

ARTICLE VIII

Five-A-Side Soccer

The Special Olympics Canada (SOC) Official Sport Rules shall govern all SOC Soccer competitions. As a national sport program, SOC has created these rules based upon Federation Internationale De Football Association (FIFA) and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) rules for soccer. FIFA or CSA rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the SOC Official Sports Rules. In such cases, the following sections outlining the SOC Official Five-A-Side Soccer Rules shall apply.

SECTION A

Official Events

1. Five-A-Side Soccer Team Competition (using 11-A-Side Soccer rules with modifications).

SECTION B

Rules of Competition

1. A divisioning round shall be conducted to place teams in a division.
2. In the divisioning round, teams will play one or more games. Each team will be required to play all players whose names appear on *final national games tournament roster* *.
3. A *final national games tournament roster* shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of ten (10) players. All players listed on the final national games roster must have an opportunity to play during each match of the tournament, unless otherwise indicated by the national games medical personnel.

A final game roster (dressed to play athletes) consists of a minimum of five (5) players and a maximum of ten (10) players must be submitted to the head referee 15 minutes prior to the start of each game. No fewer than four (4) players and not more than five (5) players one of whom shall be the goal keeper, shall be on the field at one time.

4. Unlimited substitution (e.g. players may return to field after being substituted). Substitution can be made anytime the ball is out-of-bounds, between halves, after a goal is scored or during a time out for injury.

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law III – Number of Players)

5. The duration of the game shall be two equal periods of 25 minutes (maximum 25 minutes – minimum 15 minutes).

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law VII – Duration of the Game)

6. For the purpose of tournaments, preliminary round games may end in a tie. In case of a tie in the medal rounds, two (2) five (5) minute overtime periods will be played (This is not sudden death). If the game is still tied after overtime penalty kicks will determine the winner.

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law VII – Duration of the Game)

7. There is no off-side.

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law XI – Off-Side)

8. When a player is taking a direct or indirect free-kick inside his own penalty area, all opposing players shall be at least five (5) metres from the ball and shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball has been kicked out of the area. The ball shall be in play when it has travelled the distance of its own circumference and is beyond the penalty-area. The goal-keeper shall not receive the ball into his hands, in order that he may thereafter kick it into play. If the ball is not kicked direct into play, beyond the penalty-area, the kick shall be retaken.

When a player is taking a direct or indirect free-kick outside his own penalty-area, all opposing players shall be at least five (5) metres from the ball, until it is in play, unless they are standing on their own goal line, between the goal-posts. The ball shall be in play when it has travelled the distance of its own circumference.

If a player of the opposing side encroaches into the penalty-area, or within five (5) metres of the ball, as the case may be, before a free-kick is taken, the referee shall delay the taking of the kick, until the Law is complied with.

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law XIII – Free-Kick)

9. A penalty-kick shall be taken from the penalty-kick mark and, when it is being taken, all players with the exception of the player taking the kick, properly identified, and the opposing goalkeeper, shall be within the field of play but outside the penalty-area, at least five (5) metres from the penalty mark and must stand behind the penalty mark.

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law XIV – Penalty-Kick)

10. When the whole of the ball passes over the goal-line, excluding the portion between the goal-posts, either in the air or on the ground, having last been played by one of the defending team, a member of the attacking team shall take the corner-kick, i.e. the whole of the ball shall be placed within the quarter circle at the nearest corner-flag post, which must not be moved, and it shall be kicked from that position. A goal may be scored direct from such a kick. Players of the team opposing that of the player taking the corner-kick shall not approach within five (5) metres of the ball until it is in play (i.e. it has travelled the distance of its own circumference, nor shall the kicker of the ball a second time until it has been touched or played by another player).

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law XVIII – Corner Kick)

SECTION C

Equipment and Safety Requirements

1. A number five (5) ball shall be used.
2. Shin pads are mandatory for all players.
3. The basic compulsory equipment of a players shall consist of a jersey or shirt which is numbered which is numbered, shorts, stockings, shingards, and footwear (soccer cleats or shoes must be safe. If cleats are worn they must be soft and yielding studs.)

(Amendment to FIFA Rules: Law IV – Equipment 1 (a))

Law I – The Pitch (Amendments to FIFA Rules: Law I – The Field of Play)

1. **Dimensions** The pitch shall be rectangular, its length being nor more than 60m nor less than 45m and its breadth no more than 40m nor less than 26m. The length shall in all cases exceed the breadth.
2. **Marking** The pitch shall be marked with distinctive lines, 8 cm wide, in accordance with the plan. The longer the boundary lines are called touch lines and the shorter goal lines. A halfway line shall be indicated by a suitable mark and a circle with a 5m radius shall be marked around it.
3. **The Penalty Area** At each end of the field of play there shall be a penalty area. The width of the penalty area is 19m. Lines will be drawn onto the field at the right angles from the goal line and will extend 9m in length. These lines will be joined by another line (16m) running parallel to the goal line.

There will be a half arc at the top of the penalty area which is measured from the penalty spot. The radius of this arc will be 5m. The arc will start on the line of the penalty area and extend back to the line of the penalty area. The half arc will not extend into the penalty area.

4. **Penalty-kick Mark** A substitute mark shall be drawn 6m from the mid-point of each goal line, measured along an undrawn line at right-angles thereto. These shall be the penalty-kick marks.
5. **The Goals** The Goals shall be placed on the centre of each goal line and shall consist of two upright posts **5m** apart, joined by a horizontal crossbar, the lower edge of which shall be 2m from the ground.

The width and depth of the cross bar shall not exceed 10cm. Nets shall be attached to the posts and crossbars behind the goals. The lower part shall be supported by curved bars of some other adequate support.

The use of goal nets made of hemp, jute or nylon is permitted.

The nylon strings, however, can not be thinner than those made of hemp or jute.

