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## **Belle-Clair Soccer League (BCSL)** **Rule Book**

**This booklet contains information about BCSL and the "Laws of the Game" for our in-house Recreational League. The information contained herein will give you a better understanding of our organization and the game of soccer.**

BCSL is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation with the purpose of organizing, promoting and developing youth soccer at the recreational (Belle Clair Soccer League) and club (Metro East Legacy FC) levels in this community. Our objective is to develop programs to benefit youth both physically and mentally by learning soccer skills, team participation, leadership and fair play in a fun yet competitive atmosphere.

BCSL is administered by a volunteer, membership elected Board of Directors, with rotating terms of office. Other volunteers such as coaches, League directors and committee members are vital to our program. Coaches and other individuals in the recreation program are non-paid volunteers. Referees are paid by BCSL to officiate League games. These referees are licensed by USSF and have completed areas of certification.

Soccer is a fast-growing sport. Play is fast, spirited and continuous, providing excitement to players and spectators. We, as parents, spectators, coaches, and referees, have a unique responsibility and obligation to develop the best qualities of our League and our players.

Please obey to these rules and help us accomplish our objective.

Thank you,

**Board of Directors**



## **History**

Belle Clair Soccer has been in existence since 1967 and produces a very active youth soccer program. Our program serves approximately 1,700 boys and girls ages 3 to 18 on over 130 teams in the St. Clair County area each year. The league is run by hundreds of volunteers and a small staff who are dedicated to providing the best soccer experience.

## **Vision**

Become the No. 1 stop shop! A destination location to develop the whole child with a positive soccer experience.

## **Mission**

Provide a best-in-class soccer experience through a multi-tier skill level platform while becoming the example for other organization on how to do business.

## **Key Objectives**

- Focus on the Total Player Development through a Core Curriculum and a variety of programs that fosters critical skills in a broad range of disciplines
- Provide a multi-tier skill level platform (Rec, Developmental, Select, Premier) that provides opportunities for all children year-round
- Seek strategic partnerships that support our Vision and Mission
- Provide a College Placement Program (CPP)
- Grow to and/or sustain to ~2K kids across the organization



The following statements and regulations were issued as a guideline for situations that may occur during League play. These statements and regulations may be revised at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Any rule not mentioned or amended by the Board of Directors will fall back to USFF Guidelines.

## **GENERAL RULES**

### **A. Soccer Park Rules**

- Belle Clair/Legacy Soccer Park is a **smoke free environment**.
- **No pets allowed**, unless they are service animals.
- Parking lot is a **ONE WAY street**.
- Speed limit is **5 mph**.
- **Park at a 45 degree angle** facing in.
- **Demonstrate sportsmanship, courtesy, and respect at all times.**
- **Obey the soccer rules at all times.**

### **B. WEATHER**

1. BCSL will govern conditions of weather up to the time of the game, and then the referee will govern conditions during the game. The referee is authorized to shorten periods or, in severe cases, to call the game.
2. If a game is called, play will resume at a later date (at the discretion of the BCSL board) from that point unless the second half kickoff has been properly executed; in which case the game will be ruled as complete.
3. All weather related information will be posted on:
  - a. League website (<http://belleclairsoccer.org/>),
  - b. FaceBook page ([www.facebook.com/belleclairsoccer/](http://www.facebook.com/belleclairsoccer/))

### **C. POSTPONING, RESCHEDULING AND CANCELLATION OF GAMES**

1. The President, Vice President, DOC, or designated Field Marshall, may postpone or cancel League games (except as provided in B.1. above and Law # 8 subparagraph 11).
2. Coaches may not officially play or schedule make up games without approval from the League. **Please contact [scheduling@belleclairsoccer.org](mailto:scheduling@belleclairsoccer.org) to cancel or reschedule games.**
3. The League Scheduler will reschedule games, with proper notice given to the League. A League representative will notify coaches of new game dates, which will be final and binding.



4. It is policy that no games will be rescheduled after the first game of League play except for rain and BCSL rescheduling. Whenever possible, a minimum of 2 weeks will be provided between the canceled and rescheduled game.

#### D. COACHING AND SPECTATOR AREA

1. All coaches and players will remain within 1 - 3 yards from the touchline and 10 yards of the centerline and/or in the close vicinity to their assigned bench. Spectators are to stay on the opposite side of the field as the players and coaches.
2. Abuses of this regulation, as determined by the referee, can lead to ejection from the field/area.
3. Two (2) coaches per team will be allowed in the coaching area.

#### E. GOALKEEPER

1. The goalkeeper, when in possession of the ball, shall not be contacted by an opposing player at any time. Possession will be determined by the referee (possession is firm control of the ball between his/her hands and the body or ground). A direct free kick shall be awarded for this offense. The referee may also issue a yellow or red card, as appropriate.
2. A goalkeeper, not in possession of the ball, who obstructs an opponent inside the goal area, shall cause an indirect kick to be awarded to the opposing side from the part of the goal area which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offense was committed.
3. Once the goalkeeper obtains possession of the ball and gains control he/she has 6 seconds to release the ball back into play. The amount of steps is no longer a factor nor will the referee be asked to count out loud or make counting gestures with their hands.

#### F. CONDUCT

The principles of good sportsmanship will govern competition. All participants are asked to realize, accept and practice the principle that a reputation is built not only on playing skills but also good sportsmanship. If in the opinion of the referee, all is not being done to accomplish this, he may yellow card the team for unsporting behavior.

1. Coaches and players:
  - a) **Each coach will insure that their conduct sets the proper example for team members and spectators.**



- b) The coaches and team captains will meet with the referees at the center of the field at the beginning of the game for the coin toss. At this time the coaches will give their cards to the referee, no exceptions. If a coach is given a yellow or red card, the referee will turn that coach's card in to the League office for review.
- c) Each player will insure that their playing conduct is that of fair play while competing to the limits of their ability.
- d) Each coach will make every effort to prevent "running up the score" against an opponent. Referees have the authority to remind the coach not to continue "running up the score" and to stop the game if this situation continues. See section F, numeral 4 for additional details.
- e) Both will know the rules and abide by them at all times. Coaches are to instruct the teams in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- f) Both will show respect for the officials. Coaches are to refrain from questioning official's decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner. Players are to refrain from addressing officials or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game. The game captains may address the officials during the game but only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.
- g) Both will show respect for coaches and players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game.
- h) Both will maintain control of emotions; avoid the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another player at any time.
- i) Both will follow all facility rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
- j) Coaches are to insure that team spectators conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
- k) A BCSL coach cannot officiate games in the same division of the team they currently coach. Exception: They can be participating in A/R position only.
- l) No BCSL coach can wear apparel while coaching a game that designates him or her as either a game official or Board Member.
- m) **If a player/coach receives a red card he or she may not attend the next game.** In addition to the normal one game suspension for a player/coach who is ejected, any player/coach who receives a second red card (for any reason) during the season will be suspended for the remainder of that season. Furthermore, any player/coach guilty of fighting or of physical contact with a referee will be suspended immediately for the remainder of the current season and placed on probation for the following season. Additional penalties may be imposed as deemed appropriate.
- n) A PLAYER/COACH WHO RECEIVES THREE (3) YELLOW CARDS DURING THE SEASON WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC ONE GAME SUSPENSION.
- o) No BCSL coach can wear apparel while coaching a game that designates him or her as either a game official or Board Member.



## 2. Spectators

- a) Will insure that conduct while in attendance at games shall reflect courtesy, sportsmanship, good citizenship and a positive example for the players at all times.
- b) Will show respect for the rules of the game.
- c) Will show respect for officials and refrain from questioning decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful or abusive manner.
- d) Will cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner refraining at all times from making hostile, negative, or abusive remarks about the opposing team.
- e) Will refrain at all times from coming onto the playing area or from throwing foreign objects or other material onto the playing field.
- f) Will follow all facility rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.
- g) Will be responsible for ensuring that their children do not violate these codes.
- h) Coaches can be yellow carded for failure of their teams' spectators to conduct themselves properly. If necessary, they can be red carded.

## 3. Officials

- a) Knows the rules.
- b) Is fair and firm in all decisions. Calls them as they see them.
- c) Officials shall blow their whistle loudly and make the proper signal to ensure players/coaches understand the call.
- d) Treats players and coaches courteously and demands the same treatment.
- e) Knows the game is for athletes and lets them have the spotlight.
- f) Referees will be of 13 years of age or have entered the eighth grade.
- g) A referee cannot officiate games in which they have family members participating. Exception: They can be participating in A/R position only.

## G. DEVELOPMENTAL PLAYER PROGRAM

BCSL has instituted a Developmental Player Program for all divisions. Under this program, emphasis will be placed upon developing and improving the soccer skills of our younger players. Fewer players will be on the field during games to allow each player more contact with the ball. Specific differences are identified with each "LAW".

1. There will be record of goals, final scores, and League standings.

2. This program was established to provide a fun, safe, and instructional atmosphere for the younger children to learn soccer and good sportsmanship. Support from coaches and parents are essential to achieve these goals.



3. Running up the score is NOT allowed. Teams down by 5 goals must play a player up. Coaches not complying with this rule can be expelled from the game and suspended for up to 2 games.
4. Relative to age divisions, a player may play up no more than two age groups, no exceptions.

#### H. BLOOD RULE

ANY BLOOD ON A PLAYER OR THEIR UNIFORM WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF IMMEDIATELY. THIS MEANS THE PLAY STOPS NOW. IF A TEAM IS IN CLEAR POSSESSION OF THE BALL THEY WILL BE AWARDED AN INDIRECT FREE KICK AFTER THE PLAYER WITH BLOOD IS REMOVED FROM THE FIELD AND THE COACH IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE COACH TAKES CORRECTIVE ACTION. THE WOUND ON THE PLAYER WILL BE BANDAGED AND WRAPPED TO THE SATISFACTION THE CENTER REFEREE AND NO ONE ELSE. ANY BLOOD ON THE UNIFORM WILL HAVE TO BE RINSED OUT OR A CLEAN JERSEY MAY BE WORN. NO EXCEPTIONS.

#### **USSF/BCSL LAWS OF THE GAME**

Common sense should be the basis for applying the Laws of the Game and making additional interpretations. USSF rules shall be followed at all times except where herein provided as BCSL rules.

#### **Table 1: Field Dimensions and General Rules**



BCSL Field Dimensions and General Rules						
	Dimensions & Rules	Kindergarten	1st/2nd Grade	3rd/4th Grade	5th/6th Grade	7/8th Grade
<b>Field Dimensions</b>	Players on the field	4v4	5v5	7v7	9v9	9v9 or 11v11
	Field Length	90'	141'	150'	225'	225' or 318'
	Field Width	60'	90'	120'	140'	140' or 208'
	Goal Size					7' x 21' or 8'h x
	Goal Area	4' x 6'	6'h x 18'w	6'h x 18'w	7'h x 21'w	24'w
	Penalty area	n/a	42' x 12'	54' x 18'	18' x 57'w	18' x 60' w
	Penalty spot	n/a	60' x 30'	78' x 30'	42' x 105'w	54' x 132' w
	Penalty arc					30' from goal line
	Center Circle	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30' from penalty
	Corner Arc	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	spot
<b>General Rules</b>	Corner Flag	1' radius	2' radius	2' radius	2' radius	3' radius
	Game Length	n/a	standard	standard	standard	standard
	Headers Allowed	4 X 8min	4 X 12min	2 x 25 min	2 x 30 Min	2 x 30 Min
	Ball Size	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Offside	3	4	4	4	5
	Throw-ins/	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Chances		Throw-ins 2			
	Free kicks	Kick-ins	chances	Throw-ins 1 Chance	Throw-ins 1 Chance	Throw-ins 1 Chance
	Referee	Indirect	Indirect	FIFA	FIFA	FIFA
		Coach	Yes	Yes	Yes + AR	Yes + AR

**Law 1: FIELD OF PLAY**

- 1) A proper field of play is rectangular and consists of an outer boundary, two goals at opposite ends of the field, a penalty area, a halfway line, and a few other more specialized markings. Corner flags and clear markings are necessary to assist the players and the referee during the conduct of the game. The outer boundary lines are part of the field of play. Regulation goals are eight yards wide and eight feet high (inside dimensions). Note: No team will be allowed to practice on the BCSL fields.
- 2) BCSL has determined Kindergarten teams will play on fields half the size of a regulation field and the goal area will not exceed ten feet wide and five feet high.
- 3) The penalty area is a rectangular area in front of each goal with lines 18 yards in front and 18 yards from each goal post. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade fields will be sized smaller if possible. There is no penalty area for the 2nd Grade division and below.
- 4) The goal area is a rectangular area in front of each goal with lines 6 yards in front of the goal and from each goal post.
- 5) The BCSL DOC will define the goal area for 1st and 2nd Grade divisions.





- 6) The corner area is a quarter circle at each corner of the field having a radius of one yard.

**Law 2: THE BALL**

- 1. The size and weight of the ball shall comply with the following specifications:

KINDERGARTEN	# 3		
1ST/2ND GRADE through 6TH GRADE	# 4	25-26"	11-13 oz.
7TH GRADE and 8TH GRADE	# 5	27-28"	14-16 oz.

Note: Inflation should follow the manufacturer's specifications.

- 2. The material and construction of the ball must not be dangerous for the players.

**Law 3: NUMBER OF PLAYERS (AND SUBSTITUTIONS)**

- 1. A full team on the field consists of 11 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper. Both USSF and the BCSL recommend that a game not be considered valid if there are fewer than seven players on the field for either of the teams.

BCSL exceptions are as follows:

- **KINDERGARTEN** – 4 players on the field (no goalie)
- **1ST/2ND GRADE** – 5 players on the field (4 Field players and a Keeper)
- **3RD/4TH GRADE** – 7 players on the field (6 Field Players and a Keeper)
- **5TH/6TH GRADE** division will play with a maximum of 9 players and a minimum of 6 players (8 Field Player and a Keeper)
- **7TH/8TH GRADE** division will play with a maximum of 11 players and a minimum of 6 players

- 2. Any of the field players may change places with the goalkeeper, with the consent of the referee, provided the change is made during a stoppage of the game.
- 3. An ejected (red carded) player may not be replaced. A player receiving a yellow card will be substituted for upon receiving the card.
- 4. BCSL allows unlimited substitutions. Substitutions may be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following time: Prior to a throw-in (either team); prior to a goal kick (either team); after a goal (either team); after an injury (either team) when the referee stops play; and at half-time. The substitute shall not enter the field of play until the player they are replacing has left, and then only after having received a signal from the referee.

**Law 4: PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT**



1. A player shall not wear anything that is dangerous to another player (necklaces, earrings, watches, rings, unpadded casts, etc. are not allowed). Hair control devices are limited to elastic/flexible materials.
2. Shoes must comply with detailed safety standards. All players must wear tennis shoes or officially recognized soccer shoes. Neither metal cleats, nor *shoes with toe or side studs* will be allowed. Any shoe deemed unsafe by an official or referee will not be allowed.
3. Uniforms consist of a shirt that is tucked into the shorts, shorts, socks that are pulled up over their shin guards, shin guards and shoes. The goalkeeper shall wear a different color shirt than the referee and the other players (both teams).
4. Shin guards are REQUIRED at all times.
5. Players wearing glasses are recommended to use safety lenses and straps.
6. If a player must wear any external medical device or bracelet, the coach is required to inform the referee and the opposing coach. The player may play only with consent of the referee and the device must be taped to the body.

**Law 5: REFEREES**

1. The referee has jurisdiction from the time they enter the field of play until both teams leave the field. Their decisions are final.
2. The referee shall enforce the Laws of the Game but shall refrain from stopping the game for an infraction when they are satisfied that doing so would be giving an advantage to the offending team.
3. BCSL PROVIDES THAT ALL RULE INFRACTIONS SHALL BE BRIEFLY EXPLAINED TO THE OFFENDING PLAYER.
4. The referee can stop the game for infringement of the rules.
5. The referee can stop or terminate a game whenever they deem necessary (severe weather, interference by spectators or coaches, running up the score, etc.).
6. The referee will eject (red card) any player or coach guilty of any of the offenses list in Rule 12 paragraph 5.
7. The referee acts as the timekeeper and keeps a record of the game on the game card.



8. Referees scheduled for a game are expected to report to the field no later than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time.
9. In the event a referee fails to appear, the Head Referee will designate a replacement. All involved parties will abide by the Head Referee decision and the game will begin promptly.
10. BCSL will provide referees for 1st/2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 7th/8<sup>th</sup> grade. All others will be refereed by coaches.

**Law 6: ASSIST REFEREE (AR)**

1. One or two assistant referees shall be appointed to assist the referee for 5th Grade and above divisions.
2. The duties of the AR are to signal by use of the AR's flag: When the ball is out of play; which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick, or throw-in; when an offside infraction has occurred; when substitutions may be taken; and when an infraction has occurred that the referee may not have seen.
3. The referee always makes the final decision of the action to be taken even if the initial AR's signal is to the contrary. Only the referee can stop the game.

**Law 7: DURATION OF THE GAME**

1. BCSL provides that duration of the game will be as follows:

KINDERGARTEN	Four 8 minute quarters
1st/2nd Grade	Four 12 minute quarters
3rd/4th Grade	Two 25 minute halves
5th/6th and 7/8th Grade	Two 30 minute halves

2. Allowance shall be made in either period for all time lost through substitution, the transport from the field of injured players, time-wasting or other causes, the amount of time added will be at the discretion of the referee. Time shall be extended to permit a penalty kick being taken at the end of the half or at the end of the match.
3. Players have a right to a five-minute break at half time.
4. A 2 minute quarter a break is allowed for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and below.

**Law 8: START OF PLAY**



1. The game will begin within 10 minutes of the scheduled time or 5 minutes from the end of the preceding game.
2. The start of play at the beginning of each half and after a goal shall proceed with a kickoff.
3. At the beginning of the game, the team winning the toss shall decide which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick off to start the match.
5. After half time, the ends shall be changed and the kickoff shall be taken by the team opposite from the team that took the kickoff at the beginning of the game.
6. On a kickoff, the ball must be stationary on the ground at the center of the field and can move in any direction to start play.
7. The player taking the kickoff may not play the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player. If this rule is violated, the opposing team is awarded an indirect free kick.
8. Every player on each team must be in their own half of the field, and all players of the team opposing the kicker must be at least ten yards away from the ball when the ball is put into play. If this rule is violated, the kickoff shall be retaken.  
THE MINIMUM DISTANCE of 6 YARDS FOR 1st/2nd Grade, AND 8 YARDS FOR 3rd/4th Grade and 10 YARDS FOR 7/8th Grade.
9. A goal may be scored directly from a kickoff.
10. After a temporary suspension of play for any reason not otherwise mentioned in the Laws of the Game. The referee shall restart the game by a drop ball where the ball was when play was stopped, unless it was within the goal area at that time, in which case it shall be dropped on that part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the ball was when play was stopped. A player may not play the ball until it touches the ground. If this rule is violated, the drop ball shall be retaken. A goal may not be scored directly from a drop ball.

11. If one of the scheduled teams is a no-show or does not have the minimum number of players, ten minutes past the scheduled start time, the game shall be recorded as a 3 - 0 forfeit.

#### **Law 9: BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

1. The ball is out of play only: when it has crossed the goal line or touchline in its entirety, whether on the ground or in the air, or when the game has been stopped by the referee.



2. The ball is in play at all other times during the game, even if: it rebounds from the goal post, crossbar, or corner flag into the field of play, it rebounds off the referee or a linesman when they are in the field of play, or an apparent infraction has occurred but the referee has not stopped the game.

**Law 10: METHOD OF SCORING**

1. A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided it was not thrown, carried, or intentionally propelled by arm or hand by an attacking player (except the opposing goalkeeper who throws the ball from his/her own penalty area).
2. If a defending player deflects the ball with their hand or arm and the ball goes in the goal, a goal is scored.

**Law 11: OFFSIDE**

1. A player is in an offside position if they are nearer the opposing team's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played unless: They are in their own half of the field; two opposing players are nearer their goal line than they are (including the opposing goalkeeper); the ball is last touched by an opponent; or they receive the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or drop ball.
2. A player in an offside position is not offside unless, in the opinion of the referee, they are interfering with play or with an opponent, actively involved in the play or are seeking to gain advantage by being in an offside position.
3. For an offside infraction, the defending team is awarded an indirect free kick from the place where the offside occurred.
4. BCSL PROVIDES THAT THERE SHALL BE NO OFFSIDE IN THE 4<sup>th</sup> Grade DIVISION AND BELOW.

**Law 12: FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

1. Any player at the age of 10 or younger cannot head the ball during play. The misconduct will be rewarded with an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point of the misconduct. For applicable purposes this will apply to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and below during League play. (only 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade teams will be allowed to head the ball)
2. Awarding free kicks to the opposing team penalizes fouls and misconduct. The guilty player may also be cautioned or ejected, even if a free kick is not awarded due to application of the advantage clause (Law 5).



3. A player who commits any of the following seven fouls in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or involving disproportionate force are penalized by awarding a direct free kick to the opposing team:
  - (a) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.
  - (b) Trips or attempts to trip an opponent.
  - (c) Jumps at an opponent.
  - (d) Charges an opponent.
  - (e) Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.
  - (f) Pushes an opponent.
  - (g) Or who commits any of the following four offences:
    - (i) Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.
    - (ii) Holds an opponent.
    - (iii) Spits at an opponent
    - (iv) Handles the ball deliberately (except as goalkeeper, inside the goal area).

A penalty kick is awarded if any of the above eleven offences is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

3. BCSL PROVIDES THAT ALL FOULS IN THE KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE DIVISIONS WILL RESULT IN AN INDIRECT FREE KICK.
4. The following rule infractions are penalized by awarding an indirect free kick to the opposing team:
  - a) Plays in a dangerous manner.
  - b) Impedes the progress of an opponent.
  - c) Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands.
  - d) An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following five offences:
    - e) Takes more than 6 seconds while controlling the ball with his hands, before releasing it from his possession.
    - f) Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player.
    - g) Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team mate.
    - h) Touched the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team mate.
    - i) Wastes time.
    - j) If this infraction occurs within the goal area, the free kick is taken from the goal area line nearest to the infraction.
5. A player shall be cautioned (referee shows yellow card) and substituted for if they:
  - a) Is guilty of unsporting behavior.



- b) Shows dissents by word or action.
  - c) Persistently infringes the Laws of the Game.
  - d) Delays the restart of play.
  - e) Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick.
  - f) Enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission.
  - g) Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.
6. A player shall be ejected from the game (referee shows red card) if they are guilty of:
- a) Is guilty of serious foul play.
  - b) Is guilty of violent conduct.
  - c) Spits at an opponent or any other person.
  - d) Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area).
  - e) Denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.
  - f) Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language.
  - g) Receives a second caution in the same match.

An ejected player may not be replaced. BCSL provides that a player or coach who is ejected from a game normally will not be allowed to participate in their next game to be played. The ejected player or coach must leave the "field of play" immediately before the match is to restart. The field of play is defined as 100 yards from the outer lines of the pitch or the parking lot whichever is further away from the pitch.

*The game referee will report the ejection to the Head Referee and fill out a game report, which in turn will pass it on to the Rec Director, and will report the ejection to the League President.*

### **Law 13: FREE KICKS**

1. The two kinds of free kicks are:
  - a) Direct free kick (from which a goal may be scored directly against the offending team.)
  - b) Indirect free kick (from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by a player other than the kicker before going into the goal.)
2. Direct free kicks are awarded only for the direct free kick fouls under Law 12. All other offenses are awarded an indirect free kick unless specifically stated otherwise in the law that describes the offense.
3. BCSL PROVIDES THAT IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE DIVISIONS, ALL FOULS WILL RESULT IN AN INDIRECT FREE KICK. (No penalty kicks will be awarded.)



4. A free kick is taken from the place where the offense occurred, except when awarded in the goal area:
  - a) Any free kick awarded to the defending team, within its own goal area, may be taken from anywhere within the goal area.
  - b) Any indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team within its opponent's goal area shall be taken from the part of the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offense was committed.
5. The ball must be stationary on the ground before the kick is taken. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves, and may not be played by the kicker a second time before being touched by another player.
6. All opposing players must be at least ten yards away from the ball when the ball is put into play. If this rule is violated, the free kick is retaken.
7. BCSL PROVIDES THAT THE MINIMUM DISTANCE IS 6 YARDS FOR 1ST/2ND GRADE, 8 YARDS FOR 3RD/4TH GRADE AND 10 YARDS FOR 5/6TH GRADE AND ABOVE.
8. If the offense occurred less than ten yards from the opponent's goal line (5, 6 and 8 yards for above), the opposing players may stand on their own goal line between the goal posts.
9. On free kicks taken within its penalty area by the defending team, all opposing players must be outside the penalty area and at least 10 yards (8 yards for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade) away from the ball. The goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his/her hands, in order that they may kick it into play.

**Law 14: PENALTY KICK**

1. A penalty kick is awarded if the defending team commits one of the 9 direct free kick fouls within its own penalty area.
2. BCSL PROVIDES THAT PENALTY KICKS WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN THE 2ND GRADE AND BELOW DIVISIONS.
3. The penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark, which is centered 12 yards (10 yards for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade) in front of the goal.
4. All players except the kicker and the goalkeeper must be outside the penalty area, behind the ball and at least 10 yards (8 yards for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade) away from the penalty mark.
5. The goalkeeper must stand with both feet touching the goal line until the ball is kicked. The keeper can move their feet along the goal line.





6. The ball must be kicked forward and is in play when it moves. The kicker may not play it a second time before being touched by another player.
7. A goal may be scored directly on a penalty kick.
8. For any violation of 3, 4 or 5 above:
  - a) If by the attacking team other than the kicker and a goal results, the penalty kick shall be retaken
  - b) If by the defending team and a goal does not result, the penalty kick shall be retaken.
9. Time shall be extended to allow a penalty kick to be taken.

**Law 15: THROW-IN**

1. A throw-in is awarded if the ball passes completely over a touchline, on the ground or in the air.
2. The ball is thrown in within one meter from the place where it crossed the line by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it. A throw-in taken from any position other than the point where the ball passed over the touchline shall be considered to have been improperly thrown.
3. The thrower must face the field and part of each foot must be on the ground, either on the touchline or outside the field of play. The ball must be thrown with both hands and must be delivered from behind and over their head.
4. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.
5. If the throw-in is improper, a throw-in from the same place shall be awarded to the opposing team.
6. BCSL PROVIDES THAT IN THE 1ST/2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE DIVISION, A SECOND THROW-IN MUST BE ALLOWED IF A PLAYER COMMITS A FOUL ON THE INITIAL ATTEMPT. THE REFEREE SHALL EXPLAIN THE PROPER METHOD BEFORE ALLOWING THE PLAYER TO RE-THROW.
7. The ball is in play immediately upon entering the field of play, but may not be played by the thrower before being touched by another player.

**Law 16: GOAL KICK**

1. A goal kick is awarded the defending team if the ball passes completely over its goal line, outside the goal, after having last been touched by a player of the attacking team.



2. The goal kick is taken from any point within the goal area. And is in play once the keeper kicks the ball.
3. All opposing players must be outside the penalty area.
4. BCSL PROVIDES THAT 1st AND 2nd grade DIVISION OPPONENTS MUST BE 6 YARDS AWAY FROM THE BALL.
5. A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick.
6. If the ball does not travel outside the penalty area, the goal kick shall be retaken.

**Law 17: CORNER KICK**

1. A corner kick is awarded the attacking team if the ball passes completely over the defending team's goal line, outside the goal, after having last been touched by a player of the defending team.
2. The corner kick is taken from within the quarter circle nearest the place where the ball crossed the goal line. The corner flag must not be moved while taking the corner kick.
3. All opposing players must be at least 10 yards away from the ball (6 and 8 yards for 1st/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade division players respectively).
4. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves, and may not be played by the kicker a second time before being touched by another player.
5. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
6. If the kicker plays the ball before another player touches it, the opposing team shall be awarded an indirect free kick. For any other violation of this law, the corner kick shall be retaken.
7. A player may not be offside if they receive the ball directly from the corner kick.