SOCCER IS PASSION. PASSION LIVES HERE. LIVE YOUR PASSION.

8v8 Rules

Starfire Sports' **Modified 8v8 Outdoor League** shall be governed by the official United States Soccer Federation laws with the following exceptions as indicated.

LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY

Dimensions

League matches shall be played on a modified field. The length of the touch line shall be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length: 70-85 yards
Width: 45-50 yards

Goals

The maximum distance between the posts is 18 feet and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 6 ½ feet.

LAW 2 – THE BALL

Each team must supply at least one soccer ball suitable for use as a match ball. The referee will be responsible for the ball during half-time and will return to the team or player after the game.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

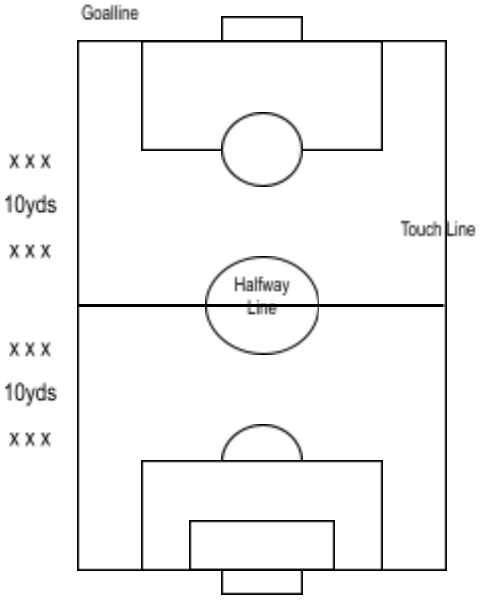
Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of not more than 8 players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than 5 players.

Coed matches. For coed matches each team must have 4 males, 3 females, and a goalkeeper of any gender, meaning the gender of the goalkeeper does not affect the number of males or females permitted on the field. A minimum of 2 females on the field is required to begin the match. Teams may play with additional females but not additional males.

A player may participate on only **one team per division** unless permitted by Starfire Sports' management.

All participants playing in an adult league must be **18 years of age** prior to participating. For Over 30, Over 40 and Over 50 leagues (not tournaments), players who will turn the minimum age in the calendar year may participate.



Substitution Diagram

Substitution Procedure

To replace a player by a substitute, *the substitute only enters the field of play after the player being replaced has entered the substitution area*. The substitution area shall be 10 yards wide and shall begin 10 yards from either side of the halfway line.

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by one or two referees who have full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which they have been appointed.

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

Periods of Play

The match shall consist of two equal periods of 25 minutes (50 minutes total). The match shall be played with a running clock and may be stopped at any time according to the referee's discretion.

Half-Time Interval

Teams shall switch halves of the field during the half-time interval. Half-time shall not exceed 3 minutes.

Tied Matches

Post-season matches that are tied at the end of 50 minutes of play may be resolved with an additional 5-minute, golden goal period. Should the match remain tied after this golden goal period, a penalty shootout will be used to decide the winner. Teams will alternate shots in a best-of-5 situation. If tied after 5 shots, the shootout will enter a sudden death scenario with teams alternating until a team has the advantage at the end of a round. *Coed divisions must alternate gender when taking overtime shootouts.*

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

No Offside

The offside provision shall not be used for this league but teams are encouraged to not be in an offside position.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Sliding and Slide Tackling

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player slide tackles an opponent. Slide tackling, creating contact or a dangerous situation with another player while sliding, is not permitted.

Sliding to block a shot, score a goal, save a ball from exiting the field of play, or intercept a pass is permitted provided that no one is within a 5-yard radius of the sliding player. All calls will be made at the referee's discretion and are final once made.

Halfway Line Violation

A direct free kick, from the center mark, is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper restart does not strike the ground or is not played by another player before crossing the halfway line.

Penalty Kicks

A penalty kick is awarded for any offense committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play. All penalty kicks shall be taken from the penalty spot, with all other members of the teams positioned outside the penalty area and penalty arch and play is live after the ball is kicked.

Disciplinary Sanctions

The yellow card is used to communicate that a player, substitute or substituted player has been cautioned. The red card is used to communicate that a player, substitute or substituted player has been sent off.

Any player receiving a **red card** shall be sent off, shall not be eligible to participate in the remainder of the match and the total number of players shall be reduced for the remainder of the match. The ejected player is suspended for a minimum of one additional match and subject to the disciplinary procedures described in the Points of Emphasis section.

Discipline issues shall be handled by Starfire Sports' Judiciary Committee. Player appeals must be submitted within 48 hours of the match.

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

Direct/Indirect

All free kicks shall be direct in nature (with the exception of an intentional pass back to the goalkeeper and obstruction) and all opponents must be at least 10 yards from the ball. In the event that a goalkeeper handles a pass from that goalkeeper's team inside the penalty box, the opposing team shall be awarded an indirect free kick from the spot of the foul, no closer than the perimeter of the goal box.

LAW 15 – THE THROW-IN

Throw-ins shall not be used. Players shall kick a stationary ball, from the touch line, from the point nearest where the ball left play. This kick shall be an indirect free kick.

LAW 16 – THE GOAL KICK

When the whole of the ball passes over the goal line having last touched a player of the attacking team, the goalkeeper shall restart play with a throw, drop-kick, or a spot kick from any point within the penalty box. The ball must clear the penalty area within 5 seconds of the goalkeeper gaining possession of the ball. The ball can be touched by another player inside the penalty area, but still must clear the area within 5 seconds.

Starfire Sports Anti-Discrimination Policy

Starfire Sports is dedicated to providing and maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants, spectators, and visitors. Discrimination or harassment of any kind will not be tolerated.

This policy applies to all players, coaches, referees, and spectators attending Starfire leagues, tournaments, practices, and events as well as all communication related to league activities, including in-person interactions as well as digital communication.

Zero-Tolerance Policy: Any verbal, written, or physical act targeting a person or group based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability is strictly prohibited. This includes slurs, discriminatory gestures, intimidation, bullying, or harassment in person or through digital platforms.

Examples of Prohibited Behavior:

- Racial or ethnic slurs.
- Religious or political chants aimed at opposing players.
- Use of discriminatory gestures or symbols.
- Threats, intimidation, or bullying related to identity or beliefs.
- Harassment via social media related to Starfire programs, events, and activities.

Reporting: Report incidents immediately to the referee, league official, or Starfire management. Written reports may be submitted within 24 hours to Starfire management (info@starfiresports.com). Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Starfire management will then conduct an investigation to conclude within 7 business days to determine disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action:

- **First Offense:** Immediate dismissal from the premises. If participating in or spectating at a game, league or tournament, a **minimum** suspension of two games will be issued to the player, player(s), spectator(s) or team. A formal written warning of violation of the policy will also be issued to the player, player(s), spectator(s) or team.
- **Second Offense:** If the violator(s) is involved in a Starfire managed program, league or tournament, removal from the league for remainder of the season with possibility of a multi-season suspension. If visiting Starfire for other reasons (e.g. practice, game or event), violator will be trespassed from the premises for a minimum of one year.
- **Severe Violations:** Immediate expulsion from the league and banishment from future participation for a period of time determined by Starfire management.

Enforcement Authority: Starfire management has final authority for all disciplinary actions in consultation with the Starfire judicial committee, if the incident involves a Starfire league, tournament or program.

Appeal Process: Individuals or teams may submit a *written* appeal within 5 business days of receiving disciplinary action. Appeals will be reviewed by Starfire management and, if applicable, the judicial committee, and decisions will be communicated within 10 business days.

Starfire Commitment: Starfire Sports reserves the right to enforce these rules strictly to protect the integrity of Starfire programs and the safety of the community.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

League & Tournament Standings Tie Breakers: The following tie breakers will be used to determine league standings for all Starfire Sports leagues: (1) head-to-head win/loss record, (2) total goal differential, (3) wins, (4) total goals allowed, (5) total goals scored (6) forfeits (7) coin toss. If there is a tie between more than two teams, the head-to-head win/loss record will be judged by evaluating total points from head to head play between all tied teams, provided that each tied team played each other an equal number of times during the season.

Forfeit Policy: **MATCH FORFEITS WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED**. Efforts to schedule an opponent shall be made provided advance notice is given. Teams causing a forfeit shall have the score recorded as a 5-0 loss. Teams forfeiting two or more matches, in a single season, shall not be eligible to participate in that season's championship match.

Match Reschedule Policy: A match shall be rescheduled provided the League Manager has ample time to make the change and notify teams involved. *Please note that due to scheduling conflicts, byes and double-headers may be part of a team's league schedule.* Forfeited matches shall not be rescheduled. Please note that in the event that a match cannot be rescheduled due to forces beyond Starfire's control (e.g. weather, facility power outage, team withdrawing from league), a refund will not be issued.

Player Ejections: **A player receiving a red card is automatically suspended for their team's next match (current match does not count towards this suspension)**. Upon receiving a red card, the player must exit the field of play and facility for the remainder of the day.

Player Suspensions: Player suspensions span across all leagues, regardless of date, until the player's suspension has been completed. *For example, if a player plays on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays but is suspended for three weeks for misconduct that player cannot participate in any match until their suspension has concluded. A suspension carries over and applies to all leagues – indoor, outdoor coed, and 8v8.*

Referee Abuse: Abuse of a match official will not be tolerated and can result in a longer suspension. Threatening a match official through verbal means will result in an immediate red card and a minimum suspension of three match weeks. Physical intimidation of a referee will result in a minimum suspension of one season, while physical abuse of a referee results in a lifetime ban. These are minimum suspension lengths and, in many cases, will be longer based on the circumstances and the decision of the judicial committee.

Team Suspensions: A minimum one match ban shall be assessed to a team or teams that engage in a match ending, bench clearing altercation. If players or coaches leave the bench area without authorization to engage in an on-field matter, Starfire Sports will suspend the entire team for a minimum of one match.

Player Using Fake or Incorrect Name: Any player using a fake or incorrect name in a game, particularly after receiving a red card, shall be subject to additional suspension and a fine. If a team member provides a false name, the team may also face a suspension or fine.

Team Payment Policy: Each team shall reserve their place in the league by paying a non-refundable deposit in accordance with the league requirement. The entire league fee is due prior to participating in the second league match. Teams failing to pay by the second match may be removed from the schedule. Any team with a balance after the third week of play will be eliminated from playoff contention.

Guidelines on Handling Contests during Lightning Disturbances: When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Play shall be suspended and cover should be sought immediately. Once play has been suspended, play shall not resume until 30 minutes has passed since the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall result in the count being restarted.