 6646 Addicks Satsuma Rd/77084 Hwy 6/West Road

ST FRANCIS: (SF) 345 Piney Point Just North of Briarforest/San Felipe

ST FRANCIS de SALES: (SFD) 8100 Roos Road SW Fwy/Beechnut/Mary Bates

ST JEROME: (SJ) 8825 Kempwood & Hollister North of I-10

ST JOHN PAUL: (SJP) 1400 Parkway Plaza Briarforest/Parkway Plaza

ST MARK LUTHERAN: (STM) 1515 Hillendahl East of Longpoint Rd

ST MICHAEL: (SM) 1801 Sage Road near San Felipe

THE REGIS SCHOOL: (RS) 7330 Westview Drive Field is Behind the School Building

PLEASE RESPECT ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES OF WHCSA FACILITIES

SUPERVISE CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES ** PLEASE SIT IN AREAS DESIGNATED FOR SPECTATORS

NO ONE IS PERMITTED BEHIND THE GOALS DURING PLAY FOR SPECTATING OR PHOTOS ** PETS ARE NOT PERMITTED (OTHER THAN DISABILITY DOGS) ** DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT IN YOUR VEHICLE

TAKE YOUR VALUABLES WITH YOU TO THE FIELDLOCK YOUR VEHICLES

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPOSING OF ALL TRASH

WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION

COACHES ETHICS AGREEMENT

The WHCSA was created to provide the opportunity for the youth in our community to participate in team sports within a positive Christian environment. It exists for the children. Coaching in this league is a privilege and each coach has the responsibility to uphold the Ethics that the WHCSA has set forth.

I hereby pledge to uphold the Ethics of the WHCSA during my tenure as a coach in this league.

- I will place the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of all children that I encounter above all else, including my own personal desire to win.
- I will lead my team in prayer before each practice and game, and will encourage every child to lead a prayer during the course of the season, if they so desire.
- I will be a positive role model for the children that I coach, leading by example in demonstrating Christian love, fair play and sportsmanship.
- I will encourage active participation of all players, always remembering the wide range of development and ability within any age group.
- I will be knowledgeable in the rules of the sport that I coach, and I will make every effort to teach these rules to my players.
- I fully understand that the league prohibits teams from using professionals in the sport being coached, whether paid or unpaid, as coaches or consultants for their team before or during the season. (Exception would be the parent of a team member who is a professional in the sport being coached)

Continued

- I will provide a safe and healthy environment for my players. I will do my best to promote self-esteem, fun and friendship while teaching the fundamentals of the sport that I coach.
- I will treat all facilities that I attend as I would my own church/school, and will demand the same of my team and their families.
- I will ONLY address officials, opposing team players, parents and coaches in a POSITIVE, RESPECTFUL and ENCOURAGING manner in the spirit of the game.
- I will in no way cause a disruption before, during or after any game that I am coaching. I will walk away from any inappropriate or negative situation, and follow the procedures for dealing with these issues, through the proper channels, with the proper league officials, AFTER I have left the game site.
- I have a plan in place for handling a situation in which my team is winning by a large number of points, and I WILL use my plan.
- I will uphold a drug, alcohol and tobacco-free sports environment for my players, and agree to refrain from the personal use of these substances at all practices and games.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The WHCSA has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy for any coach, assistant coach, or spectator who is removed from a game by an official. Any person removed from a game for any reason shall be suspended for the rest of the season. They will not be allowed to coach or attend games for the remainder of the season. The WHCSA will not entertain any type of appeal regarding the suspension.

Further, any inappropriate conduct on the part of any coach, assistant coach, player, parent, or spectator, before, during, or after any game while on WHCSA premises will be subject to the same Zero Tolerance Policy as outlined above. All participants in WHCSA activities are expected to abide by the Coaches and Parents Code of Ethics. Failure to do so may result in suspension from future WHCSA games.

I have read and will abide by the above Ethics Agreement, as well as the rules, regulations, guidelines and interpretations of the WHCSA. I have read and understand the WHCSA Zero Tolerance Policy.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Church/School _____

WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION

PARENTS/SPECTATORS ETHICS AGREEMENT

- My conduct as a parent or spectator must be such as to bring HONOR to myself, my team, my church/school, and the sport of basketball
- I will at all times during my child's sports related activities make his/her spiritual, emotional and physical well-being my number one priority
- I fully understand that any disrespectful/angry/intimidating behavior directed towards any child in the league by a parent or spectator, is an immediate violation, and will be subject to the Zero Tolerance Policy stated below
- I will lead by example in demonstrating Christian love, fair play and sportsmanship to all players, fans, officials, parents and coaches
- I will ONLY address the officials, opposing team players, parents and coaches in a POSITIVE, RESPECTFUL and ENCOURAGING manner, in the spirit of the game
- I will stand behind the coach and assistant coach and support his/her decisions at all times. I will not place the coach in a position to be concerned with my behavior, rather than the game being played
- I fully understand that the officials are the ultimate authority in the game. I will respect the officials and their authority before, during and after the game. I will not verbally or through gestures question or criticize an official's call or decision, in the presence of the players even though I may disagree with it
- I fully understand that excessive cheering is not permitted, including but not limited to noisemakers, horns, bells, clapboards, drums and confetti. Failure to abide by this policy after warning will result in stoppage of game until items are removed from gymnasium
- I will in no way disrupt the game I am attending. I will express concerns regarding any rules or calls only to the proper league officials, through the proper channels, once the game has concluded
- I will remember that the game is for the children, and not for the adults

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Further, any inappropriate conduct on the part of any coach, assistant coach, player, parent, or spectator, before, during, or after any game while on WHCSA premises will be subject to the same Zero Tolerance Policy as outlined above. All participants in WHCSA activities are expected to abide by the Coaches and Parents Code of Ethics. Failure to do so may result in suspension from future WHCSA games.

**By participating in the WHCSA program,
I hereby agree to abide by the above Ethics Agreement, as well as the rules, regulations, guidelines and interpretations of the WHCSA. I have read and understand the Ethics Agreement and WHCSA Zero Tolerance Policy.
I have read the above, and understand that it is my responsibility to make any and all persons who will be in attendance at my child's sporting events during the course of the season aware of the WHCSA Ethics Agreement and Policies.**

WHCSA SOCCER 2017

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The West Houston Christian Sports Association was established for the purpose of making supervised athletic activities available to the children of the various member churches/schools. The Association's motto is "Compassionately Competitive", We feel that this reflects our desire to provide competitive athletics within a Christian framework where there is no room for a "win at all costs" approach. We hope to make sports programs available to children who might not otherwise participate.

The WHCSA is committed to a program which helps the member churches do their best to ensure that the teams they field meet the standards expressed herein. The basic principle by which we govern ourselves is the commonly held desire to give all children a chance to compete on a fair and equal basis. Our basic athletic objective is to teach children sportsmanship, self-reliance, and teamwork. We additionally hope that the children develop improved soccer skills through their participation in the program. We feel that competition is a healthy way to help children expand their physical abilities.

Soccer in this league is played for fun with reduced emphasis on winning. There are no league champions. Trophies are optional and totally at the discretion of each church. Emphasis is on playing, with a requirement that each child play **at least half** of each game. To set an example for our children, coaches and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner to reflect the above principles. **The home team will be responsible for a prayer before each game and the visiting team will offer a prayer at the completion of the game.** Also, coaches are responsible for greeting opposing coaches and officials before the game. They should exert every effort to keep themselves, their team members and team parents low key; to remember that the intent and purpose of the game is that the children have the opportunity to play the game. This tone implicitly suggests less vocal coaching and more watching on the part of the coaches. Parents should be advised that the most important thing that they can do during the game is to offer positive encouragement towards their child, their child's team, the officials and opposing team.

The WHCSA continually strives to implement this philosophy and obtain these objectives. At the conclusion of each season, we evaluate our results and make changes deemed necessary. A measure of our success is the growth of the program and the response from the children who participate. We feel strongly that our commitment to this philosophy and these objectives will keep us going in the right direction

STANDARDS FOR SOCCER FIELDS AND GOALS

These standards are meant to promote a high level of play by providing well-marked fields in good condition with goals of uniform dimensions and safe construction. No team should have an advantage because of a unique field situation. Safety of players will govern the judgment of officials in declaring a field as playable. Member churches are encouraged to provide the best possible conditions at their fields. Below are solely guidelines, as some facilities are bound by dimensions of fields shared by other programs.

A. Playing Field

Suitable sizes for age divisions (minimum-maximum)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. PK/ KINDERGARTEN | 25 yards in length and 15 yards in width |
| 2. 1 st /2 nd GRADE | 50 yards in length and 35 yards in width |
| 3. 3/4 th GRADE | 65 yards in length and 50 yards in width |
| 4. 5/6 th GRADE | 80 yards in length and 50 yards in width |

B. Goal Area

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. PK/ KINDERGARTEN | 13 feet deep and 3 3 feet wide |
| 2. 1 st /2 nd GRADE | 5 yards deep and 12 yards wide |
| 3. 3/4 th GRADE | 6 yards deep and 14 yards wide |
| 4. 5/6 th GRADE | 6 yards deep and 14 yards wide |

C. Penalty Area

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. PK/KINDERGARTEN | none required |
| 2. 1 st /2 nd GRADE | 12 yards deep and 24 yards wide |
| 3. 3/4 th GRADE | 18 yards deep and 30 yards wide |
| 4. 5/6 th GRADE | 18 yards deep and 30 yards wide |

NOTE: Except that depth shall be no greater than 0.3 times the length of the field and width no greater than 0.7 times the width of the field.

D. Penalty Spot

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. PK/KINDERGARTEN | 12 feet |
| 2. 1 st – 6 th GRADE | 12 yards from the goal line |

E. Marking of Corner

Suitable flags on flexible staffs, cones, or other types of safe colored

markers shall be placed at the four corners of the field. Similar markers may be placed at the half-line one (1) yard outside the touchline.

F. Lines

Field lines shall be permanently marked in the grass by use of a suitable herbicide or paint. Lines shall then be chalked for greater clarity. All lines shall be maintained throughout the playing season to minimize incorrect calls by referees and linesmen. A line extending from goal line to goal line will be permanently marked at a distance of three (3) feet from the touch-line on both sides of the field. All players and spectators shall stay outside of the three (3) foot line.

G. Field Surface

The field should be well grassed and smooth without holes, depressions, humps, or other obstructions to fast, safe play. Good drainage shall be provided. Where fields are used for other sports, modifications and repairs to worn areas should be made prior to soccer season.

H. Goals

Sizes (inside dimensions)

PRE K AND KINDERGARTEN	AYSO standards, 10' wide
1 st – 4 th GRADE	minimum 6' x 17' maximum 7' x 20'
5/6 th GRADE	minimum 7' x 20' maximum 8' x 24'

Goals may be of wood, plastic pipe, or metal pipe and may be permanent or portable. Posts shall be vertical and crossbar shall be horizontal and have a minimum of sag. Surfaces shall be smooth and free of snags splinters and protruding fasteners. Wooden post shall have corners rounded to approximately 1/4" radius. Braces and net support shall be provided if necessary.

Suitable netting shall be attached to the back of the goal in such a way as to remain clear of the keeper. Netting shall be secured at ground level leaving no hazardous projections.

SOCCER LEAGUE GUIDELINES

COACH ELIGIBILITY

Coaches in the WHCSA must be twenty-one (21) years of age.

Coaches in the WHCSA are VOLUNTEERS. If a team is found to be under the direction of a "professional" coach or trainer, and/or one who is being reimbursed for his/her services, that team will be removed from the WHCSA League immediately.

A professional coach will be defined as a person who has previously made or currently makes his/her living coaching the sport in question. The exception to this would be if the parent of a child on the team is a professional athlete or coach, and has volunteered to assist in coaching the team.

TEAMS

Teams are composed of both boys and girls and limited to specific numbers on the grade. Divisions are divided into brackets based upon player's grade levels. Players may not move from one team to another once registration is complete. League Commissioners, at the registration meeting, reserve the right to make final and binding decisions on team placement in order to balance the divisions for even competition and optimum scheduling.

PRE K and KINDERGARTEN

Generally, eight (8) or nine (9) on roster with five (5) on the field in Pre K and six (6) on the field in Kindergarten. All teams will use the league substitution/rotation schedule for players. There will be no goalie in the Pre K division.

GRADES 1/2

The 1st /2nd Division will play seven (7) on the field. Recommended roster maximum size is twelve (12).

GRADES 3/4

The 3/4th Division will play seven (7) on the field. Recommended roster maximum size is twelve (12).

GRADES 5/6

The 5/6th Division will play seven (7) on the field. Recommended roster maximum size is nine (9). There will be 2 officials for these games.

AGE LIMIT

All players must be fourteen (14) or under on September 1, to be eligible to play in the league.

WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN SOCCER LEAGUE

Rules will be FIFA. Certain exceptions and key points are outlined below. It is the responsibility of the coaches to be familiar with the FIFA soccer laws.

- A. The underlying principle of the program is to teach the children the game of soccer and good sportsmanship. Each player is required to play one half the match, unless, held out for disciplinary reasons in the Pee Wee through Major Levels. The Pre K/Kindergarten division has a defined player rotation schedule.
- B. Ball sizes are outlined as follows:

PRE K/KINDERGARTEN	3	Grade 1	3
Grade 1st/2 nd or 2nd	4	Grades 3/4 th	4
Grades 5/6 th	4		

The length of matches will be as follows:

PRE K	20 Min. Practice/10 Min. Break/Game: 4quarters(5 minute)
KINDERGARTEN	Two 20 minute halves
1 st /2 nd	Two 25 minute halves
3/4 th	Two 25 minute halves
5/6 th	Two 30 minute halves

There will be a five (5) minute break between halves. Kickoffs will start each half.

- C. Substitutions are allowed at the following times (with the referee's knowledge and permission) for all divisions:
1. Throw-in (possession team only)
 2. Goal-kick, either side
 3. After a goal is scored
 4. Half time
 5. Injury (at referee's discretion), as coaches may not enter the field without the referee's permission.
 6. In the event of a cautioned player (yellow card), a coach may elect to substitute for that player, at which time the opposing coach may also substitute like-for-like.
 7. K-League will have defined substitution rules (on a rotational basis).
- D. Goalkeepers must wear shirts of noticeably different color from their own and opposing team, or wear a different color pinnie.

- E. No one is allowed behind the goal lines during matches. Officials will be instructed to ask coaches to assist with keeping spectators from behind goals. If this is unsuccessful, the game will be stopped until the spectators leave goal area.
- F. The goalkeeper shall be considered to have possession of the ball at any time (i) the ball is motionless and being touched by any part of the goalkeeper's body, (ii) the ball is trapped by the goalkeeper, or (iii) the ball is held by the goalkeeper. When the ball is in the possession of the goalkeeper, offensive players may not charge him, attempt to kick the ball, or attempt to block the goalkeeper's kick. The goalkeeper may take as many steps as he wants and run anywhere within the penalty area with the ball in his possession. However, the goalkeeper may not waste playing time through stalling tactics.
- G. Hand call will be made only when, in the referee's judgment, the player attempts to guide the ball.
- H. The only people allowed to talk to the referee during the match are the coaches on each team
- I. Referees have been instructed to first give a warning to an unruly player, parent, or coach. Should the same individual repeat offense, then, the referee may issue a yellow card (caution). A third offense will result in a red card (ejection). The ejected player, parent, or coach must leave the game site totally. The ejected player, parent, or coach will not be permitted to attend the following match.
- J. Official league rosters must be available for the opposing coach at each match.
- K. Shin Guards are mandatory for all players in all divisions.
- L. Players may not wear watches, rings, necklaces, earrings, or hair barrettes during a match. Any player with newly pierced ears, **MUST** remove their earrings for the duration of the game. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Tape or bandages over the earrings will not be allowed.
- M. Anyone wearing a cast or splint may not participate as a player.
- N. Coaches, spectators and players are to remain on their side of the midfield line. Please do not cross over in front of the other team's area during the game.
- O. Prescription glasses must have protective frames.

PRE K AND KINDERGARTEN DIVISION RULES

1. Number of players

Pre K: Five (5) field players - no goalie

Kindergarten: Five (5) field players and one (1) goalie

COMMENTS: If less than six (6) players are available, coaches should attempt to play with fewer players or trade players with the other team, but both coaches must agree.

2. Length of game

Pre K: Practices and games will be held on Saturdays. Practice will take place for twenty (20) minutes beginning at the scheduled hour. A break period of up to ten (10) minutes will follow. The game will then begin and will run as five (5) minute quarters. Rotations should take place each quarter.

Kindergarten: A game will consist of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves. There will be a ten (10) minute halftime break. Time runs continuously. Coaches should select one (1) timekeeper prior to the start of the game.

3. Referee

Pre K: Since this level is instructional, there will be no referees. One coach from each team will be on the field to call the game. This allows for encouragement and positioning of players.

Kindergarten: One (1) referee will be present. This referee will often be a teenager, who will serve as both referee and mentor to the children. Coaches will remain on the sideline. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage the referee, and compliment his/her efforts by praising both teams during the course of the game.

4. Team Prayer

Coaches are encouraged to involve all parents, teams and referee in the prayer. Please gather at mid field. The HOME team will offer the prayer before the game/practice. The VISITING team will offer the prayer immediately following the game. PLEASE give the children the opportunity to take turns offering the prayer if they so desire.

5. Substitution

A system must be used to ensure equal play for every child. Positions must be rotated

on a regular basis to ensure every child gets to play offense or defense each game.

SOCCER GAME GUIDELINES 1st-5/6th GRADE

Equipment

No earrings, watches, jewelry, or objects in hair. Glasses must have protective frames. Shin guards are required for all games and recommended for practices. No metal cleats are allowed. Any player with newly pierced ears, **MUST** remove their earrings for the duration of the game. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Tape or bandages over the earrings will not be allowed.

Starting the Game/Team Prayer

Both teams and referee will gather at mid field. The Home team will offer the prayer before the game. Immediately following the game, teams and referee will again gather at mid field and the Visiting team will offer the closing prayer. Winner of a coin toss decides: Either to kickoff, receive, or choose side to defend. Loser of toss takes remaining choice. At the start of the second half, the team that lost the coin toss at the start of the game will have first choice.

Kickoff

The team kicking off can be anywhere on their half of the field. The team not kicking off must keep players ten (10) feet from the ball as marked by lines on the field. The ball will be in play when it has gone one circumference forward and cannot be touched twice by player kicking off.

Ten (10) feet

Players on the opposing team must be ten (10) feet from the ball and cannot infringe beyond that point until the ball is in play one circumference. This is on goal kicks, kickoffs and direct kicks.

Scoring

No goals are allowed if directly from a throw-in, corner throw, or goal- keeper unless touched by any other player, except the goalkeeper.

Offsides

If an offensive player (usually a forward) is in the attacking half of the field and ahead of the last defender (usually a fullback) (not counting the goalie) and involved in the play or distracting the goalie, that player is deemed to be offsides and the referee will give an indirect kick to the defending team.

It is not offsides when:

1. A player is in an offsides position and not involved in the play. This is at the discretion of the referee.
2. It **CANNOT** be called offsides when the ball is received directly from a goal kick,

throw in or corner kick. This can also be described as when received by the person touching the ball.

Ball in or out of play

The ball is out of play when the entire ball is completely outside the outside edge of the line, either on the ground or in the air.

Substitution

A system must be used to ensure equal play for every child. Positions must be rotated on a regular basis to ensure every child gets to play offense or defense each game. See attached substitution system.

Goal Kick/Corner Kick

When the ball goes out of play over the end line last touched by an attacking player, the defending team will restart play with a goal kick. When last touched by a defending player, the attacking team will restart play with a corner kick.

Personal Fouls

- a. Five (5) Second Rule: The ball must be put into play within five (5) seconds from a goal kick, corner kick, direct kick or goalie kick after it has been decided to be set up to be played.
- b. Two (2) Touches: After having put the ball into play, the same player touches it a second time (kickoff, direct kick, goal kicks).
- c. Obstructing Play: Falling on the ball, holding the ball in the feet or preventing its movement with the body.

Technical Fouls

Kick or attempt to kick an opponent. Trips an opponent. Jumps at or throws him/herself at an opponent. Charges an opponent from behind. Charges in a dangerous manner. Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent. Holds an opponent. Pushes an opponent. Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball. Handling the ball, except for the goalkeeper in his/her goal area. n. Attempt to take the ball out of the hands of the goalkeeper. Interference of the goalkeeper outside the goal area - both feet must remain inside the goal area. Fair charging, shoulder to shoulder, but when the ball is not within playing distance. Intentional obstruction when not in possession of the ball. Raising the feet to kick backwards (bicycle kick). Performing any play without seeing an opponent, but involuntary hitting him/her or threatening him/her in a dangerous manner. The goalkeeper, after placing the ball in play from a throw, may not receive it again unless touched by a player from the opposing team.

PENALTY: Direct free kick to be taken by opposing team from the place of the foul occurred. If the foul occurred in the goal area, place the ball outside the goal area closest to where the foul occurred. Safety is the main concern. Intent should exist for a foul to exist or potential harm if by accident.

Advantage

The referee may delay or not call a foul if in the referee's opinion the fouled player has an advantage by allowing a play to continue without a whistle being blown. Examples are if the fouled player maintains possession of the ball or makes a good pass to a teammate.