



**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
RECREATION & WELLNESS – INTRAMURAL SPORTS
8v8 SOCCER**

(Rules not covered are governed by NFHS rules)

GENERAL POLICY

- For any questions or concerns regarding any of the following policies and rules please contact our Sports Programs office at (813) 974-4449 or rec-imsports@usf.edu or stop by our office from Monday – Friday 11am-3pm.
- All participants must check in with a Sports Programs supervisor with either their USF ID card or state-issued ID. The USF ID or state issued ID must have a clear name, picture, and legible U# for the USF ID. No other forms of identification may be used to check in.
- All officially enrolled students and Faculty and Staff members with an active Recreation and Wellness membership at the University of South Florida are eligible to play. For further eligibility guidelines please reference the IM Handbook, found on the USF Recreation and Wellness website.
- **Game time is forfeit time.** Teams should be ready to play at the scheduled game time. It is beneficial to have your team arrive 15-20 minutes early to ensure that games start on time and that forfeits be avoided.
- Players may play on 1 single-gendered team and 1 co-rec team per sport. In co-rec sports, the participant must play as the gender identified on Fusion. Fusion information is updated daily from the Registrar's office. Students wishing to change their gender in our system will need to formally update their gender with the Registrar. Students seeking to do this can email asktheregistrar@usf.edu to request more information related to this process.
- Players can join teams at any point during the regular season and playoffs.
 - Players can only switch teams once during the regular season, given they **have not played** a game for the team they are switching from.
 - This means they can only switch to another team and cannot switch back to their original team.
 - Switching teams can only be done during normal office hours (11AM – 3PM) in our Sports Programs Office located in the Recreation and Wellness Center.
 - Any player that **has checked in** for an intramural team cannot switch to another team after they have played.
- Players cannot switch teams after their team has been eliminated in playoffs.
- If a player is attempting to play for multiple teams in the same league, they are ineligible.
- Teams must all wear the same color jersey. Pennies will not be provided. All teams are required to bring one alternate color in case both teams show up wearing the same color. Shirts must be worn at all times.

- Jewelry is not allowed. Any player who enters the game with jewelry will be forced to leave the game.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- Sportsmanship ratings will be given at the conclusion of each game and will be based on the behavior of players, coaches, and spectators. Actions before, during, and after contests will be taken into consideration in sportsmanship ratings.
- Sportsmanship is rated on a 1-6 scale (details of each can be found in the IM handbook).
- Players, spectators, and coaches are held to a standard of good sportsmanship. If anyone does not adhere to that standard, they can be removed from a contest by any Sports Programs employee.
- Abusive or insulting language, acts of unfair play, and managers, coaches, or substitutes on the field of play will result in suspension and/or removal from the playing area.
- If a player is ejected from a contest, they are immediately ineligible to play in all other contests until they have met with the Sports Programs Coordinator and their reinstatement date is set.

PLAYERS AND ATTIRE

- Each team will consist of eight players, including the goalkeeper. A team must have six players to start a game, no exceptions. Teams having less than six players are subject to forfeiture of the game.
- Each team shall designate a captain. The captain will act as the spokesperson for the team and make all decisions. Team representatives, including players, spectators, team managers, coaches, score keepers, and group members are subject to these rules.
- Teams must all wear the same color jersey with the exception of the goalkeeper. Pennies will not be provided. All teams are required to bring one alternate color in case both teams show up wearing the same color. Shirts/jerseys must be worn at all times.
- Jewelry is not allowed. All jewelry must be removed before playing, no exceptions. Any player who enters the game with jewelry will be forced to leave the game and the opposing team will receive an indirect kick from where the ball is at the time of stoppage for removal.
- Team captains are responsible for verifying the eligibility of all players on their team, including knowing who is suspended. Refer to the IM Handbook for more information.

SPORT CLUB PARTICIPANTS

- For sports with more than 4 players, only 3 sport club participants may be on the same team in the same sport. For sports with 4 players or less, only 2 sport club participants may be on the same team in the same sport. A sport club participant is defined as a student who has appeared on a home or away match roster within the past 365 days from the day of the intramural game. A team is allowed to have only 2 or 3 total club members, regardless of gender, depending on the size of the sport. This rule only applies for sport club members whose sport is the same or in close relation to the intramural sport being offered (I.e. volleyball club(s) for volleyball intramural or soccer club(s) for 6v6/8v8 soccer)

GAME, FIELD, AND EQUIPMENT

- The use of dangerous equipment is prohibited. Shoes must be worn – basketball, tennis, soccer style or comparable shoes. No open-toed shoes, sandals, or slippers. Cleated shoes must conform to NFHS standards. No metal cleats are allowed. All exposed metal on knee braces must be covered. No ball caps/hats are allowed. Shin guards are optional but recommended.

INITIAL POSSESSION, LENGTH OF GAME, AND TIME CONSTRAINTS

- All games will be two 25-minutes halves with no time outs. The clock runs continuously except in the case of severe injuries. Time between halves is three minutes.

OVERTIME (for Playoffs ONLY!)

- If a game ends in a tie, a one 5-minute running clock sudden death period shall be played. A coin toss will determine possession for the overtime kick-off.
- If the game is still tied after the sudden death period, a shoot-out will occur:
 - Each team will select 5 players (on or off the field) to take the kicks.

- The goalkeeper is allowed to move side to side ONLY before the kick.
 - The goalkeeper cannot be changed right before the kick.
- Co-Rec: Must alternate male/female kickers.
- The team scoring the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.
- If the game is STILL tied after the first shootout:
 - Each team will select 5 DIFFERENT players than the first five who already have kicked.
 - This will be a sudden-victory situation, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game ends without more kicks being taken.
 - Co-Rec: Must alternate male/female kickers.
 - If, after 5 kicks, each team scores the same number of penalty kicks, the same players shall again alternate penalty kicks, in the same order, until the tie is broken by one team scoring when the other fails to score.

SUBSTITUTIONS AND TIEBREAKERS

Substitutions may be made by either team under the following conditions:

- On a goal kick
- On a throw-in or corner kick by your team, or when the opposite team subs on a throw-in or corner kick
- After a goal has been scored by either team
- At halftime
- In the event of an injury, after the official has stopped play
- When a player has been cautioned

Substitutions may not be made on the run. They are only allowed on these above conditions and a referee must be notified of the substitution. Failure to do so will result in a yellow card for the player breaking the rule.

If the score is tied at the end of play, teams shall change ends and one 5-minute sudden death overtime period will be played. If neither team scores during the overtime period, the winner will be decided by a series of penalty kicks. Each team will receive 5 penalty kicks, to be taken by 5 different players. Teams will alternate kicks, with the winner of a coin toss choosing to kick first or second. If, after 5 kicks, each team scores the same number of penalty kicks, the same players shall again alternate penalty kicks, in the same order, until the tie is broken by one team scoring when the other fails to score. A player does not need to be in the game at the end of the overtime to participate in the penalty kick shootout.

DEFINITION OF PLAYING TERMS

Rules not specifically covered can be found in the NFHS soccer rule book.

Corner Kick: A kick made by the attacking team from the corner. (It is a direct kick)

Direct Kick: May be kicked in any direction and a goal can be scored without the ball being touched by another player after it has been kicked initially.

Indirect Kick: May be kicked in any direction and a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by another player before it enters the goal.

Goal Kick: Kick made by the defending team from the goal area. May be kicked in any direction but must leave the penalty area before it is touched by another player of either team.

Kick Off: A direct kick used to put the ball in play from the center circle at the beginning of each half and after each score. The ball must go forward at least 27 inches and must be touched by another player before the kicker can play the ball again. The opposing team must be outside the kickoff circle prior to the initial pass.

Penalty Kick: Is taken from the penalty kick mark 12 yards from the front of the goal. The goalkeeper must not break the plane of the goal line until the kick is taken. If the goalkeeper moves prior to the kick, a re-kick will be issued if a goal was not made. The penalty taker may be changed if a re-kick is awarded.

Drop Ball: The ball is put into play by the referee, by being dropped between two opponents. The ball becomes live when it touches the ground. This takes place when two opponents cause the ball to go out-of-bounds simultaneously, or two (2) fouls are committed simultaneously, or to resume play after stopping for an injury. There will be no drop balls in the penalty area. The ball will be dropped at the nearest point outside the penalty area in the field of play.

Throw-in: The thrower, at the moment of delivering the ball, must face the field of play and part of each foot shall be either on the sideline or the ground outside the sideline. The thrower shall use both hands equally and shall deliver the ball completely from behind and over his/her head. A goal may not be scored directly from a throw-in. If the ball is improperly thrown-in, a player of the opposing team shall take the throw-in. The thrower may not play the ball a second time before it has been touched or played by another player. **(Penalty: Indirect Free Kick)**

BALL IN PLAY, DEAD BALL, OUT OF BOUNDS

- On all free kicks the opponent must be at least 10 yards from the ball. Players will be given yellow cards if they fail to do so after a verbal warning from the referee.
- If the ball goes out-of-bounds on the sidelines the team that did not touch the ball last, puts the ball into play by a throw-in from the spot where the ball went out.
- If the ball goes out-of-bounds on the end of the field and the attacking team touches it last, it is a goal kick.
- If the ball goes out-of-bounds on the end of the field and the defending team touches it last, it is a corner kick.
- The lines are considered in-bounds, and **the ball must pass completely over a line be out-of-bounds or a goal.**

No offside rules shall be enforced.

SLIDE TACKLING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

DIRECT KICK VIOLATIONS

If any of the fouls below are committed outside the penalty area by either team, a direct kick is awarded to the opponents at the spot of the foul. If the defensive team, inside their own penalty area, commits any of the following fouls, a penalty kick is awarded to the offensive team.

- Kicks, strikes, attempt to strike or kick
- Trips an opponent
- Use of arms or hands on the ball intentionally
- Charges on an opponent dangerously or from the rear
- Holding or pushing
- Charging the goalkeeper
- Goalie use of hands or carrying the ball outside the penalty area
- Using foul or abusive language or spitting on other people
- **ANY SLIDE TACKLE (automatic blue card for sliding)**

INDIRECT KICK VIOLATIONS

The following fouls are penalized by an indirect kick. No goal may be scored unless the ball is touched or played by another player after the kick is made.

- Goalkeeper handling the ball for more than six (6) seconds with hands
- Dangerous play
- Kicking the ball being held by the goalkeeper
- Obstruction
- Improper substitution
- Unsportsmanlike conduct or misconduct other than foul or abusive language or spitting
- The goalkeeper handling a ball that is thrown into them or kicked to them by their own teammate. (A goalkeeper may handle a ball that is played off the head of their teammate when it is headed back to them).

SCORING GOALS

All goals are worth one (1).

Mercy Rule: If a team is ahead by 8 goals after the first half is completed, 6 goals with ten minutes remaining in the game, or 5 goals with five minutes remaining in the game, the game will be over.

SPORTSMANSHIP, CARDS, & EJECTIONS

Abusive or insulting language, acts of unfair play, and managers, coaches, or substitutes on the field of play will result in suspension.

Team conduct will be registered, by the officials, following the game, on a 0 to 6 scale. If your team does not have an average of 4 on their team conduct, at the end of the regular season, they will not be allowed to play in the season ending all campus tournaments.

Yellow cards and red cards will be given to players for fouls that are stated in the Direct Kick Violations section. The degree of the foul will be determined by the referee. It is in his/her judgment to hand out a yellow or red card based on the severity of the foul. Blue cards will be given to players for slide tackling. Blue cards have the same weight as yellow cards.

If a player is ejected, they cannot return to the game and they cannot be substituted for.

Two yellow cards or one red card in a game constitutes an ejection. If a team receives four yellows, or 2 yellows and a red, the game will end immediately and will result in a forfeit. Prior

to being able to play again in a game, it will be required of the ejected player to visit the Intramural Coordinator for reinstatement. **Slide tackles from behind, will not be tolerated, and will constitute in an automatic red card and ejection.**

2 blue cards/player = disqualification
game

1 blue card + 1 yellow card/player = ejection
end of game

1 red card/player = ejection

2 yellow cards = 1 red card = ejection

4 yellow cards/team = end of

2 yellow cards + 1 red card =

2 red cards = end of game

CO-REC SOCCER STIPULATIONS

A regulation team consists of 8 players (one of which is the goalkeeper). A team may play with a minimum of 6 players. The possible combinations are 4m/4w, 3m/4w, 4m/3w, 3m/3w.

Penalty kicks must be taken by the same gender as the person fouled.

During a shoot-out, each goal is worth one regardless of which gender is shooting. The shooters must alternate genders.

Mercy Rule: If a team is ahead by 8 goals after the first half is completed, 6 goals with ten minutes remaining in the game, or 5 goals with five minutes remaining in the game, the game will be over.

PLAYOFFS

At the conclusion of the regular season of all sports will be a playoff tournament. For a team to be eligible for playoffs they must have averaged a sportsmanship rating of 4 or better during the regular season, have no regular season forfeits, and have won at least one game during the regular season.

- If a team's sportsmanship rating drops below a 4 in the playoffs, they will be forfeited out of playoffs and their opponent will move on if their sportsmanship rating is at or above a 4.
- If games are cancelled by Sports Programs Administration, the win requirement will be waived for all affected teams.
- Roster edits may be made during any point of playoffs.
 - Participants from teams who have been knocked out of playoffs may not join rosters of teams currently participating in playoffs.
- During playoffs, your team may play on dates and times not consistent with your regular season schedule. It is the responsibility of the captain to notify team members when playoff games are.

- Due to the nature of playoffs, games are unable to be rescheduled to accommodate team availability.
- Games may be rescheduled if teams are playing in multiple playoff games for different sports at the same time. Captains will be responsible for contacting the sports programs office if a conflict occurs. Changes may not be made without more than 24 hours notice. For this change to occur, more than half of the roster must be playing on both teams with conflicts.
- Games will be rescheduled for weather cancellations.
- All communication about reschedules, inclement weather, and updates will be sent via email to the team captains.
- Winners of each division will receive a maximum of 12 Intramural Champion T-shirts.