

# **Enid Soccer Club Playing Rules**

**Revised and amended August, 2025**

## **1. Foundation**

1.1. Enid Soccer Club (ESC) games are played and officiated according to FIFA Laws of the Game and rules of the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA).

1.2. Exceptions for specific age groups are described in this document.

1.3. Each game card lists home and away teams. The away team calls the coin toss.

## **2. Heading and Concussions**

2.1. Deliberate heading of the ball is not allowed in U5-U12 recreational games. Competitive teams can begin heading the ball at U12.

2.2. The opposing team shall be awarded an indirect kick from the spot of the deliberate heading.

2.3. When a goal area is present, and deliberate heading occurs within it, the indirect kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.

2.4. Any coach or parent, in any division or age group, insisting on returning a potentially concussed player to a game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game.

2.5. Heading is allowed in U13 and older divisions without limitations for recreational leagues.

## **3. Punting**

3.1. Drop kicks or punting by a goalkeeper is not allowed in U9-U10 games.

3.2. The opposing team shall be awarded an indirect kick from the spot of the punt.

3.3. If a punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect kick shall be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.

3.4. Punting is allowed in U12 and older divisions (U11-U19) without limitations.

## **4. Build-Out**

4.1. All U9-U10 game fields shall include a build-out line.

4.2. Build-out lines shall be between the half line and each penalty area.

4.3. The build-out line related rules apply only to the U9-U10 division.

4.4. When a goalkeeper has secured the ball, or a goal kick is taken, opposing players may not cross the build-out line until a teammate of the defending goalkeeper has played the ball.

4.5. The build-out line is used to denote where offside offenses may be called.

4.6. Players may only be penalized for an offside offense between the build-out line and goal line.

## 5. Facility

5.1. Coaches and players for both teams shall occupy the same side of the field.

5.2. Spectators for both teams shall occupy the opposite side.

5.3. The seating for each game field is shown on the published ESC field map.

## 6. Local Recreational

6.1. Conform to FIFA Laws of the Game except as noted below.

6.1.1. Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage of play and are unlimited.

6.1.2. Soft-cleated soccer shoes or tennis shoes. No toe cleats.

6.1.3. Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions. However, uniforms must distinguish teams. A player's jersey shall be the top most layer of clothing.

6.1.4. There shall be a halftime break of 5-10 minutes.

6.1.5. All kickoffs are allowed to score.

6.1.6. For age groups without a goalkeeper, defending players are allowed to stand in front of or in the goal. However, deliberate handling of the ball is not allowed.

## 7. Overview of Recreational Divisions

	U5-U6	U7-U8	U9-U10	U11-U12	U13-U19	Adult
Duration	4 x 8 min	4 x 10 min	2 x 25 min	2 x 30 min	2 x 30 min	2x30
Ball	3	3	4	4	5	5
Sides	4v4	4v4	7v7	9v9	Varies	7's/11's
Goalkeeper	No	No	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes
Build-out	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Heading	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Offside	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No/Yes
Punting	No GK	No GK	No	Yes	Varies	No/Yes
Referees	0-1	1	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3
Standings	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kickoff Goal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Penalty Kicks	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## 8. Exceptions

8.1. The specific and detailed exceptions, for each age group, are as noted.

8.2. These exceptions are complimentary to all other sections of this document.

### 8.3. U5-U6 Recreational

8.3.1. Specific rules for heading (not allowed).

8.3.2. If an assigned referee is not present, one coach from each team shall act as an official.

8.3.3. Regardless of assigned referee, coaches are discouraged from entering the playing area.

8.3.4. Field has no penalty area, penalty arc, goal area (some do & some don't), or penalty mark.

8.3.5. All rule infractions shall be explained to the offending player.

8.3.6. All free kicks are indirect with opponents 4 yards away.

8.3.7. Throw-ins are allowed but not required. A kick-in may be substituted.

8.3.8. An improperly performed throw-in may be retaken. If available, a game official shall explain the proper method before allowing another attempt.

8.3.9. A kick-in is an indirect free kick from the touchline.

8.3.10. The goal kick is taken within 3 yards of the goal line, anywhere across the width of the field at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved.

8.3.11. Opponents must remain at least 4 yards away from the ball until it is in play.

### 8.4. U7-U8 Recreational

8.4.1. Specific rules for heading (not allowed).

8.4.2. Field has no penalty area, penalty arc, or penalty mark.

8.4.3. All free kicks are indirect with opponents 4 yards away.

8.4.4. An improperly performed throw-in may be retaken once. The referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the second attempt.

8.4.5. The goal kick is taken within 3 yards of the goal line, anywhere across the width of the field at the nearest point from where the ball was retrieved.

8.4.6. Opponents must remain at least 4 yards away from the ball until it is in play.

8.4.7. If a defender is standing in the goal and deliberately blocks a goal scoring shot by using his hands the other team will get a penalty kick from the center circle arch nearest their goal with no defender blocking the kick. If missed the defending team gets a goal kick.

#### **8.5. U9-U10 Recreational**

8.5.1. Specific rules for heading (not allowed), punting (not allowed), and build-out lines.

8.5.2. Opponents must remain at least 8 yards away from the ball until it is in play.

#### **8.6. U11-U12 Recreational**

8.6.1. Heading is not allowed.

8.6.2. Opponents must remain at least 8 yards away from the ball until it is in play.

#### **8.7. U13-U19.**

8.7.1. The ESC staff reserve the right to create a format, rule set, and exceptions that best suites the number of U13-U19 players registered in any given season.

8.7.2. Exceptions shall be made to the format and rules at the discretion of the ESC staff. The details shall be made available to coaches of U13-U19 teams.

#### **8.8. Adult League (18 & older)**

8.8.1. The ESC staff reserve the right to create a format, rule set, and exceptions that best suites the number of adult players registered in any given season. Leagues could be 7v7 or 11v11, coed, male or female divisions.

8.8.2. Exceptions shall be made to the format and rules at the discretion of the ESC staff. The details shall be made available to players and coaches of adult teams.

8.8.3. 16 & 17 year olds can join with a parent written permission.

## **9. Cautions, Ejections, and Suspension.**

9.1. The referee shall report all cautions and ejections on the Official Game roster and forward these to the ESC Director. Referees will record the player # and name of any ejected player. The ESC Director shall maintain a record of all ejected players. He/she shall keep an updated list of all cautions and ejections received and present them to the ESC member delegate and Vice President.

9.2. Two (2) YELLOW CARDS for any reason in the SAME GAME (and therefore shown a RED card and sent off) or a STRAIGHT RED CARD will result in immediate player ejection from the game in which the player cannot return. A player receiving two (2) RED CARDS in one season shall sit out two (2) games of the same level of competition. A player receiving more than two (2) RED CARDS in a season shall be reviewed by the ESC Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action. A RED CARD for FIGHTING shall be an automatic three (3) game suspension and be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee for further sanctions. The merit and punishment for "VIOLENT CONDUCT" shall be decided by the ESC Disciplinary Committee. Any protest of a RED CARD will have to follow the protest guidelines of the Oklahoma Soccer Association. Punitive action may be altered or revised on a case-by-case basis by the ESC Disciplinary Committee following the review process of YELLOW and/or RED CARD issuance.

9.3. Any coach receiving a RED CARD will be reviewed by the ESC Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action. Note: As per FIFA/U.S. Soccer rules, judgment calls by the referees are not subject to appeal. If a player is suspended for conduct and there are fewer ESC scheduled matches remaining in the season than the total of his/her suspension, said suspension shall be carried over into the following season.

9.4. Any player receiving a RED CARD during a match cannot be replaced and the team shall continue to play with one fewer players.

9.5. After review by the ESC Disciplinary Committee, any player receiving a total of three (3) YELLOW CARDS within each division that he/she plays during one season may be required to sit out the following ESC scheduled game. This applies only to the season being played.

9.6. If a player receives a YELLOW CARD followed by a RED CARD in the same match and sits out the following ESC scheduled match, said YELLOW CARD will not count as one of three (3) YELLOW CARDS received. However, all previous and subsequent single YELLOW CARDS will count. As in the case with RED CARDS, if the player's team forfeits the next ESC scheduled match or if same is not played for any reason, the suspension is valid for the next ESC scheduled match, even though it is carried over into the following season.

## **10. Amendment to Playing Rules**

10.1. The rules may be amended, repealed, or revised by a majority vote of the ESC board of directors at any meeting provided the amendment or revision upholds the standards and best interests of Enid Soccer Club and Oklahoma Soccer Association.