



Soccer



Grade 9

History & Nature of the Game

Association football, commonly known as football or soccer, is a team sport played between two teams of eleven players, and is widely considered to be the most popular sport in the world. It is a football variant played on a rectangular grass or artificial turf field, with a goal at each of the short ends. China and Rome are distant ancestors of the development of soccer. However, the modern game evolved in England following the formation of The Football Association, whose 1863 Laws of the Game created the foundations for the way the sport is played today. Football (soccer) is governed internationally by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (International Federation of Association Football), commonly known by the acronym FIFA. The most prestigious international soccer competition is the FIFA World Cup, held every four years. This event, the most widely viewed in the world, boasts an audience twice that of the Summer Olympic Games.

The object of the game is to score by putting the ball into the opposing goal. The team consists of a maximum of eleven players (excluding substitutes), one of whom must be the goalkeeper. Competition rules may state a minimum number of players required to constitute a team; this is usually seven. A number of players may be replaced by substitutes during the course of the game. Goalkeepers are the only players allowed to play the ball with their hands or arms, provided they do so within the penalty area in front of their own goal. The rest of the team uses their feet to kick the ball into position, occasionally using their torso or head to intercept a ball in midair. Though there are a variety of positions in which the outfield (non-goalkeeper) players are strategically placed by a coach, these positions are not defined or required by the Laws. Positions consist of defenders, midfielders and forwards.

Start of Game & Duration

To start the game, the referee will call a representative from each team (captains) to take a coin toss. The winner of the coin toss is allowed to pick the side he/she wishes to start on or ball possession. The game will be started by a player kicking a stationary ball at centre circle. A standard adult soccer match consists of two periods of 45 minutes each, known as halves. Each half runs continuously, meaning that the clock is not stopped when the ball is out of play. There is usually a 15-minute "half-time" break between halves. The end of the match is known as full-time. The referee is the official timekeeper for the match, and may make an allowance for time lost through substitutions, injured players requiring attention, or other stoppages. This added time is commonly referred to as *stoppage time* or *injury time*, and is at the sole discretion of the referee. The referee alone signals the end of the match. The team that scores the most goals by the end of the match wins. If the score is tied at the end of the game, either a draw is declared or the game goes into extra time and/or a penalty shootout, depending on the format of the competition.

Equipment

The basic equipment or *kit* players are required to wear includes a shirt, shorts, socks, footwear and shin guards. Headgear is not a required piece of basic equipment, but players today may choose to wear it to protect themselves from head injury. Players are forbidden to wear or use anything that is dangerous to themselves or another player, such as jewellery or watches. The goalkeeper must wear clothing that is easily distinguishable from that worn by the other players and the match officials.



General Rules & Terminology

Ball in and Out of Play: the ball is out of play when it has fully crossed the goal-line (score a goal) or side-line on ground or in air. The ball is in play if rebounds from crossbar, goal posts, corner flags or referee.

Off -sides: A player is off-side if he/she is closer to their opponent's goal-line than the ball at the moment the ball is kicked forward, unless:

- a) he/she is in their own half of the field
- b) player is closer to the goal line after the ball has been kicked
- c) he/she receives the ball directly from a goal-kick, corner kick, throw in or dopped into play by the referee.

Kick-off: following a goal by the opposing team, or to begin each period of play.

Throw-in: when the ball has completely crossed the touchline; awarded to opposing team to that which last touched the ball. Both feet must be touching the floor and the ball must be thrown directly behind the head.

Goal kick: when the ball has gone out of bounds near the goal without a goal having been scored and having last been touched by an *attacker*; awarded to defending team. The ball is placed inside the 6 yard box and kicked into the field.

Corner kick: when the ball has gone out of bounds near the goal without a goal having been scored and having last been touched by a *defender*; awarded to attacking team. The ball is placed beside the corner flag.

Dropped-ball: occurs when the referee has stopped play for any other reason, such as a serious injury to a player, interference by an external party, or a ball becoming defective.

Referee: keeps record of the game, acts as the time keeper, enforces rules, cautions or suspends players who persistently infringe on laws, can suspend the game for infringement of the rules, weather or other sufficient cause.

Assistant Referees (linesmen): indicates when the ball is out of play, calls off-sides, assists referee when awarding corner kicks or goal kicks.

Fouls and Misconducts

A foul occurs when a player commits an offence listed in the Laws of the Game while the ball is in play. Handling the ball deliberately, tripping an opponent, or pushing an opponent, are examples of "penal fouls", punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick depending on where the offence occurred. Other fouls are punishable by an indirect free kick. When a "free-kick" is taken the ball must be stationary, at the spot where the offense was committed. Opposing players must stand 10 yards (9.15m) away from the ball.

The referee may punish a player or substitute's misconduct by a caution (yellow card) or sending-off (red card). A second yellow card at the same game leads to a red card, and therefore to a sending-off. If a player has been sent-off, no substitute can be brought on in their place. Misconduct may occur at any time, and while the offences that constitute misconduct are listed, the definitions are broad. In particular, the offence of "unsporting behaviour" may be used to deal with most events that violate the spirit of the game, even if they are not listed as specific offences. A referee can show a yellow or red card to a player, substitute or substituted player. Non-players such as managers and support staff cannot be shown the yellow or red card, but may be expelled from the technical area if they fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Rather than stopping play, the referee may allow play to continue if doing so will benefit the team against which an offence has been committed. This is known as "playing an advantage". The referee may "call back" play and penalise the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue within a short period, typically taken to be four to five seconds. Even if an offence is not penalised due to advantage being played, the offender may still be sanctioned for misconduct at the next stoppage of play.

Indirect free kick: awarded to the opposing team following "non-penal" fouls, certain technical infringements, or when play is stopped to caution or send-off an opponent without a specific foul having occurred. A goal may not be scored directly from an indirect free kick. A minimum of two players must touch the ball.

Direct free kick: awarded to fouled team following certain listed "penal" fouls. Only one player is required to touch the ball to score a goal.

Penalty kick: awarded to the fouled team following a foul usually punishable by a direct free kick but that has occurred within their opponent's penalty area.. The penalty shot is taken approximately 6 yards (18 feet) from the goal line.

Soccer Pitch

