

Eastern Wisconsin Soccer League

Handbook

Revised 8.2022

Welcome to the Eastern Wisconsin Soccer League (EWSL). EWSL is comprised of individual clubs and teams including: Plymouth, Kiel, Random Lake, New Holstein, Waubedonia, Chilton, Sheboygan Falls YMCA and Eden.

This is a very exciting opportunity to bring soccer back to the communities, where it belongs. Youth and Recreational sports have long proven to be great building blocks in the development of young people as it fosters friendship, sportsmanship, physical activity and teamwork. Recreational sports have also been a favorite pastime for many parents, families and communities as being able to cheer on the home team goes back to when sports first came about.

At Eastern Wisconsin Soccer League, you will find a recreational soccer experience with a foundation of fair play and opportunity for all. Coaching youth soccer is a very rewarding and fun experience and you have the opportunity to make a positive difference in a child’s life and your community, a difference that will last a lifetime.

Clubs will be welcomed to register as a club, entering each team they have in a particular season. Guest teams, or teams developed that do not belong to a club, will be welcomed to join the league in order to build and bring soccer back to the community.

Teams will find friendly competition with light inter-county travel, soccer festival days to keep family travel light, officiated games and a game schedule that keeps each team and community in mind.

The goal of the EWSL is to teach the fundamentals of the sport to the children. We will only be successful if we are not focused on winning or losing games. Please communicate openly and frequently with your club representative if you should need additional information or resources. We, at EWSL, are in this for the kids and to help grow recreational community soccer opportunities!

Have a great season and thanks for all you do!

Eastern Wisconsin Soccer League



The Eastern Wisconsin Soccer League (EWSL) was formed on March 21, 2022 as a result of a growing need to solidify and strengthen the efforts of the local area Soccer Clubs. Furthermore, our League was founded and is committed to preserving our shared ideals in the areas of sportsmanship, teamwork and building strong boys and girls. In the past, many organized sports activities have been criticized for emphasizing winning and ultimately placed undue stress on our young people. The EWSL hopes to be different by emphasizing the following guidelines:

* Participation and being satisfied with trying ones best will be of most importance.
* Teamwork and cooperation with coach and fellow players in order to build a spirit of camaraderie.
* Sportsmanship by individual teams and clubs. We must learn to be gracious in victory and defeat.
* Parents and spectators on the sidelines must be of good example to our youth. Therefore, our coaches and referees will extend their authority to assure this aspect of the game.
* Moral character and spiritual strength will not be forgotten.

In summary, it is our desire to aid all clubs in the development by providing unity, direction and a sense of purpose in a combined effort with our local organizations. It is our goal to see that our clubs flourish and are successful in practicing these high standards in a positive and enjoyable experience for all involved.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To promote and provide soccer as the ultimate community recreational sports activity and provide required infrastructure, knowledge, services and opportunities for our volunteers, players and coaches to enjoy, have fun and thrive in the game of soccer.

**VISION**

EWSL is devoted to fostering and providing a high-quality soccer environment in order to give all players, coaches and referees every opportunity to enjoy the game of soccer and help them achieve their maximum potential as participants in this sport, while at all times promoting a sense of fair play and enjoyment.

*Accountability*  
• We take responsibility for our commitments, choices and our actions

*Positive**and**Fun*  
• We create a safe environment this is positive and fun for all

*Pursue Excellence*  
• We set the bar high and strive to deliver and perform to our best abilities

*Teamwork*  
•We all work together in a cooperative manner towards promoting our common goals Value and Respect

• Everyone matters and we conduct ourselves with respect for each other at all times

**GAME PLAY**

If an adequate number of games cannot be met by within EWSL, EWSL teams may have the opportunity to play teams in the KMSL or other neighboring soccer leagues. Kettle Moraine Soccer League (KMSL) consists of separate clubs from: Erin, Hartford, Hustisford, Jackson, Juneau, Kettle Moraine YMCA, Kewaskum, Richfield, Slinger and WCFC U7/8 Academy.

**SEASONS OF PLAY**

Fall season will begin games after Labor Day and wrap-up end of October. Spring season will begin play end of April and wrap up mid-June.

**SCHEDULES**

EWSL will release schedules at least two weeks prior to games beginning. Once schedules are released from KMSL, EWSL can begin the remainder of the scheduling process. As soon as schedules are completed, the first draft will be released to clubs for approval or for changes. After the first draft is approved, schedules will be finalized.

**ELIGABILITY OF PLAYERS**

WYSA (Classic 1-3) registered players, or players that hold a player’s pass/card are not approved to participate in EWSL. EWSL is built on the foundation of creating opportunities for recreational level soccer players for optimal growth and improvement. Permissions may be granted by the EWSL Board on a case-by-case basis as an occasional substitute to allow a team to field enough players, permission but be had by the board prior to participation.

**CANCELLATIONS**

For game cancellations, please see your club website and club policy. Your player/family will be contacted by your team coach. Cancellations may or may not be posted on EWSL website and EWSL Facebook page, depending on timeline.

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

The EWSL has a ZERO tolerance policy in regards to the treatment of referees. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse or negative criticism of referees is an unacceptable as verbal abuse or negative criticism of players.

This policy adopts basic standard sanctions for improper conduct. This policy is not intended to imply that referees are always “right” and the spectator or coach is always “wrong”. Just as players make mistakes during play and coaches may err in strategy, referees will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to referee. Due to a persistent shortage of referees, a referee may be at a higher-level game than they are comfortable with. They must receive support from coaches and spectators to continue to grow as an official.

All players, coaches and spectators may only communicate in a positive way with a referee. The coach is responsible for ensuring all spectators associated with his/her team follow these guidelines relating to communication with a referee. A coach/spectator may not express any disagreement or dissatisfaction with officiating to the youth referee. A coach/spectator may not, before, during, or after a game, discuss with a referee their critique of the referee performance, other than to thank and complement the referee.

If a coach, player or fan is harassing a referee, the referee has the right to take the following measures to cease harassment:

1. Go to the offending team’s coach and ask them to control themselves or their personnel.
2. If the problem pursuits after the above measure is taken, the referee many go back to the coach and ask the offending party to remove themselves from the game.
3. If the problem persists after the above measures are taken, the referee may stop the game and the outcome of the game will determined by the competition authority.

Please note, coaches, players and or parents/spectators are highly discouraged from approaching or confronting referees at halftime or after the match for any reason other than saying “thank you” and/or shaking hands.

Any concerns or feedback regarding referees must be submitted in writing to the EWSL Board of Directors, by the club representative. Concerns related to referee performance or behavior will only be accepted in writing. The claim must provide details specific to the complaint and cite examples where the referee performance or behavior was inadequate or improper.

**SPECTATOR SIDELINE GUIDELINES AND BEHAVIOR**

These recommendation and guidelines are to ensure a positive and healthy experience for soccer players, referees and all parents/spectators.

All players, coaches, referees and visitors should be comfortable in the soccer environment at all times. In order to ensure safety and comfort for all, we need all that attend an event, in any aspect, to do so in a supportive manner.

Support and encourage all in attendance, we need plyers, coaches, referees and opposing parents and teams to make the games work. Be your own best example of sportsmanship and sideline behavior.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR COACHES SIDELINE BEHAVIOR**

Coaches are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their players, team managers, parents and spectators.

If a referee feels that a coach is out of line, at any time, can follow their guidelines in asking the coach to cease behavior, sit down or leave the playing area as well as terminate match. A report will be filed with EWSL Board of Directors.

**IT IS THE RESPOINSBILITY OF EACH PARTICIPATING CLUB TO GOVERN THE ACTIONS AND BEHAVIORS OF THEIR TEAMS, COACHES AND SPECATORS. REPEATED OFFENDING BEHAVIORS WILL BE ADDRESSED TO THE PARTICULAR OFFENDING CLUB AND MAY RESULT DISQUALIFICAITON OF FURTHER COMPETITION IN THE LEAGUE.**

**RULES AND GUIDELINES**

EWSL rules are based on FIFA Laws of the Game. The following is meant to be a summary of the FIFA rules. For the full interpretation of the rules, refer to the official IFAB Laws of the Game, consult with appropriate members of EWSL, Director of Referees or your referee after the game.

**When traveling to play KMSL teams, non-KMSL teams must look up applicable KMSL rules via KMSL website.**

**QUICK EWSL RULES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Game**  **Length** | **Ball**  **Size** | **Players on field** | **Minimum**  **Players** | **Heading** | **Slide**  **Tackling** | **Build out line** |
| **U8** | **4, 12-minute quarters, 2-minute rest with 5-minute half** | **3** | **6** | **4** | **No** | **No** | **Applies** |
| **U10** | **2, 25-minutes halves with 5-minute half** | **4** | **8** | **6** | **No** | **No** | **Applies**  **Starts at half field for off-sides** |
| **U12** | **2, 30-minute halves with 10-minute half** | **4** | **9** | **6** | **No** | **No** | **Does not apply** |
| **U14** | **2, 35-minutes halves with 10-minute half** | **5** | **11** | **7** | **Yes** | **No** | **Does not apply** |

1. **FIELD OF PLAY**

The field of play is marked and divided by lines. All lines are part of the field of play. No spectators or coaches are permitted to occupy the area behind either goal line. Spectators and teams should be at least 10-feet behind the sideline to allow space for the assistant referees and for throw-ins. EWSL requires that teams are on one side of the field and spectators are on the opposite side of the field.

Appropriate size fields are used for each age division.

Goals for U8-U14 must be securely anchored to the ground. Games will not be played unless goals are secured.

1. **BALL SIZE**

The legal size for each division is as follows:

U8 #3

U10 #4

U12 #4

U14 #5

1. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

A team that is short on players may borrow from same or from younger division, within the same club, to field a team. Players may be borrowed from opposing team on game day. WYSA Classic registered players are not permitted to act as substitutions without permission from the board.

1. **SUBSTITUTIONS**

* By the team in possession prior to a throw-in.  
  o If the team in possession substitutes prior to a throw-in, the opposing team may also substitute.
* By either team prior to:
* A goal-kick
* After a goal is scored
* Between periods
* Restart after stoppage for an injury to a player.
* Substitutes are to be standing at the halfway line prior to the stoppage and can enter the field of play only after receiving permission from the referee.
* Substitutions are not allowed prior to:
* Corner kick
* Direct or indirect free kick
* Penalty kick

A player sent off prior to the kick-off may be replaced. A player sent off after the kick-off may not be replaced and the team plays short.

A player who crosses a boundary line during the normal course of play does not commit an infringement.

If during the course of the game there is a five-goal spread in the score, the referee will ask the coach whose team is down by 5 goals if they want to add a player or play with current number of players. An extra player can be used until there is a four-point spread in the score.

1. **PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

All participants in a game must wear shoes. Soccer shoes are recommended. Athletic shoes or turf shoes are allowed. Shoes with soles containing metal (aluminum, magnesium, titanium, etc.), leather, rubber, nylon or plastic cleats, studs or bars, whether molded as part of the sole or detachable, are allowed as long as the referee does not consider them dangerous. Shoes shall not be altered in any way that makes them unsafe. Baseball and football cleats or shoes with a single large toe cleat are not allowed.

All players on a team must wear the same color jerseys. Jerseys may be worn over long sleeved shirts of the same or different color. Each goalkeeper wears colors which distinguish them from the other players, the referee and the AR’s. When the temperature is below 50 F, team shorts may be worn over any color athletic pants or athletic pants of the same color as the team shorts may be worn over the shorts. Goalkeepers may wear pinnies over their jersey and long pants, regardless of temperature.

Age and size appropriate shin guards are required and must be covered by socks.

No equipment that is considered dangerous to themselves or other players may be worn. Jewelry (rings, wristwatches, earrings, necklaces) is considered illegal equipment. Medical information tags, if worn, have to be taped, with the information exposed against the body. Casts are not allowed under any conditions. Wrist or finger splints with hard pieces (e.g. buckles, splines, knobs, etc.) are not allowed. Artificial limbs are permitted but must be completely padded with no metal or hard material exposed. If your child wears glasses, a strap to hold them in place and/or “sport glasses” are highly recommended. Non-prescription sunglasses are not allowed. Soft hair restraints, headbands and hats are allowed. Plastic, metal or beaded hair restraints or hats with hard portions (e.g. baseball hats) are not allowed. Anti- concussive head gear is allowed.

Players should wear shorts without pockets, belt loops, snaps or zippers. Athletic shorts are preferred. Sweat pants without pockets, belt loops snaps or zippers may be worn during cold weather.

Players who wear clothing that may pose a safety risk to themselves or other players are not allowed to play as determined by a referee. Hoods of jackets and sweatshirts should be tucked inside shirt and not exposed.

1. **REFEREES**

The referee shall have jurisdiction over a game and shall enforce rules and decide disputes. Decisions will be made to the best of the referee’s ability according to the Laws of the Game and the “spirit of the game” and will be based on the opinion of the referee. **The referee’s decisions in the game are final**. The referee may only change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or on the advice of an assistant referee, provided that the referee has not restarted play or ended the period or game. Questions of the referee may be made by the coaches in a civilized manner away from the players and spectators at half-time or end of the game. Serious protests should be discussed with Club or League representatives.

The referee:

* Enforces the Laws of the Game
* Acts as timekeeper and keeps a record of the match, including information on any disciplinary actions
* Stops play for fouls and misconduct
* Stops play for outside interference
* Stops play due to field conditions and severe weather, including following the KMSL’s lightning/thunder policy.
* Indicates restart of match after it has been stopped
* Requires a player to leave the field if the player is bleeding or has blood on their uniform
* Prevents anyone from coming onto the field without their permission
* Makes sure the field, ball and player equipment are safe and legal
* Stops play due to serious injury of a player. The referee has the initial responsibility to determine, in their opinion, whether a player is seriously injured, but is not allowed to attend to the injuries. Coaches and parents are to wait for permission to enter the field to attend to the injured player. If the referee stopped play for an injury or permitted someone on the field to attend to an injured player, the injured player must leave the field until play is restarted. If the player was not substituted, the injured player may reenter the field at the halfway line ***with the permission of the referee***. The restart after the referee stops play is a dropped ball.

The referee can:  
• Apply advantage by allowing play to continue when there is a foul or misconduct and if stopping play would help the team that committed the foul or misconduct.

* Stops play if the advantage does not materialize within a few seconds
* Caution or send-off at the next stoppage of play
* Take disciplinary action from when they enter the field for pre-game inspection until they leave after the game has ended
* Caution or send-off a player or substitute
* Require a coach or team official to leave the field if their behavior is not proper
* A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a YC (caution) or RC (send-off); if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach who is in the technical area at the time will receive the YC/RC
* Act on advice from the assistant referee

Referees are certified annually by EWSL. Equivalent current certification from USSF or WIAA is acceptable. USSF and WIAA certified referees must be made aware of KMSL modifications to the rules. Referees must be at least 13 years old to receive certification. A single center referee is used for the U8 level. Certification is recommended for the U8 referee. A referee that has been trained by a club may be used. A single, certified center referee is required for U10 and above. The center referee should be at least 2 years older than the division, e.g. 14 years old to referee a U-12 game.

1. **ASSISTANT REFEREE / LINESMEN**

Assistant referees are certified referees and signal when:

* The ball has left the field of play, including in the goal
* Which team gets the throw-in, goal kick or corner kick
* A player should be penalized for offside
* A substitution is requested
* When a foul or misconduct has happened that the referee could not see.

Linesmen are not certified referees and are recommended only for U-10 level and below. Each team may be required to provide one linesman to assist the referee in calling the ball out-of-bounds. Linesmen are not permitted to coach players or make calls other than out-of-bounds. Certified referees may be used as assistant referees for U10. Certified referees are required for the two assistant referees for U-12 and above.

1. **START AND RESTART OF PLAY**

**Kick-off**

A kick-off starts a period and restarts play after a goal has been scored. Free kicks (direct or indirect), penalty kicks, throw-ins, goal kicks and corner kicks are other restarts (see Laws 13 – 17).

The winner of the referee’s coin toss (visitor’s call) has the choice of taking the kick-off or which goal to attack. If the winner’s choice is to kick-off, the loser of the toss shall choose which goal to attack. At the beginning of the game, half- time, quarters and after goals, the game is started with a kick-off. Goal defending and kick-off are switched at half time at all levels. Team kicking off at start of game will also kick off at start of 2nd quarter where appropriate and opposing team will kick off at start of 2nd half or 3rd and 4th quarters where appropriate.

* All players are in their own half of the field
* The opponents of the team kicking off are outside of the center circle
* The ball is stationery on the center mark
* The referee gives a signal

o The kick is retaken if it is taken prior to referee’s signal

* The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

o Players may not cross the center line or into center circle until the ball is in play

* The kicker cannot touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player

o Indirect free kick restart if this happens

**Dropped Ball Procedure**

* The referee will take the ball in their hands and drop it to one player on the team last in possession when play was stopped.
* The restart will take place where the ball was when play was stopped.
* All other players (both teams) must be 4.5 yards away.
* If play is stopped in the penalty area, the ball will be dropped to the goalkeeper.
* If ball hits referee during play, play is stopped and the ball goes to the team who lost possession in the play.

**Infringements and sanctions**

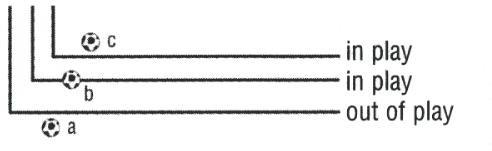
If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players play is restarted with:

* + a goal kick if it enters the opponents’ goal
  + a corner kick if it enters the team’s goal.

Any ball that strikes the referee and falls to the opposing team or goes in the goal will be a dropped ball.

1. **BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY**

If any part of the ball is on the line, it is still in play. The ball is out of play when it has passed completely over the line, either on the ground or in the air.



1. **METHOD OF SCORING**

The entire ball must completely cross the goal line, between the posts and below the crossbar for a goal. A goal MAY be scored during play directly from a:

Kick-off – only against opposing team Direct free kick  
Goal kick – only against opposing team Penalty kick

Corner kick – only against opposing team Goalkeeper's throw, punt, or drop-kick

U8 variation: Goal may not be scored directly from a kickoff and no direct free kicks.

A goal MAY NOT be scored during play directly from a/an:

Indirect free kick

throw-in  
free kick into a team's own goal dropped ball

1. **OFFSIDE**

A player is in an offside position if

* Any part of the head, body or feet is in the opponents’ half and
* Any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponent’s goal than both the ball and the second to last defender  
  It is not illegal to be in an offside position

A player is **penalized** for offside if, in the judgment of the referee, they are

* In an offside position when the ball is played by a team-mate and then:
  + Interferes with the play by playing or touching a ball;
  + Interferes with an opponent; or
  + Gains an advantage from being in an offside position.
* Restart is an indirect free kick where the offense occurred, including if it is in the player’s own half of the field

A player is **not penalized** for offside:

* + When receiving the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.
  + If the player is in their own half of the field.
  + If the ball is last played by an opposing player

1. **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

The player must play the ball, not the other player. The referee will determine whether a play is fair or foul, in accordance with the official rules of soccer. Direct and indirect free kicks and penalty kicks can only be awarded for offenses and infringements committed when the ball is in play.

**Direct Free Kick**

A direct free kick is awarded when a player commits the following in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

* + Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
  + Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
  + Tripping or attempting to trip an opponent
  + Pushing an opponent
  + Holding an opponent
  + Jumping at an opponent
  + Charging an opponent
* Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without caution. 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 endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off

A direct free kick is also awarded when a player:

* + Spits at an opponent or any other person
  + Impedes an opponent with contact when the ball is not within playing distance
  + Deliberately handles the ball

**Indirect Free Kick**

An indirect free kick is awarded when a player commits the following:

* Dangerous play – high kick, low header, playing the ball while on the ground and near an opponent
* Misconduct
* Offside
* Intentionally obstructing an opponent without contact when the ball is not within playing distance
* Deliberately wasting time
* Player playing ball a second time when not allowed – the player taking a: kick off, throw-in, goal kick, corner kick, penalty kick, direct or indirect free kick may not be the first player to touch the ball after the restart.
* Goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands after it has been deliberately kicked or thrown-in by a team-mate
* Goalkeeper controls the ball with their hands for more than six seconds
* Goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands after it has been released from their possession and has not been touched by another player
* Commits any other offense, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to

caution or dismiss a player

* Deliberately heads the ball - U-8 through U-12. Heading is allowed at U-14
* Goalkeeper punting or drop kicking the ball – U10

Goalkeeper in possession of the ball cannot be charged, obstructed or interfered with by opposing players. Possession or control of the ball includes when the goalkeeper is touching the ball with any part of their arms or hands or when bouncing it to the ground or when throwing it into the air and catching it or when releasing the ball into play.

Slide tackling is not permitted in U8-U14 in EWSL.

**A player shall be shown a yellow card and cautioned for:**

* + Unsporting behavior
  + Showing dissent by word or action
  + Persistently infringing the Laws of the Game
  + Delays the restart of play
  + Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
  + Entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee’s permission.

A cautioned player is not required to leave the field of play. The player may be substituted during the stoppage.

**A player shall be shown a red card and sent off the field of play if they:**

* + Are guilty of violent conduct
  + Are guilty of serious foul play
  + Use foul or abusive language or gestures
  + Spit at an opponent or any other person
  + Receive a second caution in the same game
  + Deny a goal or goal scoring opportunity by foul or deliberately handling the ball

The following must be considered:

* + 1. Distance between the offense and the goal
    2. General direction of the play
    3. Is the attacker within playing distance of the ball
    4. Location and number of defenders

**Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity**

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a deliberate handball offense the player is sent off wherever the offense occurs.

Where a player commits an offense 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 offending player is cautioned unless:

* The offense is holding, pulling or pushing or
* The offending player does not attempt to play the ball or there is no possibility for the player making the challenge to play the ball or
* The offense is one which is punishable by a red card wherever it occurs on the field of play (e.g. serious foul play, violent conduct etc.) In all the above circumstances the player is sent off.

**Restart of play after fouls and misconduct**

* If the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision
* If the ball is in play and a player commits an offense inside the field of play against:

– an opponent – indirect or direct free kick or penalty kick  
– a team-mate, substitute, substituted player, team official or a match official

- a direct free kick or penalty kick – any other person – a dropped ball

* If the ball is in play and a player commits an offense outside the field of play:
  + If the player is already off the field of play, play is restarted with a dropped ball
  + If the player leaves the field of play to commit the offense, play is restarted with an indirect free kick from the position of the ball when play was stopped. However, if a player leaves the field of play as part of play and commits an offense against another player, play is restarted with a free kick taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offense occurred; for direct free kick offenses a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender’s penalty are.

Coaches are responsible for their own conduct and that of their teams, both on the field and on the sidelines. Any player who receives a red card will be suspended for that game. In the event of continued misconduct or unsportsmanlike activity, the referee may ask a coach or spectator to leave the area and may terminate the game. Players and/or coaches involved may be suspended from the league.

*EWSL referees are instructed to be more liberal when dealing with the inexperienced, younger players.*

**FREE KICK**

A free kick may be awarded when an offense has been committed. The ball must be stationery and placed where the foul was committed. Any opponent must be the age-appropriate distance from the ball before the kick is taken. A quick free kick may be taken while the opponents are within the required distance. An opponent who deliberately prevents a free kick being taken quickly must be cautioned for delaying the restart of play. Free kicks are direct or indirect. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves except for a free kick to the defending team in their penalty area where the ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

**Direct Free Kick**, from which a goal may be scored by kicking the ball directly into the goal of the opposing team.

U8 variation: No direct free kicks, all kicks are indirect.

**Indirect Free Kick**, from which a goal may be scored only if the ball is touched by a second player. Second player could be team-mate or opponent.

An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in its opponents’ goal area is taken from the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Free kicks for offenses involving a player entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without permission are taken from the position of the ball when play was stopped. However, if a player leaves the field of play as part of play and commits an offense against another player, play is restarted with a free kick taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offense occurred; for direct free kick offenses a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender’s penalty area

U8 variation: An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in its opponents’ goal area is taken from the ***line that is parallel and 9 yards from the goal line*** at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

Distance Variations for Free Kicks – Direct, Indirect & Corner

* U8 Opponents must be at least 6 yards away (including goal kicks)
* U10 Opponents must be at least 8 yards away.
* If the defending team has three or more players in a wall, the attacking team may not have a player within 1 yard of the defending team’s wall.

1. **PENALTY KICK**

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offense inside their penalty area or off the field as part of play as outlined in Laws 12 and 13.

* The ball must be stationary on the penalty mark.
* The player taking the penalty kick must be properly identified.
* The defending goalkeeper must have one foot on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked.
* The players other than the kicker and goalkeeper must be:
* At least 10 yds (8 yds for U10) from the penalty mark
* Behind the penalty mark
* Inside the field of play
* Outside the penalty area & penalty arc
* The player taking the penalty kick must kick the ball forward.
* The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
* The kicker must not play the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

**Summary table of infringements during Penalty Kick**

**Outcome of the penalty kick Goal No Goal**

**Encroachment by attacking player** Penalty is retaken Indirect free kick

**Encroachment by defending player** Goal Penalty is retaken

**Offense by goalkeeper** Goal Penalty is retaken and caution for

goalkeeper

**Ball kicked backwards** Indirect free kick Indirect free kick

**Illegal feinting** Indirect free kick Indirect free kick

And caution for kicker and caution for kicker

**Wrong Kicker** Indirect free kick and Indirect free kick and

caution for wrong kicker caution for wrong kicker

U-7/8 variation: No penalty kicks.

1. **THROW-IN**

A throw-in occurs when the whole ball entirely crosses the touchline (sideline) on the ground or in the air. A throw-in is taken by a player of the team opposite to that of player who last touched the ball. Legal delivery: The ball shall be thrown in any direction from the point where it crossed the touchline by a player who is facing the field of play and has both feet on the ground, on or behind the touchline. The thrower shall use both hands and shall deliver the ball from behind and over the head in one continuous movement. The thrower cannot be the next player to touch the ball. A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in. Opponents cannot distract the thrower and must be at least 2 yards away. U8 & U10 Variation: Allowed two tries for a throw-in.

1. **GOAL KICK**

When the ball crosses the goal line, a goal is not scored and was last touched by the attacking team, play is restarted with a goal kick. The defending team takes the goal kick anywhere from within the goal area. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. Attacking players must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

U8 Variation: At the U8 level there will be a goal kick line on the field that is 6 yards out from the goal area and will run the entire width of the field. The opposing team (team not taking the goal kick) must stay behind this line until the ball is touched by a teammate of the player taking the kick or the ball crosses the goal kick line. The team in possession can be in front of the line during the kick. The player taking the goal kick may not be the first player to touch the ball after it is kicked.

U10 Variation: At the U10 level there will be a build out line on the field that is halfway between the penalty area and the center line and will run the entire width of the field. The opposing team (team not taking the goal kick) must stay behind this line until the ball is touched outside of the penalty area by a teammate of the player taking the kick or the ball crosses the build out line. The team in possession can be in front of the line during the kick. The player taking the goal kick may not be the first player to touch the ball after it is kicked.

When the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball (held in their hands), the opposing team must move behind the build out line and remain behind this line until a teammate of the goalkeeper touches the ball or the ball crosses the build out line.

The goalkeeper can throw or roll the ball into play. Punts and drop kicks are not allowed. If the goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, play is stopped and restarted with an indirect free kick for the opposing team where the infraction occurred.

Once the goalkeeper contacts ball with foot or leaves their hand, the ball is live and can be played.

If the defensive player crosses the goal kick or build out line prior to the ball being touched by a second attacker or crossing the line, the restart is to retake the goal kick or goalkeeper distribution

1. **CORNER KICK**

When the ball crosses the goal line, a goal is not scored and was last touched by the defending team, the attacking team takes the corner kick from within the quarter circle of the nearest corner. Opponents must be at least 10 yards from the ball until it is kicked. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves, it does not need to leave the corner area.

Distance Variations for Free Kicks – Direct, Indirect & Corner

U8 Opponents must be at least 6 yards away (including goal kicks)

U10 Opponents must be at least 8 yards away.

1. **OTHER**

**Pass Back to Goalie**

A ball played back to a goalie by the defending team may not be handled (hands) by the goalie. A foul will result in an indirect kick from the spot of touching the ball.

* If the ball is touched in the goal area, the ball will be placed on the 6-yard line directly parallel to the spot of the foul.
* The goalie may play a pass back ball as any other player but may not use their hands.

**Hand Ball**

A ball that is kicked and hits a player’s hand or arm is not a hand ball. The referee must judge whether or not a hand ball is accidental contact or if the player handled the ball on purpose to gain an advantage.

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  
• The position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an offense

**Build Out Line (for U8 and U10 Divisions Only)**

The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team should move behind the build out line. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass or throw/roll the ball to a teammate (no punting.) After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.

**Offside Position**

It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position. A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponent’s goal line than the ball and the second last opponent.

A player is not in an offside position if he is in his own half of the field of play, he is level with the second last opponent or he is level with the last two opponents.

**Offside – Offense**

A player is an offside position is only penalized if at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play by:  
• Interfering with the play, or  
• Interfering with an opponent, or

• Gaining an advantage by being in that position.

**Offside – No Offense**

There is no offside if a player receives the ball directly from:

• A goal kick, or  
• A throw-in, or  
• A corner kick

**Offside – Infringements/Sanctions**

For any offside, the referee awards an indirect kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. Players will not be allowed to stand off-side near the opposing goal while play is on the other side of the field.

**Fouls and Misconduct**

The following fouls and misconduct will result in a free kick taken at the spot of the foul if committed outside the penalty area:

**Direct Free-Kick**

***More Serious Infractions***

* Kicking an opponent, tripping an opponent, jumping at an opponent
* Charging violently
* Charging from behind
* Striking an opponent
* Holding, pushing, handball

**Indirect Free-Kick**

***Minor or Technical Infractions***

* Dangerous play
* Charging away from the ball
* Goalie holding the ball more than 5 seconds
* Ball handled by goalie on pass-back
* Wasting time
* Off-side
* Heading in U8 and U10 leagues

The ball is placed at the spot of the foul and must be stationary prior to the kick. Opposing players must remain at least 10 yards from the ball kicked, 8 yards for U-10 division and under. Ball is in play when it is touched. Please note all fouls in the U-8 division are **indirect.**

**Fouls within the Penalty Area**

* If a foul is committed by the attacking team, ball placement is at the spot of the foul; same as regular field of play.
* If a foul is committed by the defending team, ball placement will be determined by the severity and location of the foul.
* A foul committed by the defending team resulting in a direct free kick will be a designated penalty kick.
* A foul committed by the defending team resulting in an indirect free kick will be taken from the spot of

the foul unless the spot is within the goal area.

* Fouls within the goal area will result in the ball being place at point on the goal-area line adjacent to the spot of the foul not nearer the goal.  
  Please note for U-8 division only: **no kicks shall be taken by the attacking team within the defending team’s penalty area.**

**Direct Kick**

A goal may be scored directly from the kick.

**Indirect Kick**

A goal cannot be scored unless played or touched by another player.

**Penalty Kick**

Direct kick awarded to the attacking team as a result of a foul within the penalty area.

* The kick is taken from the penalty mark, 12 yards from the goal line, 10 yards for U-10 division.
* All players except the goalie and kicker must remain outside the marked penalty area until the ball is kicked.
* The goalie must remain on the goal line but is allowed to move side to side prior to the kick.
* If the goalie moves off the goal line prior to the kick, the kick will be retaken if a score was not scored.
* The ball is in play and players may enter the penalty area when the ball is played.
* No penalty kicks at the U-8 division.

**Weather**

EWSL guidelines on handling lightning and thunder delays require use of the 30-minute rule, meaning when the game has been suspended, play cannot resume until at least 30 minutes have elapsed following the last sighting of lightning or the sound of thunder. Once the game is suspended, each further instance of lightning or thunder requires a reset of the clock and the commencement of a new 30-minute interval.

**YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

Unsportsmanlike behavior and/or misconduct will not be tolerated by players, fans or coaches. Unruly spectators must be controlled by the coach. Unsportsmanlike actions by the spectators will result in fouls assessed against the coach and possible disqualification of the team based on the following sequence: verbal warning, yellow card on coach, red card on coach, team disqualification. Referees should report all concerns regarding spectator and coach’s behavior to the EWSL Board. All yellow and red cards should be recorded with player number, name, team and coach name and handed in to the board.

**Yellow Card**

Play will be stopped on a (caution) yellow card and will be presented to a player or coach for the following

misconduct:

* Unsportsmanlike behavior
* Delay to start of play
* Failure to maintain distance on restart
* Dissent by words or action
* Entering field of play without referee’s permission

**Red Card**

• Delay to restart of play on second offense.  
• Deliberately leaving field without permission  
• A player receiving a yellow card must leave the field until the next opportunity to substitute

Red cards should be given only in extreme cases of unsportsmanlike conduct, continued disregard for the rules or threat of injury from continued play.

* Players and coaches who received a red card are disqualified from the game and must leave the playing area prior to restarting the game.
* Failure to comply will result in the suspension of play and the game will be forfeited by the offending team.
* A player receiving a red card must leave the field and **may not** be substituted.
* The offending team must play the remainder of the game short-handed.
* Violations include serious foul play, player deliberately handles the ball to prevent a goal, violent conduct, swearing or abusive language, spitting at an opponent or any other person and a second yellow card in the same game.
* Referees are instructed to notify the EWSL Board of the players and coaches receiving cards. Suspensions and cautions will be reviewed by the EWSL Board and may result in additional reprimands or disqualification if deemed appropriate.

Please note: yellow and red cards are not given at the U-8 division. Any unsportsmanlike behavior will be explained to the player and coach. The referee may ask to have the player substituted for unsportsmanlike behavior.

**Explaining the rules of the game to all players is beneficial to the growth and understanding of the player.**

**EWSL reserves the right to change, update or amend the rules of play.**