



## 2023 QA SOCCER CLUB GAME RULES

**Spectators must stay behind the white painted spectator line to allow enough room for the players. Spectators and Coaches are NOT permitted behind the goals or to communicate with the keepers from behind the goals.**

		3-4	5-6	7-8	9-11	12-14
1	Field (yards)	35 x 25		60 x 40	75 x 50	110 x 70
	Goal size	6' x 4'		18.5' x 6.5'	21' x 7'	24' x 8'
	Center circle	6 Yards		8 Yards	10 Yards	10 Yards
	Penalty area	None		14 Yards	18 Yards	18 Yards
2	Ball	#3			#4	#5
3	# of players	Max-5	Max-6	Max-7	Max-9	Max-11
		Min-4	Min-5	Min-6	Min-7	Min-7
	Keepers	No - players should remain outside of the goal box			Yes	
3	Substitutions	Unlimited, 1 for 1 on any injury or yellow card				
		Substitution breaks at 5, 10, 15 minutes of half or when needed. Also on goal kick, corner kick, kick off, own team's throw-in, other team's throw-in only if other team also subs		Goal kick, corner kick, kick off, own team's throw-in, other team's throw-in only if other team also subs		
4	Player Equipment	QASC uniform including socks				
		Shin guards are required. No jewelry. Eyewear must be secured with sports strap. No casts. Braces must be soft with no metal support. Sports tape must be same color as socks.				
5	Referee	Coach facilitators on field		Certified Referees Provided by QASC		
6	Ass't referee	None			Yes (2)	
7	Duration of Game	2 x 20 min. halves		2 x 25 min. halves	2 x 30 min. halves	2 x 35 min. halves
	Half time length	5 minutes				10 minutes
8	Start/restart	<a href="#">FIFA</a>				
9	Ball in play	<a href="#">FIFA</a>				
10	Scoring	A goal is scored when the <i>whole</i> ball crosses the goal line within the goal.				
11	Offside	None			<a href="#">FIFA</a>	

		3-4	5-6	7-8	9-11	12-14
12 & 13	Fouls	Slide tackling not allowed. Results in a direct free kick. <b>Heading not allowed.</b> When a player touches the ball with their head, regardless if it is deliberate, accidental, or inadvertent, stop play immediately. Restart: If the touch is deliberate, IFK at the location of the offense. If accidental or inadvertent, dropped ball at the location of the touch. Restarts within the goal area are placed at the "6," which is the top of the goal area.				Slide tackling not allowed. Results in a direct free kick.
		Allow 6 yards	Allow 8 yards			Allow 10 yards
		Players receiving a yellow card must be substituted				
14	Penalty kicks	No penalty kicks		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 play.		
15	Throw-ins	None	Instruction after first incorrect attempt, play on after second attempt	Instruction after first incorrect attempt, ball to other team after second incorrect attempt	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.	
16	Goal kicks	None	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.			
17	Corner kicks	None	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.			

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## ADDITIONAL RULES INFORMATION

**All practices and games should stop and the fields should be cleared at the first sound of thunder or flash of lightning.** Outdoor activity may resume 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning. The 30-minute clock restarts every time thunder sounds or lightning flashes. After an hour of delay, the practice or game shall be cancelled.

**Slide tackling** is treated as a foul in all age groups and will result in a direct free kick (or penalty).

**The ball is out of play only when it completely passes over one of the four field borders.** The entire ball must be over the line, until it is, the ball is still in play. A player may be entirely out of bounds and as long as the ball is touching one blade of grass with a white marking on it, the ball is still in and can be played by the "out of bounds" player.

**Handling the ball (a "hand ball") involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm.** The following must be considered: •The movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand) •The distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball) •The position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an offence.

**Soccer is a contact sport.** The general rule is that shoulder to shoulder contact is allowable. Other contact depending on how hard, where it happens, the outcome of it, and a few other factors may or may not be ok. The referee is tasked with looking at contact and making sure nothing unfair or unsafe happens and call the game accordingly.

**A foul isn't always called** -- and it's on purpose. In most sports, if an infraction occurs, it is called immediately and play stops. In soccer, if a foul occurs, the referee looks for what is called "advantage." If the team that was fouled has the chance of benefitting in some way from the foul or after the foul (a chance to move the ball significantly down the field or even score for instance), the referee lets play go on and calls "advantage." At this point, s/he also moves both arms up straight and parallel to each other from his waist to his chest and may say something like "play on."

**Offside is the most confusing concept for spectators, coaches, and players to grasp.** Despite what you think you know about offside, unless you are lined up perfectly, you won't have the proper angle to even comment on such an offense if it's close (if the player is offside by 10 yards, it's much easier to tell.) So it's better to simply let the call go the way the AR sees it since it's a judgment call involving several different factors.

**If you are curious, current FIFA *Laws of the Game* may be found here:**

<https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/laws-of-the-game-2021-22?l=en>