

Minneapolis Soccer Referee Training

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IFAB (FIFA) Laws of the Game

Download from the internet

<https://www.theifab.com/laws-of-the-game-documents/?language=all&year=2025%2F26>

Tonight's Topics

Fine points of the rules

Your job as a referee

Fouls (handling and Minneapolis league rules)

Offsides

Positioning

Game Management

Q&A

Fine Points of the Rules

Ball in and out of play

Lines are part of the field

Entire ball has to be over the entire line

Throw-ins

Over the head, two hands, can be spin on the ball

Taken from where the ball when out of play

Part of each foot must be on or behind the line

Restarts

Ball out of play

Throw ins, **Goal Kicks**, Corner Kicks, Kickoffs

There are no offside on any of these restarts

Blow the whistle after an infraction

Indirect free kick, Direct free kick, Penalty Kick

Indirect free kick offenses never become penalty kicks

Dropped ball

Something out of the ordinary happens

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Your Job as a Referee

Be reliable

Show up early (check in teams, check field)

Keep the games on time

Keep everyone safe

Enforce the rules

Manage misconduct

Report score and disciplinary actions (red/yellow cards)

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Fouls (handling and Minneapolis league rules)

Fouls

Contact fouls are punished with direct free kicks

The ball has to be in play to have a direct kick foul

Handling

Anywhere below the bottom of the armpit

Arm in a natural position (below the shoulder is typically natural) is usually NOT handling

Making yourself bigger (arms outstretched to cut off a passing lane) would be handling if the ball hits the extended arm

Generally, a ball that deflects off a legal body part to the arm is not handling

City Rules

Slide tackling – direct kick foul

Offsides

No offside for 6 vs 6

For 11 vs 11

- Second to last defender or the ball, whichever is closer to goal
- Offside is judged at the moment the ball is played by a teammate
- Difficult to tell if a player is slightly offside if you are working alone

Positioning

Close to play but stay out of the way

Diagonal system of control for three officials

Try to see between the players for contact fouls

Work to be where the ball is going vs where the ball is now

Game Management

You are in charge and deserve the players' respect

Most of our fouls are going to be simple fouls

- Close to the spot of the foul is fine unless the kick is close to goal

Need to recognize and punish misconduct

- Some fouls are misconduct
- Some misconduct happens without a foul

Yellow Card - team doesn't play short, 5 minute exclusion for person who received card

Red Card – team plays short, player who received card cannot return to game and misses next game

Q&A

Co-ed soccer presents some special challenges

- Frequently one person who forgets they are playing coed soccer

This is a mistake-making business

- Learn from your mistakes and make new mistakes
- Ask experienced officials or check the law book after the game