



7-A-SIDE

THE OFFICIAL SOCCER RULES, LEAGUE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

(Revised April 2011)

IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION

BREAK AWAY SPORTS CENTER would like to welcome you & your team to our 7-A-SIDE Outdoor League. We are confident that everyone will have fun. For this to be accomplished, it is essential that fair play and good sportsmanship be maintained at all times during this competition by players, coaches and spectators. **THIS IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE!! GOOD LUCK, and most of all HAVE FUN.**

GENERAL SPECTATOR/PLAYER CONSIDERATION

1. As with all recreational activities, outdoor soccer has inherent risks associated with participation. Players accept such risks as the result of their participation in our outdoor league(s).
2. Do to the nature of soccer, balls may exit the field of play. Break Away is not responsible for injuries incurred to spectators, coaches and players while viewing the game. Spectators are required to keep back from the sidelines.
3. Locker room will **NOT** be available. Keep valuables with a member associated with your team to supervise your belongings or do not bring them along. Break Away is not responsible for lost or stolen property and can not supervise any of your personal property.
4. **PLEASE SHOW COURTESY** and respect to other spectators, players and coaches by **ACTING WITH GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**. This includes refraining from abusive language, dissent (verbal or through actions) to spectators, players, coaches, officials or employees. Anyone taking such inappropriate action may be required to leave the soccer park immediately.
5. **PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THEIR CHILDREN WHILE AT THE PARK!**
6. Anyone found guilty of willfully damaging Break Away property or Reddan Park property will be banned from the park and Break Away Sports leagues and legal action may be taken.
7. Reddan Soccer Park considerations: Bathrooms will be available. However, concessions will be closed. **No alcohol or tobacco use is permitted in the park. Park closes at 8:30 pm.**

IMPORTANT TEAM/LEAGUE INFORMATION & MODIFICATIONS

1. **All teams and individual players as well as associated parents or guardians are required to play under the rules and policies of Break Away Sports Center, Inc. It is the responsibility of the team manager to inform their players of this policy.**
2. **ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE THE COMPLETED PLAYER CONSENT FORM ON FILE IN ORDER TO PLAY!**
3. **All rosters are kept with Break Away Sports and must be filled out completely** prior to first game! Each and every player and coach must sign the Team Roster and Player Consent Form in order to play or coach for that team. Players are only permitted to play on one team in any given league. Players are bound to play with that team for the duration of the session.
4. **IMPORTANT! ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE THE PROPER COLOR UNIFORM/SHIRT TO PARTICIPATE.** Teams **MUST** bring an alternate color uniform to every game in case of conflicting colors. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Goalkeepers must be in a distinguishing color shirt from either team. Pullover will **NOT** be available.
5. Both teams are responsible for bringing their own warm up balls and a game ball!
6. **POST GAME TEAM GATHERINGS MUST BE DONE IN THE SPECTATOR AREAS (IE. OFF FIELD AND OUT OF BENCH AREAS)**
7. Jewelry, hard casts etc. are not permitted.
8. **All adult leagues** require players to be at least 18 years of age and out of high school unless otherwise indicated.

SCHEDULING

1. Teams/players registering for league play must be prepared to play during any of the days and times indicated in the league brochures. Alternate game days may be required and assigned as necessary.
2. **ALL SCHEDULED GAMES ARE FINAL UNLESS deemed necessary by BREAK AWAY SPORTS.** Schedules are subject to change.
3. **Break Away Sports has the right to revise game location to another location in the event of poor field or weather conditions.** Such games may be scheduled indoors at the discretion of Break Away Sports. Only indoor or round cleated shoes will be permitted in the event of a revision for indoor play.
4. **Assigned game location may be changed by Reddan Park management. Come early and check kiosk located along side of concession building.**
5. **Teams that consistently forfeit games are subject to removal from the league. Break Away Sports is not responsible for any game forfeit.**
6. Every effort will be made to equalize competition skill levels in our leagues. However, Break Away does not guarantee quality of play!

LEAGUE RULES

All Games will be played according to FIFA rules with the following modifications

LENGTH OF GAME

1. Time clock will start at designated game time. 2 X 25 minutes **running** time (with 5 minutes of halftime). The Official or Supervisor shall have the authority to split the game into 4 x 12.5 min quarters if heat conditions necessitate it.
2. **THERE WILL BE NO GRACE PERIOD!** After such time the game will be considered a forfeit. A friendly game may be played.
3. The referee/supervisor shall terminate any game that he/she feels is dangerous or unsafe to continue (eg. Lightning, darkness, excessive heat, unruly team play etc.) The game shall be considered an officially complete game once the game has started.
4. The game official/supervisor may reduce time of play for each half and/or require mandatory stoppages of play when necessary (such as low player numbers, excessive heat, etc.).

NUMBER OF PLAYERS/ROSTER

1. A team shall consist of 7 players (6 plus a goalie). Goalie must be designated with a different shirt color.
2. Only players completed on Team Roster and qualifying to play (eg. age and/or gender) are allowed to participate.
3. The game shall not be played with less than five total players and shall be determined a forfeit at designated game time and players shall be mixed from the other team and a friendly game shall proceed (see coed male/female requirements above).
4. A team may not decrease below the minimum number of players during the game or it shall be determined a forfeit. If a team has only the minimum amount of players, any player Rested or Penalized will result in a game forfeit.

SCORING

Break Away has a "5-8" rule. If a team is behind by 5 or more goals they may add an additional player onto the field. An additional player can remain on the field until the goal differential has been reduced to less than 5. This occurs again at an 8 goal deficit.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions may be on the fly during play or when the ball has left the field of play. **IMPORTANT: All substitutions MUST take place at the HALFWAY sidelines. The substitute MUST wait until the player is at the team bench sideline of the field BEFORE entering the field of play.** Illegal substitution shall be an indirect free kick where ball is time of violation. A team continuing to violate this law may warrant a 2 minute penalty.

THE REFEREES

1. Referee on the field is responsible for control of the game and has the full authority while on premises (at Reddan Soccer Park or other designated venue), before, during and after the game.
2. The referee's decisions regarding play are final.
3. One official is assigned to each game. Break Away Sports Center has the authority at its discretion to add an additional referee on or off the field in order to assist and/or control the game being played. This additional referee may initiate their authority at any time during the course of a game & has full authority of the original referee.
4. Management is very interested in the evaluation of a referee from team manager(s), as long as such discussions are done in a composed & proper manner. Contact Matt Lombardino with pertinent feedback.

GOALKEEPERS

1. A goalkeeper has possession any time he/she has a part of his/her body covering the ball unless he/she is using his/her feet as a field player.
2. Once in possession of the ball the goalie has 6 seconds to release the ball into play (spirit of the game).
3. A goalkeeper shall not slide tackle or slide into an opponent from outside their penalty box. Indirect free-kick.
4. Goalies shall not punt the ball. Indirect free kick.

FREE-KICK & FREE-KICK RESTARTS

1. **The opposing team must IMMEDIATELY be at least 8 yds. from ANY restart. Any delays or infringements from the defensive team may result in an ADDITIONAL 4 YDS. (TOTALLING 12 YDS.) , player Rest or 2 minute Penalty. *The game official may award a re-kick when the opposing team encroaches on the free-kick if he/she feels that the encroachment was either deliberate OR reduces the kicking teams opportunity to put the ball back into play, REGARDLESS of whether the kicking team chose to play the ball quickly into play.***
2. The ball must visibly move to be considered in play.
3. **Free kicks MUST be put back into play with-in 6 seconds once the ball has been properly placed. *The Official shall have the discretion to start such a count when he/she feels a team has had adequate time to put the ball back into play. Violation – Indirect free kick for opposing team.***

OFFSIDES/RESTRAINING LINE

There is no offsides. However, players shall not be allowed to screen and/or obstruct the goalie within the goalbox.

LEAGUE RULES

INJURY

Any player injured and bleeding must leave the field of play. **BODY AND CLOTHING MUST BE CLEAN OF BLOOD** in order for player to resume play.

FOULS & MISCONDUCTS

1. Contact from behind, hand checking, sliding into an opponent, will be called very closely and result in an indirect or direct free kick depending on the nature of the foul. Any flagrant or continual infringements of the laws by player or team may result in a Rest, 2 MINUTE penalty (Yellow Card caution), or Red Card ejection against the offending player/team.
2. **DISSENT** *Verbal or action; Any player or team participating in dissent, verbal or non verbal (ie. through gestures) to an official, opponent or staff (such as, but not limited to; questioning calls, and/or objection to call) most likely will lead to Player Rest, Penalty and/or ejection.*
3. **FIGHTING, INSTIGATING, ATTEMPTING TO INSTIGATE A FIGHT and/or TRASH TALKING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** **Players or teams participating in such violence, WHETHER STARTING THE ALTERCATION OR NOT, MAY BE REMOVED FROM ANY FURTHER PARTICIPATION.** *Failure to move immediately away from an opponent after a play or stoppage of play in a hostile manner, may be construed as attempting to instigate a fight. Trash talking shall include, but not limited to, intimidating, unwanted and/or aggressive speech or gestures toward an opponent, coach or spectator.*

PROGRESSION OF PUNISHMENT & PENALTIES

The following progression is a guideline for an official to use. IT IS NOT A REQUIRED ORDER! The official can at any time decide, due to the nature of the foul or conduct of the player/team, to bypass a lesser punishment for one that is more severe.

1. **Player REST:** A Player that is Rested by the official must leave the field of play for a minimum of 2 minutes. This is used to indicate to a player or team that this kind of play is inappropriate. It allows a player the chance to evaluate their play and calm down. Player must be replaced immediately.
2. **2 Minute PENALTY (Yellow Card):** A Yellow Card violation, if issued, shall result in a mandatory 2 MINUTE time off the field of play to be served by the offending player(s). A team shall **NOT** be allowed to substitute and the team shall play short a player. A team shall play short handed for the full 2 minutes unless a goal is scored by the opposing team. The penalized player can not resume play until the full two minutes has been served. More than one penalty may occur at any one time. If an additional penalty is assessed to the team while a previous penalty is being served, the second penalty will not start until the first penalty is completed. The individual with the second penalty will not participate until his/her penalty has been entirely served including sitting out the duration of the first penalty.
3. **EJECTION (Red Card):** If issued, to a player or coach, will result in a game ejection and leave premises immediately (see player/coach suspension). **Player(s) will be ejected from game and game will NOT start until player(s) leave the immediate field area (The official time will continue to run if player takes more than two minutes to leave). The official has the discretion to attach a 2 minute penalty in addition to the ejection.** Otherwise a team shall be allowed to substitute for the ejected player unless the offending team has no replacements in which case they shall play short handed for the duration of the game.

IMPORTANT! PLAYER/TEAM SUSPENSIONS

1. **BREAK AWAY SPORTS CENTER, INC. HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FIGHTING, VIOLENT OR OTHER INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR!**
2. **PLAYERS/COACHES & SPECTATORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTION(S)**
3. **COACHES/MANAGERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PLAYERS/PARENTS/ SPECTATORS OF THEIR TEAM.**
4. Players or coaches using profanity towards officials, employees or management will be suspended from the league play.
5. Sportsmanlike behavior is required at all times, ON and OFF the soccer field. Break Away Sports Center, Inc. reserves the right to dismiss any disruptive people from the field and/or park area. Furthermore, Break Away reserves the right to refuse such person(s) from returning to future league play.
6. Any PLAYER or COACH receiving a Red Carded MUST LEAVE THE PLAYERS BENCH/SPECTATOR AREA and/or Park **IMMEDIATELY** before the game will restart. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game! Any delays in leaving the field area will increase the length of the suspension! Suspended players or coaches are not permitted in bench/Spectator area for the duration of their suspension.
7. Players or coaches receiving a Red Card or ejected before, during or after a game are automatically suspended for a minimum of one game/week. These individuals may be suspended for additional games pending a referee report such as refusal to leave the field area and/or past history of unsportsmanlike behavior.
8. A players/coach who is serving a suspension is not permitted to participate or coach ANY TEAM for the duration of the suspension 1game and/or 1 week minimum! A player who has been suspended may play after his/her team suspension has expired. A suspension includes being suspended from indoor play as well.
9. Any team playing suspended players will forfeit game, and such players shall be suspended for the REMAINDER of the session.
10. **Break Away Sports Center, Inc. is NOT RESPONSIBLE for ANY REFUNDS for individual/teams having to miss play as the result of suspension(s), and/or removal from league(s).**

NOTE: Soccer is a game of skill, technique, physical endurance, competition, sportsmanship, fun and fair play, but nevertheless, there is player contact and variety in skill levels. If for any reason you feel you may get injured while participating, then it is advisable that you do not participate.