

Rules and Regulations

Participation: Every able-bodied player on the roster present at the game **must play at least one half of each league game.** All players must be registered with the Toledo Leprechauns.

Coaches: Each team is required to register a coach with the Toledo Leprechauns. Coaches will be required to attend coaches' meetings. These will be announced when deemed necessary. Coaches must stay off the playing field, unless an injury occurs.

Spectators: Spectators and fans are expected to stay on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players except division 1 and 2. Spectators are encouraged to cheer for the players. However, no coaching will be allowed from the spectator side of the field, or behind the goals.

Misconduct of Players/ Coaches:

- a) A player or coach shall be cautioned for:
 1. Persistently infringing upon any of decisions given by the official (dissent).
 2. Coaching outside the designated coaching area.
 3. Using coaching aids in excess.
 4. Div 1 coaches are allowed on the field.
- b) A player or coach shall be disqualified for:
 1. Persistent misconduct or for a second caution.
 2. Violent conduct, foul or abusive language, or spitting at other persons.
- c) A coach who is disqualified shall leave the vicinity of the playing area and is prohibited from any further contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of the game.
- d) Unsportsmanlike acts by bench personnel.

Substitutions: Substitutions shall be unlimited with the consent of the referee at the following times:

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| -After a goal | -Between periods |
| -Goal kicks | -After an injury |
| -Your own throw-in | -Or when the referee allows during a stoppage of play. ie. For an injury. |

Substitutions can also be made for a player who receives a Yellow Card (1 for 1). The opponent can also substitute one player at this time.

Equipment:

- a) Ball: The size 3 ball will be used for Division 1 &2. The size 4 ball will be used for Divisions 3 and 4. The size 5 ball will be used for Divisions 5.
- b) Shoes: Tennis shoes or shoes with molded and soft toe are permitted.
- c) Shin Guards: Are mandatory and must be covered by socks.
- d) No pants with zippers will be allowed. No belts on pants. Shorts must be worn unless the temperature falls below 65 degrees Fahrenheit.
- e) Jewelry may not be worn. (pierced ears are allowed if taped).
- f) Uniforms: Teams will wear the Toledo Leprechauns t-shirt. The home team, which is listed first on the schedule, will wear white. The visiting team will wear green. No players allowed without appropriate uniform, no exceptions.

Officials:

- a) The referee will have jurisdiction from the time he/she signals the start of play until he/she signals the end of the game. His/her decisions are final. There is no formula for protesting an official's decision.
- b) The referee can suspend or terminate a game when he/she deems such to be necessary. The referee can stop a match when or because of flagrant abuse by a coach or spectator. The referee with agreement from the Field Co-Ordinator can cancel a game or shorten periods either at the beginning of the game or at half-time due to weather conditions. It is a complete game if one half has been played.

Forfeiture:

- a) If a team fails to put in an appearance within 10 minutes after the scheduled kick-off, or fails to notify the other team of the delay, the game is a forfeit. The score of all forfeited games is 1-0.
- b) If one team does not have enough players to begin the game and is, therefore, forced to forfeit, a scrimmage game may be played. The scrimmage game may NOT go past the next scheduled playing time. The referee will decide the length of the games in this case.

Duration of Games: These are the following lengths of games per age group:

<u>Divison</u>	<u>Playing Format</u>	<u>Time</u>
5	8 v 8 w/keeper=9	2 x 20 minute halves
4	8 v 8 w/keeper=9	2 x 20 minute halves
3	8 v 8 w/keeper=8	2 x 20 minute halves
2	5 v 5 w/out keeper	4 x 10 minute quarters
1	5 v 5 w/out keeper	4 x 10 minute quarters

Start of Play:

- a) The start of play at the beginning of each period and after a goal shall proceed with a kick off.
- b) Home team starts the kick off first half and will select their goal while away team begins with kicks off the second half.
- c) On the kick off, the ball must travel into the opponent's half of the field the distance of its own circumference before it is in play.
- d) The kick off is an indirect free kick and thus a goal cannot be scored directly from a kick off.
- e) After a temporary suspension of play, the referee shall restart the game by a drop ball where the ball was last in play. A drop ball must hit the ground before it can be played. If play was stopped in the penalty area, the game should be restarted with a drop ball at that point of the penalty area.

Ball In and Out of Play:

- a) The ball is out of bounds when it crosses the goal or sidelines in its entirety, either in the air or on the ground.
- b) If the ball goes across the goal line, outside the goal posts, and was last touched by a member of the attacking team, a goal kick is awarded.
- c) If the ball goes across the goal line, outside the goal posts, and was last touched by a member of the defending team, a corner kick is awarded.
- d) The ball is not out of play when it touches a referee or linesman when they are in the field of play nor if the ball rebounds off of a goal post or crossbar.

Method of Scoring:

- a) A goal is scored when the whole of the ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided it was not carried, thrown, or propelled by the arm or hand of an attacking team member.
- b) If a defending player deliberately deflects the ball with hands or arms and the ball goes in the goal, a goal is scored. If the ball does not go in, a penalty kick is awarded to the attacking team.

Offsides: (only for divisions 3, 4 and 5)

A player is offside if he/she is nearer his/her opponent's goal line than the ball at the moment the ball is played **UNLESS:**

- a) He/she is in his own half of the field of play;
- b) There are two defenders nearer to the goal line than he/she;
- c) The ball last touched an opponent or was kick by an opponent;
- d) He/she received the ball direct from a goal kick, corner kick, a throw-in or when it was dropped by the referee.

For an infringement of this law, the opposing team shall take an indirect free kick from the place where the infringement occurred. A player in an offside position shall not be penalized unless, in the opinion of the referee, the player is interfering with the play or with an opponent, or is seeking to gain an advantage by being in an offside position.

Fouls and Misconduct:

- a) Intentional fouls and misconduct are penalized by awarding free kicks to the opponents and or banishing the guilty player.
- b) Depending on the nature of the foul, either a direct or indirect free kick is awarded. (See FREE Kicks)
- c) If an intentional personal foul or hand ball occurs in the offending team's penalty area, a penalty kick is awarded. (See PENALTY KICKS)
- d) Any player who intentionally charges the goal keeper shall be suspended from further play in the game.

Free Kicks:

- a) Free kicks shall be classified in two ways:
Direct: From which a goal can be scored directly against the offending side.
Indirect: From which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball has been played or touched by a player on either team other than the one kicker before passing through the goal.
- b) All free kicks may be kicked in any direction from the point where the infraction occurred, except on a penalty kick which must be taken from the penalty spot and kicked forward.
- c) Direct free kick offenses are:
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| *handling the ball | *holding an opponent |
| *pushing an opponent | *striking or attempting to strike an opponent |
| *jumping at an opponent | *tripping an opponent |
| *kicking or attempting to kick an opponent | *using the knee on an opponent |
| *charging an opponent | *handling by the goal keeper outside the penalty area |
| *charging an opponent from behind | |
- d) All direct free kicks awarded to the attacking team in the defending team's penalty area are penalty kicks.
- e) Indirect free kick offenses are:
- Playing the ball a second time before it has been played by another player at the kick off, a throw in, a free kick, a corner kick, or a goal kick.
 - Ball not kicked forward from a penalty kick.
 - Carrying the ball by the goalkeeper more than four steps with or without bouncing the ball on the ground.
 - A substitution or re-substitution being made without reporting to the referee.
 - Persons other than players and linesmen entering the field of play without the referee's permission.
 - Illegal coaching from the side or end lines after a warning by the referee.
 - Dissenting by word or action.
 - Dangerous play.
 - Playing offsides.
 - Interfering with the goalie or impeding in any manner until the goalie clears the ball.
 - Obstruction other than holding.
- f) Opponents must be at least 10 yards away from the ball when the ball is put into play. If this rule is violated, the free kick is retaken.
- g) If the point of infringement is closer to the goal line than these distances, the opponents must be on the goal line between the goal posts.

- h) The ball must be stationary on the ground, must travel the distance of the circumference before being played, and the kicker shall not play the ball a second time before the ball is touched by another player.
- i) On free kicks taken within its penalty area by the defending team, the ball must travel outside the penalty area; all opponents must be out the penalty area and at least 10 yards away from the ball.

Penalty Kicks:

- a) A penalty kick is awarded to the opponent if the defending team commits a personal foul or hand ball deliberately within the its penalty area. The foul must be deliberate.
- b) The penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark, which is 12 yards from the center of the goal.
- c) All players except for the goalie and the kicker must be outside of the penalty area.
- d) A goal can be scored directly on a penalty kick. The goalie must stand with both feet touching the goal line and must not move until the ball is kicked.
- e) The ball must be kicked forward: the kicker cannot play the ball again until it has been played by another player (including the goalie) and must travel the distance of its circumference before it is in play.
- f) If the kicker violates the rule, an indirect free kick is awarded to the defending team.
- g) If the attacking team violates the rule while a penalty kick is taken and a goal results, the goal shall be disallowed and the penalty kick shall not be taken over.
- h) If the defending team violates the rule while a penalty kick is taken and a goal results, the penalty kick shall be retaken unless the goal is successful.
- i) Time in a period will be extended for a penalty kick.
- j) There will be no penalty kicks in Division 1 and 2.

Throw Ins:

- a) A throw in is awarded if the ball completely passes over the sideline, either on the ground or in the air, from the point where it crossed the line.
- b) The ball is thrown in by a player of the team opposite to that if the player who last played or touched the ball.
- c) The thrower must face the field and part of each foot must be on the ground, or behind the sideline at the time the throw is taken. The ball must be thrown with both hands and must be delivered over the head. If the ball is improperly thrown in, the opposing team shall take the throw.
- d) On the throw in, the ball is immediately in play, but the thrower shall not play the ball a second time before the ball is touched by another player. A goal cannot be directly scored on a throw in.

Goal Kick:

- a) When the ball crosses the goal line, outside the goal posts, and was last touched by a member of the defending team, a corner kick is awarded to the attacking team. The kick must be taken within the quarter circle at the nearest corner.
- b) A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
- c) Players from the defending team shall not approach within 10 yards of the corner kick until the ball is in play.

In Division 1 and 2 With out a goal keeper:

- a) A player may not be put in front of the goal net as a goal keeper, but must maintain a 1 yard distance.