

# Rules for PCSL Coaches/Referees – Fall 2020/Spring 2021

Updated 3/2/2021

In addition to FIFA rules for games the following additions apply in PCSL games:

## 1. The Ball:

Under 6 through Under 8	Size 3
Under 9 through Under 12	Size 4
Under 14 through HS	Size 5

## 2. Number of Players, Playing Time and Substitutions:

Under 6	3 Players/6 playing	5 Min Quarters	At the quarter On an injury
Under 7	4 Players/8 playing	10 Min Quarters	At the quarter On an injury
Under 8	4 Players/8 playing	10 Min Quarters	At the quarter On an injury
Under 9	7 Players	12 Min Quarters	At the quarter On injury
Under 10	7 Players	12 Min Quarters	At the quarter On an injury
Under 12	9 Players	15 Min Quarters	At the quarter On an injury
Under 14	9 Players	35 Min Halves	At any legal substitution On an injury
High School	7 Players	35 Min Halves	At any legal substitution On an injury

In addition, both teams must play with the same number of players on the field. In other words, if a U7 team only has 3 players show up, the other team can only play with 3 players. If a U14 team only has 7 players show up, they both play with 7 players on the field. However, if a team wants to “share” its players with the other team so that both sides can play with the maximum number of players allowed, that is acceptable. Remember, this is a recreational league designed for the kid's enjoyment. Both coaches must agree upon number of players playing if it is less than maximum allowed.

## 3. Player Equipment:

Soccer shoes or gym shoes are permitted. **No baseball or football cleats.** Leather street shoes with molded rubber or plastic type soles are illegal. Medical information tags, if worn, have to be taped against the body. Artificial limbs and knee braces are permitted but must be completely padded with no metal or hard material exposed. No earrings, watches or fitness bands allowed. Players wearing orthopedic casts, air-splints, or metal splints will be able to participate if a foam padding (minimum ½” thick) is wrapped around the entire cast or splint, and the padding then wrapped in an “Ace” type bandage.

The referee shall be the SOLE judge of what constitutes illegal equipment in instances that are not covered in the preceding paragraph.

4. Linespersons/Assistant Referees:

If assistant referees are not provided by the league, each team coach is responsible for supplying linespersons. Linespersons are to work with and follow instructions of the referee and are not permitted to coach while participating as linespersons. **Linespersons should be age 12 or older.**

5. Throw-ins:

Under 6 up to and including Under 8 will be allowed to re-throw an incorrect throw-in once, **after a correct throw-in has been demonstrated.** Under 9 and above, an incorrect throw will be determined to be a foul throw and result in a throw in for the opposing team.

6. Misconduct:

Yellow cards – Player should leave field of play and be substituted for. The player can return at the next allowable substitution for the team.

Red cards - It is an immediate send off, the player cannot return and is to sit out the next match. The player cannot be replaced.

7. Offside:

The offside rule does not apply in Under 6, 7 & 8. For Under 9 & 10, the build-out line will be used by the referee to determine offside.

8. Slide-Tackling:

Slide tackling is not permitted in the Under 10 Division and lower. In these divisions, the player will receive a verbal warning on the first infraction. The second infraction will result in an automatic yellow card and an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team for dangerous play. In the upper divisions, contact with the ball **MUST** occur **FIRST**; otherwise it is a penal foul.

**SLIDE-TACKLE** - A maneuver in which one or both feet slide on the ground in an attempt to tackle the ball, which is in possession of an opponent. Additional Comments:

The player attempting to take the ball away from an opponent must slide from the side or the front, so that the defender could reasonably be within the view of the player. **LEGS** must be down, and **CONTACT** the **BALL**. If the ball is trapped so that the player with the ball trips over it, or if the ball is cleared so that the player who had the ball then trips over the defender by **HIS/HER** own forward motion, the tackle is fair.

If the defender contacts the player with the ball first or slides in with one leg up so as to kick or trip the player, this is a **PENAL** foul for which the team fouled is awarded a direct kick. Sliding past the ball and then tripping or fouling a player is not legal also. The player falling over the defender by his/her own **FORWARD** motion after the ball has been cleared, this is not a foul.

9. Offenses against Goalkeepers:

The goalkeeper has possession of the ball when one or either hands or arms is holding the ball. Possession is also a finger, hand, arm, or leg on a stationary ball brought under the control of the goalkeeper. A goalkeeper in possession of the ball cannot be charged, obstructed, or interfered with by the opposing players. Violators will be cautioned on the first infraction and appropriately carded on subsequent infractions. This is considered unsporting behavior.

10. Goalkeeper substitutions:

Goalkeepers must be replaced at least at the half. A goalie can only be goalie for a maximum of half the game. No goalkeeper substitution is permitted on a penalty kick unless the keeper is injured or ejected. If there is a penalty against a team resulting in a penalty kick, the goalkeeper that was playing at the time of the foul remains in the goal for that kick.

11. Timekeeping:

There are no time outs. The referee may stop the clock for injuries, lost balls, etc. The clock will not be stopped for goals unless the referee feels one of the teams are deliberately wasting time. Time will be extended to take a penalty kick awarded as time ran out.

12. Heading:

Heading is not allowed in age divisions U12 & below. When a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick (IFK) should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.

13. U6-U8 Small Sided Games:

Field will be marked with a center circle for defending players to be behind during a kickoff. The field will also be lined with a small goal box/arc where goal kicks will be taken from on the side of the goal the ball went out of bounds. The defending team should retreat back to half field prior to the goal kick being taken. The defending team may move forward once the goal kick has been taken and the ball is touched by the attacking team. This allows the players an opportunity to advance the ball forward from a goal kick and is consistent with US Youth Soccer SSG recommendations. Corner kicks will be taken from the corner of the side the ball went out of bounds. All free kicks will be indirect to allow the game to flow.

U9-U10 Small Sided Games:

The use of the Build-Out Line promotes playing the ball out from the defensive third in a less pressured setting. When the goalkeeper has control (with his/her hands) of the ball during play, the opposing team **MUST** move behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is released (put in play) by the goalkeeper. Once the opposing team is behind the Build-Out Line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play (punts or drop kicks are **NOT** allowed). After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the Build-Out Line and play resumes as normal. Also, the opposing team **MUST** move behind the Build-Out Line for a goal kick restart and may only cross the Build-Out Line once the ball is in play (meaning that the ball has left the penalty area).