

Laws of the Game

WYSA RESOURCE AND EDUCATION

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Law 1: The Field of Play

Soccer can be played on either grass or artificial turf. The field is divided into halves, separated by the halfway line, which runs from the midpoints of each touchline. At the midpoint of the halfway line is a marked center point surrounded by a lined center circle with a radius of 10 yards. Opposing players are not allowed to enter this circle during the possessing team's kick-off. The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line.

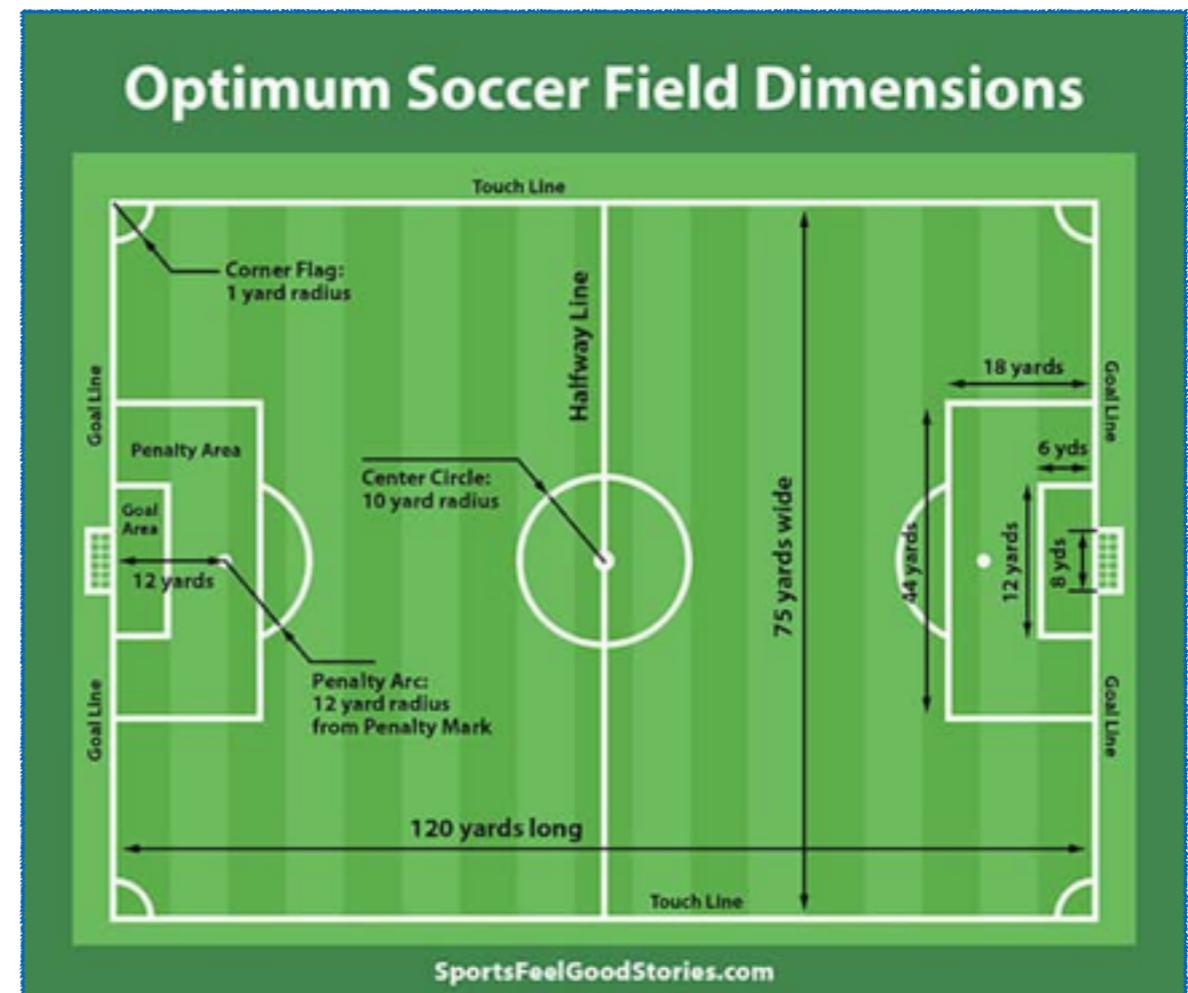
Regulation field dimensions:

4v4 Field - 25-30yards x 25-30yards

7v7 Field - 55-65yards x 35-45yards

9v9 Field - 70-80yards x 45-55yards

11v11 Field - 90-100yards x 50-60yards



Law 2: The Ball

Size of the ball differs for each age group:

- 4v4 - Size 3 Ball
- 7v7 - Size 4 Ball
- 9v9 - Size 4 Ball
- 11v11 - Size 5 Ball



Law 3: The Number of Players

4v4 - 4v4 w/ No GK

7v7 - 6 Field Players w/ 1 GK

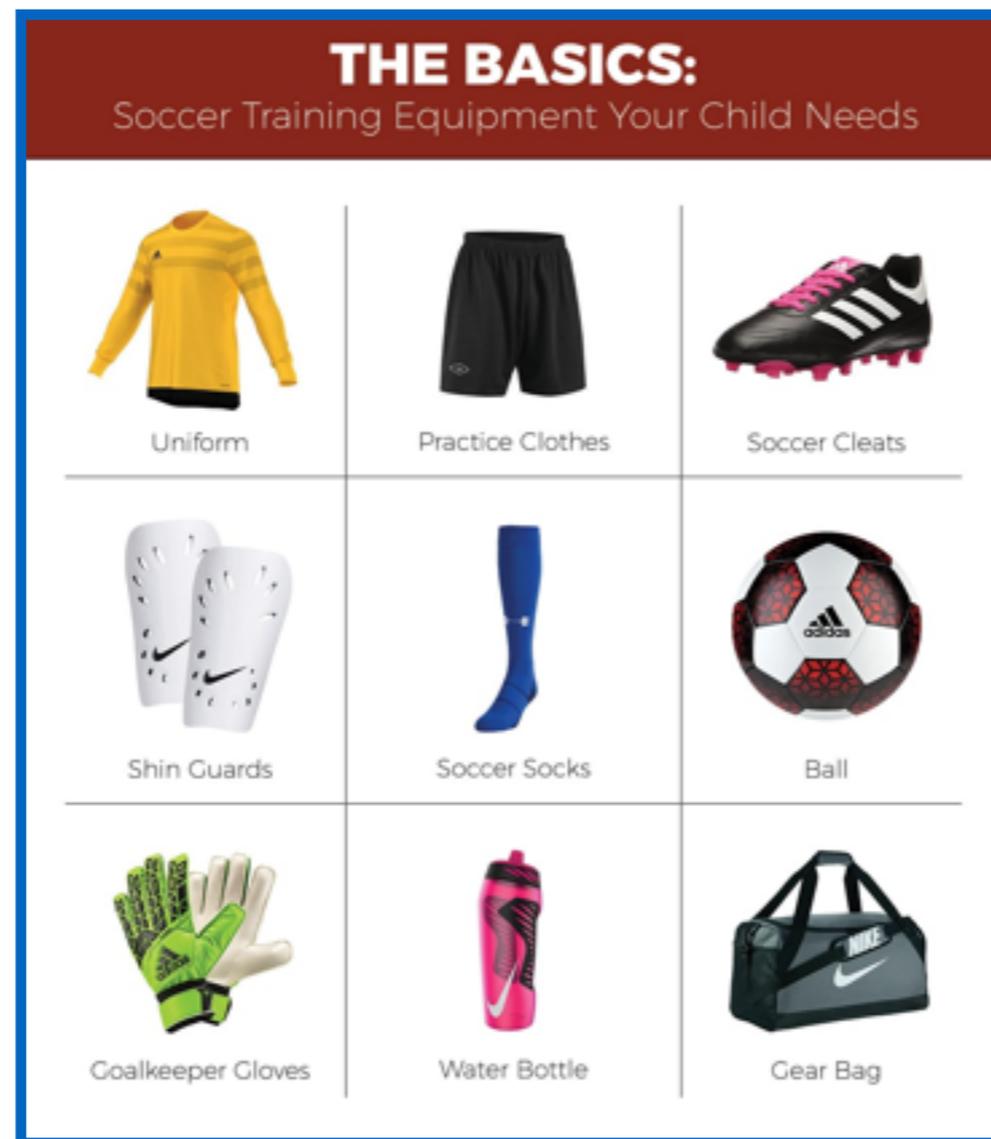
9v9 - 8 Field Players w/ 1 GK

11v11 - 10 Field Players w/ 1 GK



Law 4: The Players' Equipment

All players are required to wear a full kit(jersey, shorts, socks), shinguards, and cleats. The socks must cover the shin guards entirely. If the referee deems a player's equipment unsatisfactory, the player can be sent off until the issue is remedied.



Law 5: The Duration of the Match

4v4 - 2x25minute Halves

7v7 - 2x25minute Halves

9v9 - 2x30minute Halves

11v11 - 2x40-45minute Halves



Law 6: The Referee



The referee is the authority on the field, and his word is law. If you question a referee's decision, you can be disciplined further simply for dissent.

4v4 - 1 or 2 young aspiring Middle School and High School Referees

7v7 - 1 Certified Referee

9v9 - 1 Head Referee and 1 Assistant Referee

11v11 - 1 Head Referee and 2 Assistant Referee's

Law 7: Fouls and Misconduct

A direct free kick is awarded when a player:

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Tackles an opponent
- Holds an opponent
- Spits at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately



If any of these fouls are committed by a player in their team's penalty area, the opposing team is awarded a penalty kick. Indirect free kicks are awarded if a player:

- Plays in a dangerous manner
- Impedes the progress of an opponent
- Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his/her hands
- Commits any other unmentioned offense

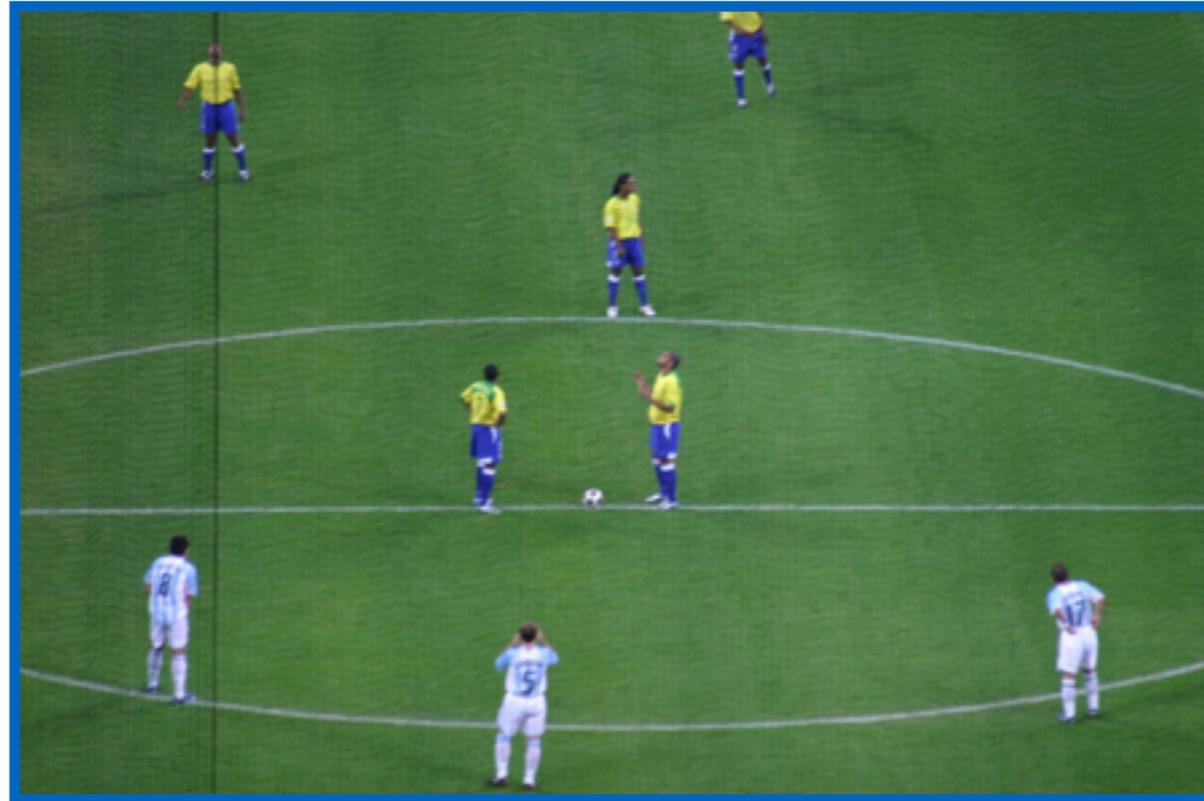
Yellow cards are awarded as a caution or warning to a player and can be issued for the following offenses:

- Unsporting behavior
- Dissent by word or action
- Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
- Delaying the restart of play
- Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick, or throw-in
- Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

Red cards are used to send a player off the field, and can be issued for the following offenses:

- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spitting at an opponent or any other person
- Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (the goalkeeper being an exception)
- Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- Using offensive or abusive language and/or gestures
- Receiving a second caution (yellow card) in the same match

Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play



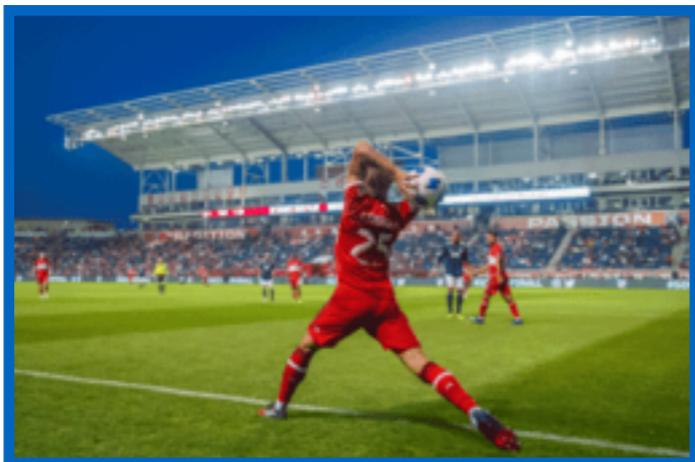
Kick-off is generally determined by a coin toss, whereby the winning team can either choose to start with the ball or choose which goal they would like to attack. The losing team is then afforded whatever choice the winner does not elect to take. Kick-off occurs at the start of each half, and after each goal scored, and is taken at the center of the halfway line. If a team scores a goal, the opposing team is given the kick-off to restart the match.

Law 9: The Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when it fully crosses either the goal line or the side-line.

- A **THROW-IN** is awarded when the possessing team plays the ball out of bounds over the side-line. While taking a throw-in, a player must release the ball with both hands simultaneously and keep both feet firmly planted on the ground. If these conditions are not met, play is stopped and the throw-in is given to the opposing team. Players are not allowed to score directly off a throw-in. is also out of play if the referee stops play for any reason.
- A **GOAL-KICK** is awarded when the offensive team plays the ball out of bounds over the defensive team's goal line. After the ball is out of play, the defender or goalkeeper may place the ball anywhere within the six-yard goal box and kick the ball back into play.

If for any reason, the ball strikes the frame of the goal or the referee and remains within the goal and side-lines, it is still in play.



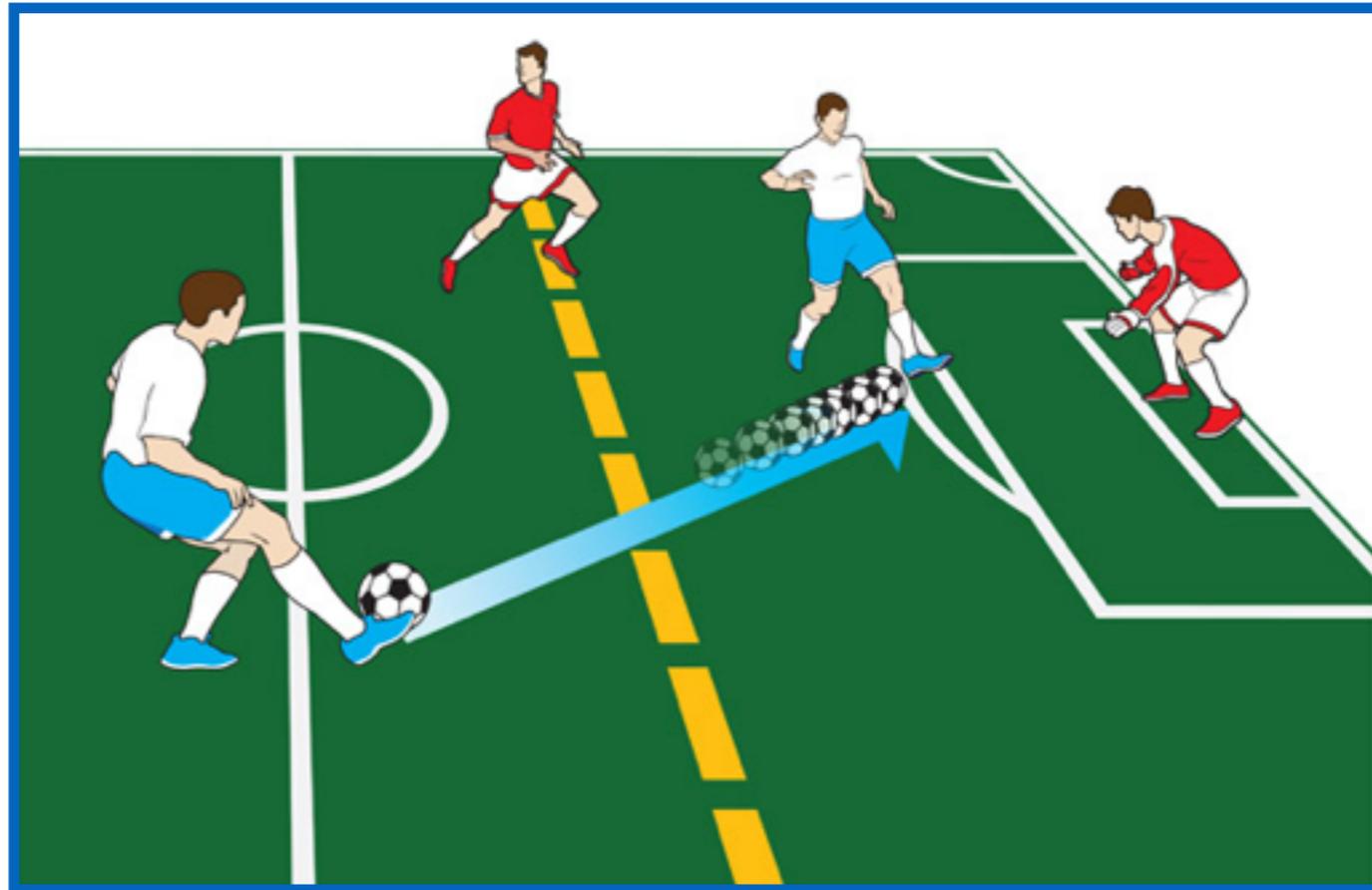
Law 10: The Method of Scoring

A goal is scored when the entire ball has crossed the goal line within the frame of the goal. At the end of the match, the team with the most goals is the winner, barring the circumstantial necessity for extra time. Players can score with either their feet or their head.

* US Youth Soccer Rules = No Heading the ball for any u12 players. This will result in a free-kick for the opposing team.



Law 11: Offside



When an attacking player receives the ball while on his opponents half, he must be level or behind the second to last defender (the last typically being the goalkeeper). However, this rule only applies if he is involved with the play.

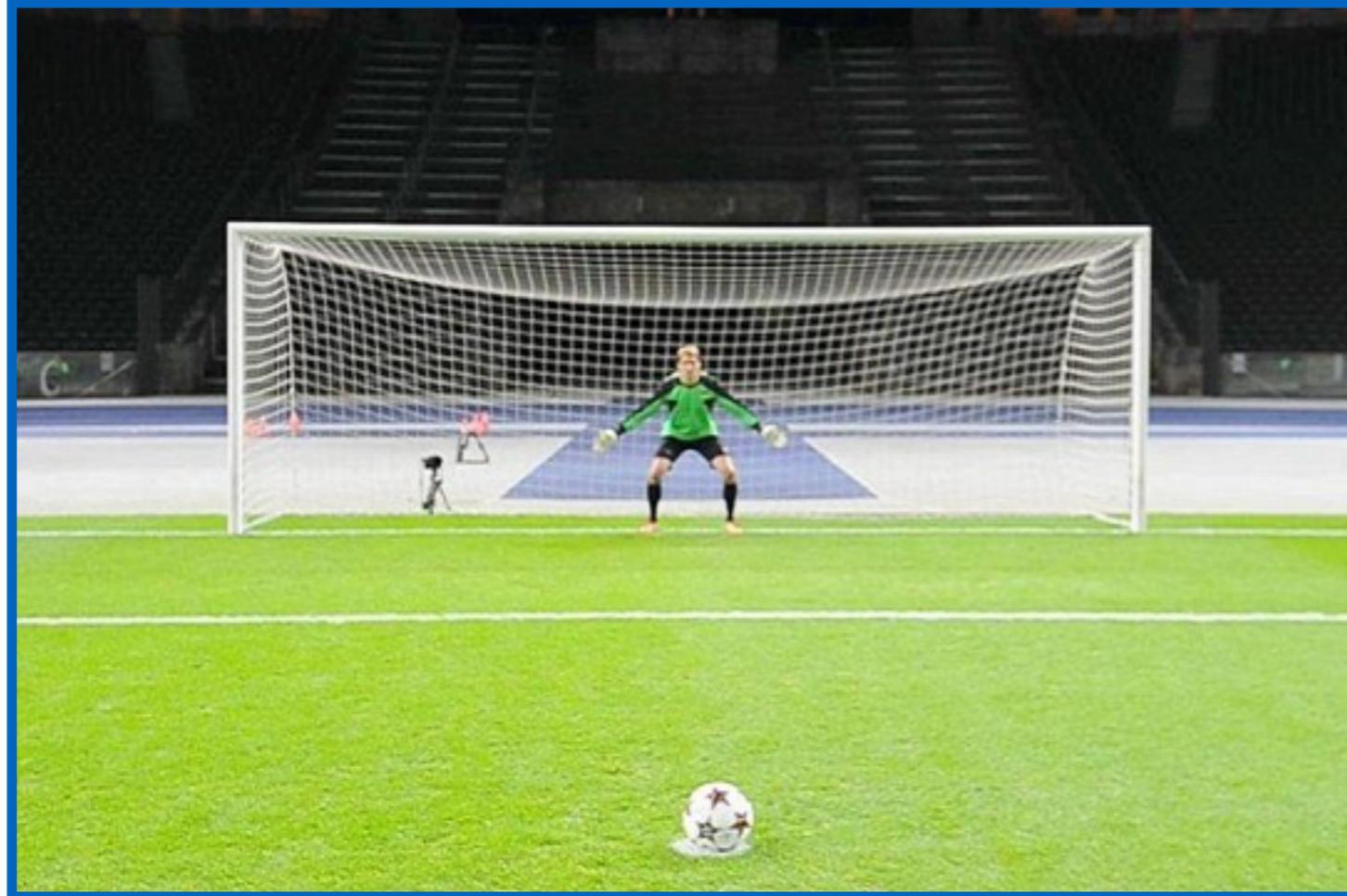
*To get a better understanding of the offside rule, please see click the YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U01-uArNpdw>

Law 12: Free Kicks

Free Kick is broken into two categories, **DIRECT** and **INDIRECT**. A **DIRECT** free kick can be shot directly into the opponent's goal without touching another player. An **INDIRECT** free kick is indicated by the referee raising his hand during the kick. An indirect kick can only go into the goal if it has subsequently been touched by another player before it enters the goal. The ball must be stationary for both types of kicks.



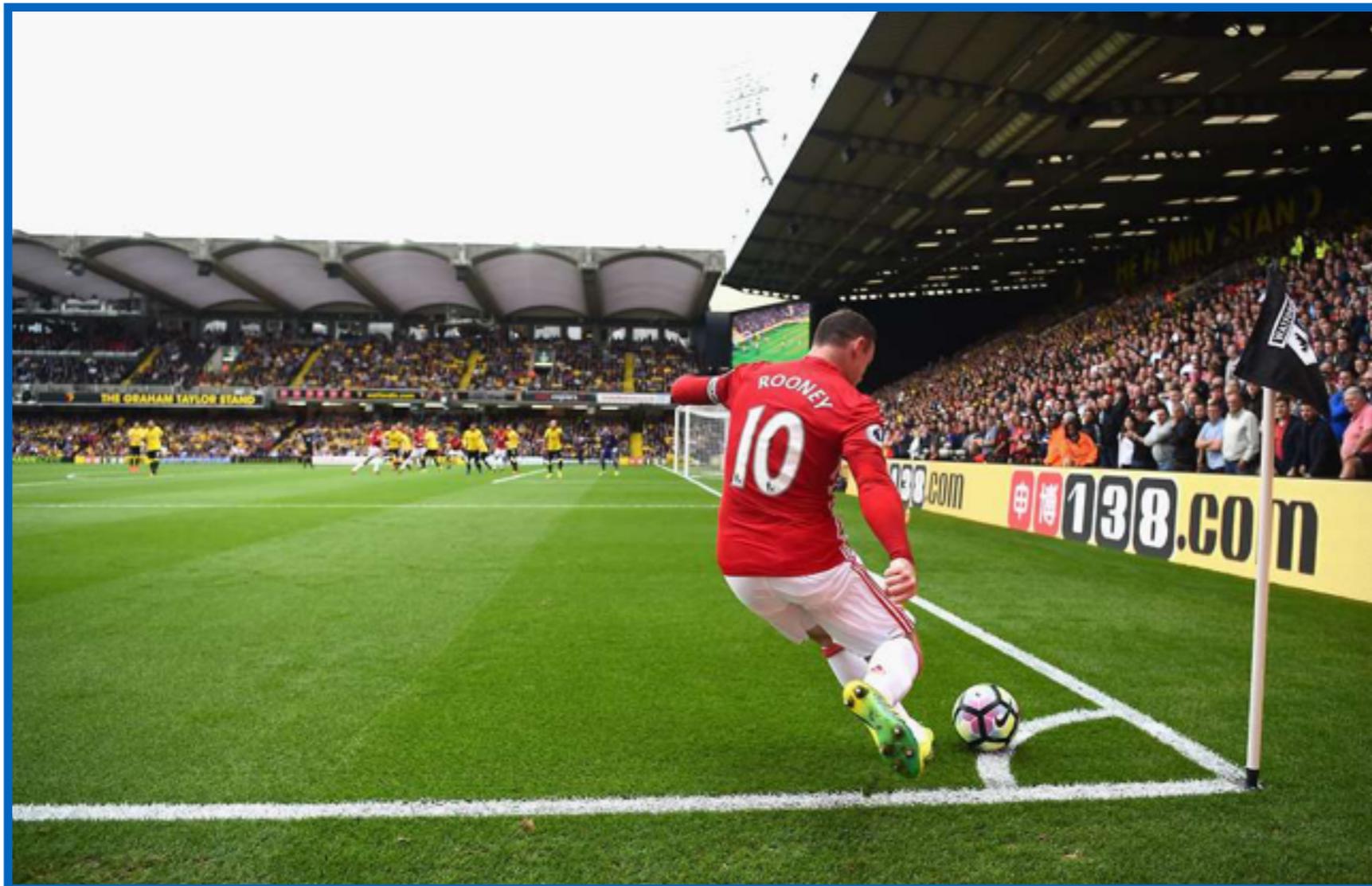
Law 13: The Penalty Kick

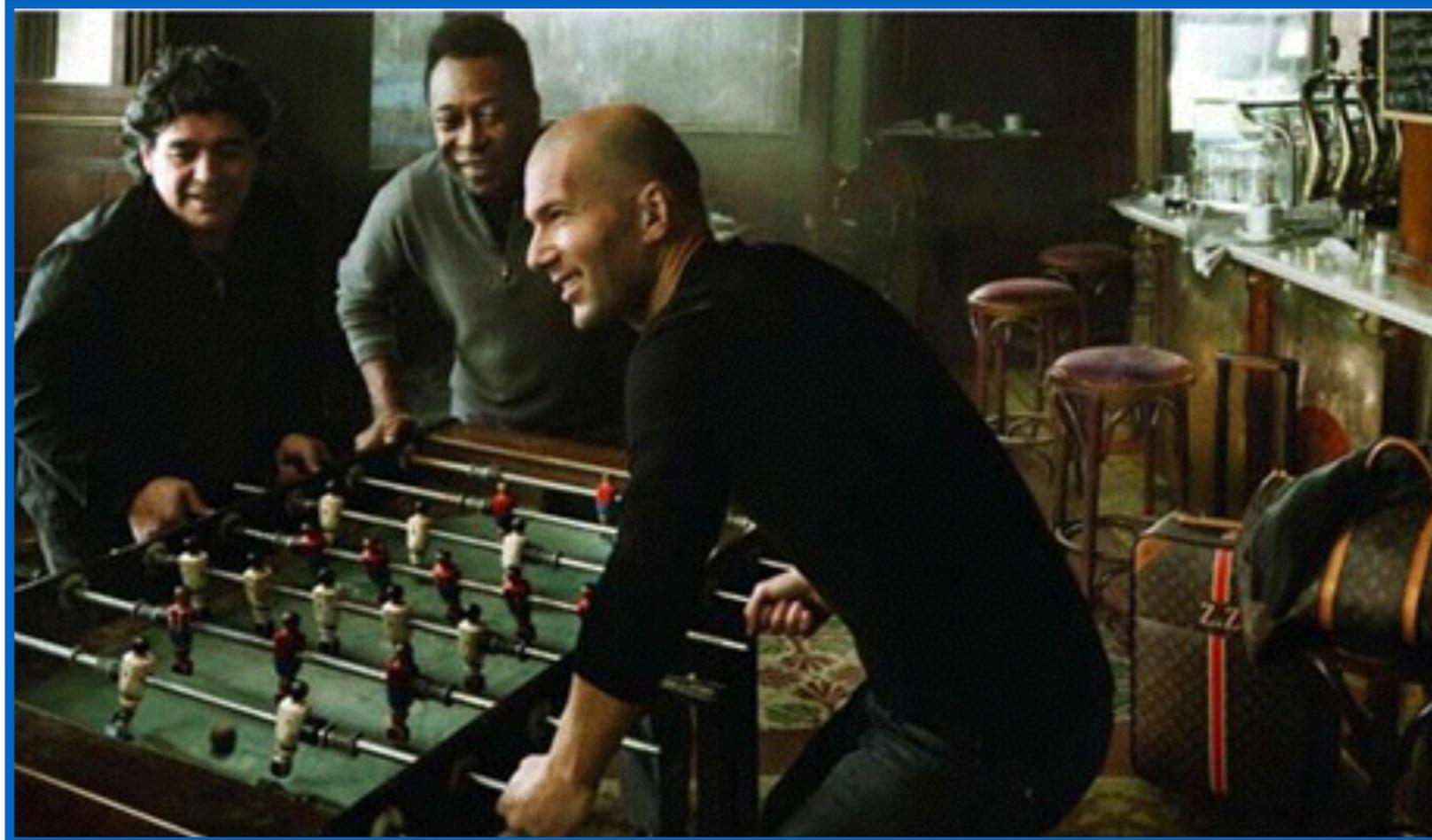


A penalty kick is awarded either when a defensive player fouls an attacking player or commits a handball in his/her team's penalty area. The penalty kick is placed at the penalty spot, and all players on both teams must remain outside the penalty box during the shot. They may enter the box immediately after the shot is taken. The goalkeeper may move horizontally along the goal line before the shot is taken, but he/she may not come off the line until the ball is struck.

Law 14: The Corner Kick

A corner kick is awarded to the offensive team when the defensive team plays the ball out of bounds over its goal line. The ball is placed within the corner area and is kicked back into play by the offensive team. Players can score directly off a corner kick.





“Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.” – Pelé