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## RecRecovery Soccer Association Adapted Laws of the Game

[\(from the IFAB Laws of the Game 2022\)](#)

### **The Philosophy and Spirit of the Laws**

Soccer is the greatest sport on earth. It is played on every continent, in every country and at many different levels. The fact that the Laws of the Game are the same for all soccer throughout the world, from the FIFA World Cup™ to a game between young children in a remote village, is a considerable strength which must continue to be harnessed for the good of soccer everywhere. Additionally, the RRSA has adapted to Laws to create an atmosphere of co-ed recovery soccer, inclusive of race, ethnicity, gender, age and ability. The RRSA's Primary Purpose is to offer players in recovery an opportunity to connect to Tradition One's Spirit of Unity combined with the passion for team soccer.

Soccer must have Laws which keep the game fair – this is a crucial foundation of the 'beautiful game' and a vital feature of the 'spirit' of the game. The best matches are when the referee is rarely needed because the players play with respect for each other, the match officials and the Laws.

The RRSA soccer's Laws are relatively simple compared to most other team sports. However, as many situations are subjective and match officials are human, some decisions will inevitably be wrong or cause debate and discussion. For some people, this discussion is part of the game's enjoyment and attraction, but whether decisions are right or wrong, the 'spirit' of the game requires that referees' decisions must always be respected. All those in authority, especially coaches and team captains, have a clear responsibility to the game to respect the match officials and their decisions. The Laws cannot deal with every possible situation, so where there is no direct provision in the Laws, The RRSA expects the referee to make a decision within the 'spirit' of the game and the Laws – this often involves asking the question, "what would recovery soccer want/expect?"

The RRSA Laws must ensure the safety and welfare of players while balancing player competition and sporting fairness. The RRSA Laws require that the referees use the Laws to deal strongly with those players whose actions are too aggressive or dangerous. The Laws embody the **unacceptability** of unsafe play in their disciplinary phrases, such as 'reckless challenge' and 'endangering the safety of an opponent' or 'using excessive force.

The RRSA Laws of the Game consist of eighteen laws, each Law containing several rules and directions. The RRSA has adapted the FIFA Laws for our specific league and ratified by our board of directors. The Laws are listed below;

#### **Law 1: The Field of Play:**

- Dimensions: The touchlines must be longer than the goal line. The ideal field size for 7v7 is 60 x 40 yards. The approximate dimensions range for field size is 50 to 70 yards long and 30 to 45 yards wide.
- Penalty kicks will be taken from a point 8 yards directly in front of the midpoint of the goal.
- The penalty area is 12 yards deep and extends 12 yards to the outside from each goalpost. Clearly visible dots or dotted lines may be used to mark the penalty areas to avoid excessive lining and confusion on regulation fields.
- There are two downsized goals which should be approximately 12 ft wide by 6 ft high

**Law 2: The Ball: All balls must be:**

- spherical • made of suitable material • of a circumference of between 68 cm (27 ins) and 70 cm (28 ins) • between 410 g (14 oz) and 450 g (16 oz) in weight at the start of the match • of a pressure equal to 0.6–1.1 atmosphere (600 –1,100 g/cm<sup>2</sup>) at sea level (8.5lbs/sq in–15.6 lbs/sq. in). In NA, called size 5 or 5+

**Law 3: The Players:**

1. Game Format: 7 v 7 per side (6 players + goalkeeper). Each team consists of 7 players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A minimum of six qualified players must be on the field to start a game. If a team cannot field 6 players, the captain may opt to play short one player or when a team needs a substitute player because they are short-numbered, team captains cannot use substitute players from another team or outside the league. The team captains must agree on whether to play short (6v7), both play even teams (6v6) or forfeit the game.
- Teams must have always at least 2 of each gender on the field, excluding goalkeepers as this position is considered gender neutral, and not included in the 6 players.
- Substitution procedure:
  - Replace a player with a substitute, the following must be observed:
  - The referee must be informed before any substitution is made
  - The player being substituted: receives the referee's permission to leave the field of play, unless already off the field, and must leave by the nearest point on the boundary line unless the referee indicates that the player may leave directly and immediately at the halfway line or another point (e.g., for safety/security or injury)
  - If a player who is to be substituted refuses to leave, the player will receive a YC, and leave the pitch immediately. The team substituting will play short-handed for a length of five minutes.
  - Players are only eligible to play for the team they are registered for.

**Law 4: Player equipment must include;**

- Jersey (with a unique number at least six inches high). In a case where the visiting team and the home team have similar coloured jerseys, the home team must change to a markedly different jersey colour. Pinnies worn over a numbered uniform shirt are acceptable; otherwise, substitute uniform shirts must conform to the requirements for numbering.
- Shin pads & groin protection are strongly suggested. Regular hydration requires each player to have his/her own water bottle.

- Players are not allowed to use metal cleats, only turf or grass 9-11 stud cleats are acceptable.
- Players with plaster/fiberglass casts or hard splints, even if padded, cannot play—even with medical approval.
- Players with orthopaedic braces that have exposed or uncapped metal parts are also not allowed to play.
- All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted
- Team captain: The team captain has no special status or privileges but has a degree of responsibility for the team's behaviour and is the only player to discuss issues with the referee.

#### **Law 5: The Referee:**

- will be BC soccer certified and registered with the Provincial governing Canadian soccer association.
- Disciplinary action The referee has the power to show yellow or red cards and, where competition rules permit, temporarily dismiss a player, from entering the field at the start of the match until after the match has ended, including during the half-time interval, the extra time and kicks from the penalty mark.
- Referees are assigned by the local referee assignor, except for playoff games. The referee is responsible for the control of the game. ***The referee's decisions are final, and his/her judgments are not protectable.***
- The referee shall report the score; any cautions, ejections, or serious injuries; and any other pertinent information. If asked, the referee should also fill out a BC soccer referee report when any serious or unusual incident occurs, including when any player is seriously injured.
- In any game where players or non-players are ejected, the referee needs to detail the circumstances and individual actions fully, including the names, in the game report, which will be routed to an RRSA director.

#### **Law 6: Referee Contact Ethics:**

- No one, except the players, is to speak to the referee during or after the game. Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions and point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed.
- Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game, no remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play. **NO YELLING** at the referee, **EVER**, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game will not be tolerated by any player or team captain.

#### **Law 7: The Duration of the Match:**

- 55 mins playing time, 5 min half-time break
- Playoffs: if after 60 mins the game is tied, then the penalty shots. Best of 5 penalties from 5 different players. If the game is tied after 5 penalties, it will be sudden death penalties with the remainder of the team.

## **Law 8: The Start and Restart of play:**

With the permission of the referee;

- Start of the game KO from the field center.
- after a goal, prior to a goal kick, prior to the start of the 2nd half - unlimited both teams
- on a throw-in - the team with possession may sub unlimited, and if they choose to sub, then the defending team may sub unlimited
- if an injured player(s) is substituted, then the opposing team may sub on a 1 for 1 basis
- after a caution, the offending player must leave the field and cannot return until the next substitution opportunity; a substitution is allowed (but not required) for the carded player
- a team that is already at the minimum number of players needed to continue play may temporarily play at below the minimum
- any player who is bleeding must be substituted immediately and may return only when bandaged; bloody uniforms may not be worn.

## **Law 9: Ball in and out of play:**

Ball out of play: The ball is out of play when:

- It has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air
- The play has been stopped by the referee
- The ball touches a match official, remains on the field of play and:
  - A team starts a promising attack or
  - The ball goes directly into the goal or
  - The team in possession of the ball changes.

In all these cases, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

Ball in play: The ball is in play at all other times when it touches a match official and when it rebounds off a goalpost, crossbar or corner flag post and remains on the field of play.

## **Law 10: The Method of Scoring:**

Goal scored: A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no offense has been committed by the team scoring the goal. If the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponent's goal, a goal kick is awarded. Play is restarted with a dropped ball if a referee signals a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line.

**Law 11:** Offside: there will be no offside rule within the RRSA league at this time.

**Law 12:** Fouls and Misconduct:

- 5 fouls rule: A team that reaches 5 fouls during a game will be penalised for two-minute power play for the opposing team.
- In the case of a player being sent off (red carded), the player remains on the team sideline without the jersey being visible—either removed or covered with a pinnie—and may take no further part. Should the player enter the field or do anything inappropriate in the opinion of the referee, the match shall be terminated and referred to the Board of Director for disposition.
  - 1 red card is a game suspension for the player.
  - 2 red cards in a season ( season suspension and admitted upon an interview with the BoD)
  - Note: Slide tackling is a illegal move,dangerous and will draw sanctions from the referee. If the slide is studs up will result in an immediate RC.
- A cautioned (yellow-carded) player must leave the field immediately, and a substitute may enter with the referee's consent. If that player's team has no substitutes, his/her team will play short-handed until its next substitution opportunity. If the yellow-carded team's player strength falls below the minimum, the game will still continue.
- In the case of a team official being sent off (red carded) or spectator being asked to leave, they must remove themselves from the vicinity of the field and remain away from the field until the officials have left the field. Failure to stay away during the match shall cause the referee to terminate the match and refer to the RRSA BOD for disposition.
- Coaches or other persons responsible for a team may be cautioned and shown a yellow card or dismissed and shown a red card by the referee. If a team is left without a responsible adult or if a team has more than two people ejected (sent off or dismissed) from a game, the referee will terminate the game. The referee reports the facts to the RRSA BOD who decides the disposition of the game.
- If both teams have more than two ejections, the facts of the game should be reported promptly via the official game report which will then be directed to the RRSA BODD.

**Law 13:** Free kicks (direct and indirect):

Direct free kicks: A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offenses against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)

- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip If an offense involves contact, it is penalized by a direct free kick
- careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed
- reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned
- using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off.

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offenses:

- a handball offense (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- holds an opponent
- impedes an opponent with contact
- bites or spits at someone on the team lists or a match official
- throws an object at the ball, an opponent or a match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object

Handling the ball:

For the purposes of determining handball offenses, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit. Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offense. It is an offense if a player:

- Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example, moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- Touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger.
- A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation
- By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes the risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized
- Scores in the opponents' goal:
  - directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
  - immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental,
  - The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area.
  - If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded, but there is no disciplinary sanction.
  - However, if the offense is playing the ball a second time (with or without the hand/arm) after a restart before it touches another player, the goalkeeper must be sanctioned if the offense stops a promising attack or denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

Indirect free kick: An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or
- action(s) or other verbal offenses
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks
- or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is penalized if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick
- commits any other offense not mentioned in the Laws, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player

An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offenses:

- controls the ball with the hand/arm for more than six seconds before releasing it
- touches the ball with the hand/arm after releasing it and before it has touched
- another player
- touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked
- or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play after: it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
- receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with the hand(s) when:

- the ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface
- (e.g. ground, own body) or by touching it with any part of the hands
- or arms, except if the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper or the goalkeeper have made a save
- holding the ball in the outstretched open hand
- bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air

A goalkeeper cannot be challenged by an opponent when in control of the ball with the hand(s).

Playing in a dangerous manner:

- Playing in a dangerous manner is any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to someone (including the player themselves) and includes preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury. A scissors or bicycle kick is permissible provided that it is not dangerous to an opponent.

Impeding the progress of an opponent without contact:

- Impeding the progress of an opponent means moving into the opponent's path to obstruct, block, slow down or force a change of direction when the ball is not within playing distance of either player. All players have a right to their position on the field of play; being in the way of an opponent is not the same as moving into the way of an opponent. A player may shield the ball by taking a position between an opponent and the ball if the ball is within playing distance and the opponent is not held off with the arms or body. If the ball is within playing distance, the player may be fairly charged by an opponent.

Advantage:

- If the referee plays the advantage for an offense for which a caution/ sending-off would have been issued had the play been stopped, this caution/ sending-off must be issued when the ball is next out of play. However, if the offense was denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the player is cautioned for unsporting behavior; if the offense was interfering with or stopping a promising attack, the player is not cautioned. Advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play, violent conduct or a second cautionable offense unless there is a clear opportunity to score a goal. The referee must send off the player when the ball is next out of play, but if the player plays the ball or challenges/interferes with an opponent, the referee will stop play, send off the player and restart with an indirect free kick, unless the player committed a more serious offense. For example, if a defender starts holding an attacker outside the penalty area and continues holding inside the penalty area, the referee must award a penalty kick.

Actionable (cautioned) offenses: A player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- persistent offenses (no specific number or pattern of offenses constitutes 'persistent')



- unsporting behavior

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- unsporting behaviour

Where two separate cautionable offences are committed (even in close proximity), they should result in two cautions, for example if a player enters the field of play without the required permission and commits a reckless tackle or stops a promising attack with a foul/handball, etc.

Cautions for unsporting behaviour: There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, including if a player:

- attempts to deceive the referee, e.g. by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- changes places with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (see Law 3)
- commits in a reckless manner a direct free kick offence
- handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack
- commits any other offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack, except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball
- denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offence which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick
- handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (whether or not the attempt is successful) or in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal
- makes unauthorised marks on the field of play
- plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
- shows a lack of respect for the game
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is cautioned if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick
- verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart

Delaying the restart of play: Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by:

- appearing to take a throw-in but suddenly leaving it to a team-mate to take

- delaying leaving the field of play when being substituted
- excessively delaying a restart
- kicking or carrying the ball away, or provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play
- taking a free kick from the wrong position to force a retake

Sending-off offences: A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by
- a handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by
- a free kick (unless as outlined below)
- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone
- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)
- receiving a second caution in the same match

A player, substitute, or substitute player sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity:

- A player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence; the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs. Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area, which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.) the offending player must be sent off.

A player, sent-off player, substitute or substituted player who enters the field of play without the required referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent and denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is guilty of a sending-off offence.

The following must be considered:

- distance between the offence and the goal

- general direction of the play
- likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- location and number of defenders

Serious foul play:

- A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play. Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.

Violent conduct:

- Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team-mate, team official, match official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made. In addition, a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm is guilty of violent conduct unless the force used was negligible.

Team officials Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

Warning:

- The following offences should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off:
  - entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
  - failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official
  - minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
  - occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

Cautions: Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

- clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- delaying the restart of play by their team
- deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team
- (non-confrontational)
- dissent by word or action including:

- throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects
- action(s) which show(s) a clear lack of respect for the match official(s)
- e.g. sarcastic clapping
- entering the referee review area (RRA)
- excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- excessively showing the "TV signal" for a VAR' review'
- acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)
- showing a lack of respect for the game

Sending-off: Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball,
- kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- deliberately leaving the technical area to:show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
- act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- entering the field of play to:confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
- interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official
- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)
- using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

#### **Law 14: The Penalty Kick:**

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area or off the field as part of the play as outlined in Laws 12 and 13. A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

#### Procedure

The ball must be stationary on the penalty mark and the goalposts, crossbar and goal net must not be moving. The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified. The defending

goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts, without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net, until the ball has been kicked.

The players other than the kicker and goalkeeper must be:

- at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the penalty mark
- behind the penalty mark
- inside the field of play
- outside the penalty area

After the players have taken positions in accordance with this Law, the referee signals for the penalty kick to be taken.

The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward; backheeling is permitted provided the ball moves forward.

When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one-foot touching, or in line with, the goal line. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player. The penalty kick is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play, or the referee stops play for any offence. Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken and completed at the end of each half of the match or extra time. When additional time is allowed, the penalty kick is completed when, after the kick has been taken, the ball stops moving, goes out of play, is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper or the referee stops play for an offence by the kicker or the kicker's team. If a defending team player (including the goalkeeper) commits an offence and the penalty is missed/saved, the penalty is retaken.

#### **Law 15:** The Throw-in:

A throw-in is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball when the whole of the ball passes over the touchline, on the ground or in the air.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in:

- if the ball enters the opponents' goal – a goal kick is awarded
- if the ball enters the thrower's goal – a corner kick is awarded

Procedure: At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must:

- stand facing the field of play
- have part of each foot on the touchline or on the ground outside the touchline
- throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where it left the field of play

All opponents must stand at least 2 m (2 yds) from the point on the touchline where the throw-in is to be taken.

The ball is in play when it enters the field of play. If the ball touches the ground before entering, the throw-in is retaken by the same team from the same position. If the throw-in is not taken correctly, it is retaken by the opposing team.

If a player, while correctly taking a throw-in, deliberately throws the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or a reckless manner or using excessive force, the referee allows play to continue. The thrower must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

Offences and sanctions: If, after the ball is in play, the thrower touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the thrower commits a handball offence:

- a direct free kick is awarded
- a penalty kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the thrower's penalty area unless the ball was handled by the defending team's goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded

An opponent who unfairly distracts or impedes the thrower (including moving closer than 2 m (2 yds) to the place where the throw-in is to be taken) is cautioned for unsporting behaviour, and if the throw-in has been taken, an indirect free kick is awarded.

For any other offence, the throw-in is taken by a player of the opposing team.

### **Law 16:** The Goal Kick and Throw balls

A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored. A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick. Goal kicks or throw balls must not land past the halfway mark. The ball must bounce, in the goalies own half; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

## Procedure

- The ball must be stationary and is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
  
- If the ball lands past the halfway mark of the field on a goal kick or a throw ball. The opponent awarded a free kick at the spot where the ball lands

Offences and sanctions: If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded; if the kicker commits a handball offence:

- A direct free kick is awarded
- A penalty kick is awarded if the offence occurred inside the kicker's penalty area, unless the kicker was the goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded

If, when a goal kick is taken, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, the referee allows play to continue.

If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken or enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it is in play, the goal kick is retaken.

If a player enters the penalty area before the ball is in play and fouls or is fouled by an opponent, the goal kick is retaken and the offender may be cautioned or sent off, depending on the offence. For any other offence, the kick is retaken

## **Law 17: The Corner Kick**

A corner kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.

## Procedure

- The ball must be placed in the corner area nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line
- The ball must be stationary and is kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not need to leave the corner area
- The corner flag post must not be moved
- Opponents must remain at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the corner arc until the ball is in play

### **Law 18: No Tolerance**

The RRSA has several no tolerance rules embedded in this document. It is at the referee's discretion to interpret if the rule has been breached, in the context of the game, and at that specific time. Please see Laws 3, 5, 12 and 13 for a list of no tolerance violations.

**Disciplinary action** The referee has the power to show yellow or red cards and, where competition rules permit, temporarily dismiss a player, from entering the field at the start of the match until after the match has ended, including during the half-time interval, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark.

A temporary dismissal is when a player commits a cautionable (YC) offence and is punished by an immediate 'suspension' from participating in the next part of that match. The philosophy is that an 'instant punishment' can have a significant and immediate positive influence on the behaviour of the offending player and, potentially, the player's team.

This document is for the clarity of the **Laws of the RRSA** and has been ratified by Board of Directors;

Chris White  
Susan Hogarth  
Joey McGeough  
Joe Rizzuto  
Amrit Jawanda  
Parker Mckay

March 29th 2023