

# ***7-A-SIDE SOCCER LAWS***

Introduction:

Each year FIFA publishes its annual edition of soccer rules that are obeyed by all adept at the round ball sport.

However, FIFA's rules and regulations are not adapted for the needs of the younger soccer community. Therefore, the Fédération Québécoise de Soccer Football (FQSF) has responded by producing a set of rules and regulations especially suited to meet the needs of younger players thus allowing them to progress according to their size and capabilities. A smaller field, a smaller ball, and a lesser number of players on the field allow them to fully appreciate and enjoy the game.

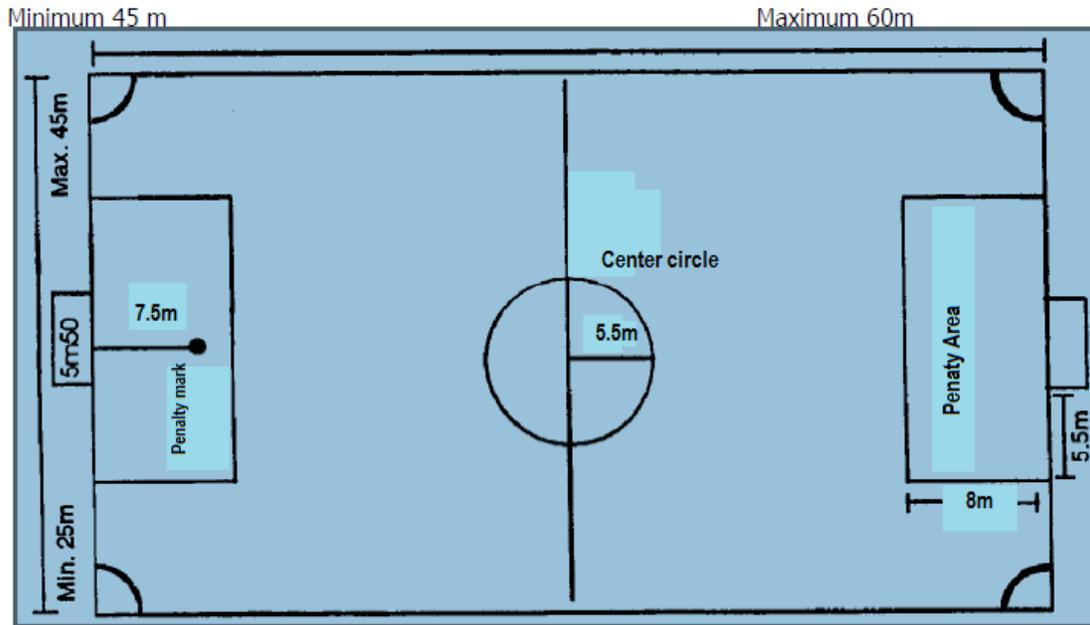
7 A-Side soccer allows the young player to have fun while learning the basic rules of the game. At this particular level, the referees' role differs greatly from one of an older age group. We therefore remind the officials that their intervention must be primarily of an educational nature, thus imposing penalties in extreme cases only.

Let's make 7 A-Side soccer what it should be. We must realize that the objective is to allow children to have as much fun as possible while kicking the ball around. Having adapted soccer for children, we must not impose adult rules. So let them play and dismiss who wins or loses.

**In 7-A-Side soccer, knowing all 17 FIFA Laws of the game of regular soccer is a must, they are very similar.**

**Only Laws 1-2-3-6-7-8-11-13-14-15-16-17 have slight modifications:**

# Law 1 - FIELD OF PLAY



## 1.1. DIMENSIONS

The playing field is of rectangular shape with a maximum length of 60 meters and a minimum of 45 meters.

The width of the playing field cannot exceed 45 meters and must be a minimum of 25 meters.

The length of the playing field must always exceed the width.

## 1.2. PENALTY AREA

There is no Goal Area.

Within each penalty area, a penalty mark is made 7.5 m (8 yds.) from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

## 1.3. GOALS

On the center of each goal line, a goal must be placed consisting of two upright posts equidistant from the corner flags and 5.5 meters apart (inside measurements), joined by a horizontal crossbar, the lower edge part being at 1.8 meters from the ground.

For safety reasons, the goals (including portable goals) must be firmly anchored in the ground.

The thickness and width of the goal posts and crossbar shall not exceed 12 centimeters. The goal posts and crossbar shall also be of the same width.

## **1.4. PLAYERS BENCH**

The players' bench will be placed on the opposite side of the spectators and according to any safety parameters. The referee must enforce this rule even when there are no benches for the players or the spectators.

## ***Law 2 - THE BALL***

A number 4 size ball shall be used.

## ***Law 3 - NUMBER OF PLAYERS, COACHES***

The game shall be played by two teams, each with a maximum of 7 players including one goalkeeper. A team may dress a maximum of 13 players per game. The minimum number of players per team is 5.

During a game, the goalkeeper can be replaced by another team player providing the coach has obtained prior approval from the referee and the substitution is made when the play is stopped.

A player who has been expelled during the game cannot be replaced.

### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Subject to prior authorization of the referee, unlimited substitutions may be made as follows:

- a) after a goal
- b) prior to a goal kick
- c) at half time
- d) when play has stopped because of an injury (only injured player)
- e) at throw-ins (substitutions may be made by the team taking the throw-in and ONLY if they make substitutions, may their opponents also substitute.)

### **NUMBER OF COACHES**

A team may have a maximum of three coaches with registered passports on the bench.

All coaches must present their registered passports in order to be on the bench.

Each team is responsible for presenting the registered passports for all approved players and coaches to the referee at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the game.

## ***Law 6- ASSISTANT REFEREES***

There are no assistant referees.

## ***Law 7 - DURATION OF THE GAME***

The duration of the game shall be as follows:

2 equal periods of 25 minutes

The referee shall add on to each period estimated lost time for replacements, injured players taken off the field, or elapsed time for other reasons.

If necessary, the duration of the game will be extended to allow for a penalty kick.

There will be a resting period of 5 minutes at half time.

## ***Law 8 - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY***

In 7-A-Side soccer, only the procedure of the dropped ball is different: The referee drops the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the penalty area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

## ***Law 11 - OFF-SIDE***

No offside rules will be applied for 7-a-side soccer.

## ***Law 13 - FREE KICK***

In 7-A-Side soccer, all distances mentioned are 5.5 m (6 yds) and an indirect free kick awarded inside the penalty area must be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

## ***Law 14 - PENALTY KICK***

In 7-A-Side soccer, the only modification is the distance that the players other than the kicker and the goalkeeper must be located which is at least 5.5 m (6 yds) from the penalty mark. The rest is the same as the Laws of the Game.

## ***Law 15 - THROW-IN***

A second throw-in will be allowed if the player commits an error on the first one. Should a second error occur, the ball will be granted to the opposing team (Not applicable in Inter-City 7-a-side matches).

## ***Law 16 - THE GOAL KICK***

All is the same except:

- In 7-A-Side soccer, the ball is kicked from any point within the penalty area by a player of the defending team
- All opponents must be at least 5.5 m (6yds) from the ball
- All opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play

## ***Law 17 - THE CORNER KICK***

In 7-A-Side soccer, the distance mentioned is 5.5 m (6 yds)