



NT Soccer Outdoor Laws of the Game

Last Updated - April 2024

Preface

These Laws of the Game (LOTG) are a condensed version of the IFAB 2023/24 LOTG. Some laws have been modified to reflect appropriate applications for recreational house league play, and to further the “spirit of the game.”

Law 1. The Field of Play & Law 2. The Ball

Division	Field Size	Net Size	Ball Size	Max. Players	Min. Players
U4	Mini	Mini	3	N/A	N/A
U5	Mini	Mini	3	N/A	N/A
U6	Mini	Mini	3	N/A	N/A
U7	1/6	6'x8'	3	5	4
U8	1/6	6'x8'	3	5	4
U9	1/6	6'x8'	3	5	4
U10	1/3	6'x12'	4	7	5
U11	1/3	6'x12'	4	7	5
U12	1/2	6.5'x18'	4	9	6
U13	1/2	6.5'x18'	4	9	6
U14+	Full	Full	5	11	7

A goal frame is required for any match to start. If netting is available it should be used, but a match may proceed without netting.

If field markings are faint (e.g. due to rain) they may be marked by training cones at the referee or game leader's discretion.

If no penalty area or goal area is indicated on the field of play, it is the referee or game leader's sole discretion whether an offence or infraction occurred “inside the penalty area.”

On full fields, corners may be marked with corner flags or cones, but this is not necessary. If corner flags or cones are present, players may not remove them to take corner kicks.

The correct sized ball will be used. If a ball is lost during a game, the referee or game leader must confirm that a replacement ball is suitable for use before the game can be re-started with a new ball.

Law 3. The Players

A. Players

The maximum and minimum players allowed on the field at one time have been outlined above in Law 1 and Law 2.

All players are to receive equal playing time. Upon being noticed, volunteer parent coaches that fail to enforce this rule will be removed from their position.

At age groups where the match score is recorded, if a team does not have the required number of players to start the match, they will forfeit the match and be assigned a 1-0 loss by default. If neither team has the required number of players, both teams will be assigned a default 1-0 loss.

In the case that a match is cancelled or forfeited, the referee or game leader may still play a "friendly" match between the two teams, though the official forfeit or cancellation result stands.

B. Substitutions

Substitutions are made on the fly in U7 to U9 divisions.

Substitutions are made by the staff coach and/or volunteer parent coach in U10 to U13 divisions.

Substitutions are made by volunteer parent coaches in U14+ divisions.

At U10 and older, substitutions may only be made on a stoppage of play with the referee's permission. Coaches may ask for a substitution on a throw-in, corner kick, free kick, goal kick, kick-off, or in the case of injury. Players may not enter or leave the field of play without the referee's permission. Substitutes are permitted to take any restart of play, provided they fully enter the field of play prior to the restart.

Substitutions are permitted at half-time without the referee's permission.

There is no limit on the number of substitutions a team may request, and players may be substituted multiple times, however the referee may deny a substitution request.

Law 4. Equipment

Players are not permitted to wear anything that is or could be dangerous.

Jewellery, including watches, fitbits, rings, necklaces, bracelets, anklets, earrings, etc., is forbidden, and must be removed. Medic-alert bracelets are the only exception, but are recommended to be taped tight, with the information left visible.

At the referee or game leader's discretion, a stud-earring may be worn if and only if it cannot be removed, and has been covered safely by tape. Non-stud earrings are never permitted.

The referee or game leader reserves the right to inspect any equipment worn by a player.

A player who wears a dangerous item will not be permitted to enter the field of play.

A player's uniform consists of a jersey, shorts, socks, soccer cleats, and shinguards covered by socks. Players will not be permitted to play without shinguards under any circumstances.

Long sleeves are permitted, provided they are worn under the team jersey, and any loose ends (i.e. hoods) are tucked into the jersey.

Soft, lightweight casts and braces may be worn if, in the opinion of the referee or game leader, they do not present a danger.

Prescription eyeglasses may be worn if, in the referee or game leader's opinion, they do not pose a danger to the players. In U14+ leagues, eyeglasses should include a safety strap to keep glasses affixed to the wearer. Use of sports goggles instead of eyeglasses is greatly encouraged.

A player asked to leave the field of play due to defective or dangerous equipment may not re-enter the field until the referee is satisfied that the equipment is permissible and not dangerous, and has granted the player permission to re-enter.

Law 5. The Referee & Law 6. Other Match Officials

A. U7-U9 Officiating

Each match is led by a certified game leader whose duties include, but are not limited to, timekeeping, ensuring player safety, implementing simplified rules while limiting stoppages, assisting players with all restarts, and promoting a fun and rewarding experience.

B. U10+ Officiating

Each match is officiated by an Ontario or Canada Soccer certified referee whose duties include, but are not limited to, enforcing the LOTG (i.e. issuing cautions and dismissals, keeping time and score for the match, etc.) and suspending or terminating a match if circumstances warrant doing so.

C. The Authority of the Referee & Other Match Officials

Decisions will be made to the best of the referee's ability according to the LOTG and the "spirit of the game," and will be based on the opinion of the referee, who also has discretion to take any appropriate action within the framework of the LOTG.

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. The decisions of the referee, and all other match officials, must always be respected.

The referee may not change a decision upon realizing that it is incorrect if play has restarted, or if the referee has signaled the end of the first or second half, and left the field of play or terminated the match. All decisions made by the referee with regard to the match are final.

The referee will stop play if a player is, in their opinion, seriously injured, and allow them to be treated, and will ensure that any player who is bleeding leaves the field of play and does not return until the bleeding has stopped, any wound is adequately covered, and any blood-stained clothing has been removed. The referee will allow play to continue until a stoppage in play has occurred if, in their opinion, the player does not require immediate attention.

The referee is authorized to take action against coaches who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and, at their discretion, expel them from the field of play and its vicinity. They will report to the Club Head Referee any disciplinary action taken against any players and/or coaches, and any incidents occurring before, during, or after a match.

In some U14+ divisions, assistant referees may be present, whose duties will include providing assistance to the referee. The assistant referees operate under the direction of the referee. Coaches, players and spectators are required to provide adequate space for the assistant referee to run the touch line. The referee, at their discretion, may caution or send off any player or coach for an incident seen only by an assistant referee.

Law 7. Duration of Matches

U7-U13 divisions follow the Game-Activity-Activity-Game (4x15 minute quarters) or Game-Activity-Game (3x20 minute thirds) format. The first and second halves make up the first and last portion of each hour, with the middle third or two quarters consisting of a skill development activity half-time period.

The skill development activity half-time period is led by game leaders, with the assistance of volunteer parent coaches should the team have one, in U7-U11 divisions. In U12 and U13 divisions, this period is led by development coaches with the assistance of volunteer parent coaches.

In U14+ divisions, two, approximately, 25 minute halves are played, with approximately a 5 minute half-time.

In U10+ divisions, teams may switch halves at half-time, but this change is at the referee's discretion.

Game structure and format may change toward the end of the regular season, as well as during the festival/tournament weekend, at the discretion of North Toronto Soccer.

A match may be shortened or abandoned if, in the opinion of the referee, the field has become unfit for play, or if weather conditions pose a danger to players (e.g. thunder).

The referee also has the authority to suspend or abandon the match in cases where, in the opinion of the referee, safety and/or acceptable behaviour/actions, such as those outlined in the LOTG and Club policies, have been jeopardized.

A match is official once half-time has been reached, or if the equivalent of half of the allotted time has been played. If a match is abandoned due to weather, field conditions, or other circumstances once it is official, the score will be recorded as it stood at the time the match was abandoned. If the match is abandoned before becoming official, no score will be recorded, and the match may be excluded from final standings.

In tournament matches for divisions in which scores are kept, the following tie-breaking procedure applies:

1. If, at the referee's discretion, time permits, one, 5 minute 'golden goal' extra time period will be played. Should a team score a goal during this period, the match is over and they are declared the winners.

A coin toss will be conducted before the start of the extra time period to give the winner of the toss the choice of goal to attack.

No substitutions are permitted during this time, except to address player injuries.

2. If neither team scores during the extra time period, or it is not played, a penalty shoot-out will occur. This will involve:
 - the referee tossing a coin to determine which goal the penalty kicks will be taken at
 - the referee conducting a subsequent coin toss where the team that wins the toss will choose to take either the first or second kick
 - each team selecting an initial five players on the field of play at the end of the match who will alternate taking penalty kicks on the opposing team's goalkeeper (the referee will not be informed of the order)

A penalty kick is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play, or the referee stops the play for an offence. The kicker may not play the ball a second time.

The goalkeeper on the field at the end of the match must remain as goalkeeper for the duration of the shoot-out, unless injury occurs whereby they may be replaced by any other player on the roster. The injured player may not be allowed to participate further in the penalty shoot-out.

The penalty shoot-out is over when one team is mathematically defeated. If the match is still tied after each team has taken five kicks, it becomes “sudden death,” and each team begins to select additional players that were on the field at the end of the match to take a kick.

If the penalty shoot-out requires more penalty kicks than players a team had on the field at the end of the match, players are then selected from the bench (if no players remain on the bench, a team reverts to their outfield players, but the order does not need to be the same). This process continues until one team has scored more goals than the opponent after the same number of kicks.

No player may take an additional kick until all of their teammates have taken the same number of kicks. If a team goes through their entire roster without the match having a winner, players may begin taking another round of penalty kicks, so long as every player on the roster has taken the same amount of kicks.

Law 8. The Start and Restart of Play

Opposing players must provide 6 yards of distance in U7-U9 divisions, 8 yards of distance in U10-U13 divisions, and 10 yards of distance in U14+ divisions on all restarts, with the exception of kick-ins/dribble-ins (2 yards), until the ball is in play. If a player encroaches, the referee may stop play, direct that the restart be retaken and, at their discretion, caution the offending player (U10+, see Law 12).

On all starts and restarts, except for a kick-in/dribble-in, the player who takes the start/restart may not touch the ball a second time until it has been touched by another player, otherwise an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team.

In U7-U9 divisions, the game leader(s) have the discretion to determine possession to begin the game, so long as the decision is made to promote the “spirit of the game.” Some methods appropriate to the “spirit of the game” to determine possession include:

- Rock, Paper, Scissors
 - Best of 1 round, winner takes the first half kick-off
- Guess the Number
 - One game leader thinks of a number between and including 0-10, each team captain guesses a number (can't be the same), closest guess to the game leader's number takes the first half kick-off
- First Team Ready
 - Quickest team to field an organized starting line-up takes the first half kick-off

In U10+ divisions, a coin toss is conducted by the referee to determine possession to begin the game. The team winning the coin toss chooses either which goal to attack in the first half, or to take the first half kick-off. From the prior statement, the opposing team will then take the first half kick-off, or choose which goal to attack in the first half.

The kick-off is used to start play at the beginning of each half/game, at the beginning of extra time, and to restart play after a goal has been scored (by the team that it has been scored against). The ball must be stationary, on the centre mark (if marked), and is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves. The player taking the kick is permitted to stand in the opponent's half at the kick-off.

In situations not covered by any other method of restart, the ball will be dropped by the referee/game leader and is in play once it has touched the ground.

Law 9. Ball In and Out of Play

The ball is out of play when the whole of the ball has crossed the whole of the goal line or touch line on the ground or in the air, or when the referee/game leader has stopped play.

If the ball touches a referee/game leader, and a team starts a promising attack, the ball goes directly into the goal, or the team in possession changes, the ball is considered out of play, and will be restarted with a dropped ball.

The ball is considered in play at all other times, including when it has made contact with a goalpost, crossbar, corner flag, pylon, or any other object used by North Toronto Soccer to mark the active field of play.

When anything other than an active player or the referee/game leader touches the ball, the referee/game leader will stop play and restart with a dropped ball, unless the referee/game leader determines the offence was intentional, in which case a direct free kick against the offending team may be awarded.

Law 10. Determining the Outcome of a Match

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball, while in play, has passed entirely over the goal line, between the goal posts and under the crossbar, provided that no offence in the LOTG has been committed previously by the team scoring the goal. If any offence has occurred, the goal is negated and play restarted accordingly.

The team scoring the greater number of goals is the winner of the match. If both teams score no goals, or an equal number of goals, the match is drawn. When the competition requires a winner, tie-break procedures outlined in Law 7 will be used to determine a winner.

In U10+, if a team fields more than the maximum number of players while the ball is in play, the referee will stop play, award an indirect free kick to the opposing team, and may show a yellow card to any person who entered the field without permission.

If, before play is restarted, a team is discovered to have scored a goal while fielding an extra person, and any extra person had interfered with play, the goal is negated and play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position of that person, except if that person was a person on the team that conceded the goal.

If, after a goal is scored and play has restarted, the referee realizes an extra person was on the field of play when the goal was scored, the goal cannot be disallowed. If that person is still on the field of play upon the restart, the referee must stop play, have the extra person removed, and restart with a dropped ball or free kick as appropriate.

Law 11. Offside

Offside is enforced in U12+ divisions.

It is not an offence to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if any part of the head, body, or feet is in the opponents' half (excluding the halfway line), and any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and second-last opponent. The hands and arms of all players, including the goalkeepers, are not considered. For the purposes of determining offside, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.

A player is not in an offside position if level with the second-last opponent or last two opponents. There can be no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.

A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a teammate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by:

- interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a teammate
- interfering with an opponent by preventing the opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponents' line of vision
- challenging an opponent for the ball
- clearly attempting to play the ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent
- making an obvious action which clearly impacts the ability of an opponent to play the ball
- gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when it:
 - has rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, match official, or an opponent

- been deliberately saved (whereby a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms unless it was the goalkeeper within the penalty area) by an opponent

If an offside offence occurs, the referee will award an indirect free kick from where the offence occurred, including if it is in the player's own half of the field of play.

Detailed descriptions of additional situations relating to Law 11 can be found in the IFAB Laws of the Game.

Law 12. Fouls and Misconduct

Indirect Free Kicks

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) or other verbal offences
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed, whether with the head, chest, knee, etc. to the goalkeeper to circumvent the Law whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands or not
- commits any offence not previously mentioned in the LOTG for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

Indirect free kicks are also awarded when a goalkeeper, inside their own penalty area:

- controls the ball with his/her hands and takes more than six seconds to release it
- releases the ball from his/her hands and handles it a second time before it has touched another player
- handles the ball after it has been intentionally kicked or thrown back by a teammate

Additionally, the referee or game leader may at their discretion award an indirect free kick if a team is guilty of time-wasting while making substitutions, or if any substitute, coach, or spectator interferes with play, from the spot of the foul.

Direct Free Kicks

In U10-U11 divisions, the following offences are awarded as indirect free kicks.

In U12+ divisions, the following offences are awarded as direct free kicks.

A direct free kick is awarded when any player commits any of the following offences in a manner judged by the referee to be careless, reckless, or excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butts)
- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip

A direct free kick is also awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:

- a handball offence (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- holds an opponent
- impedes an opponent with contact
- bites or spits at someone on the team lists or a match official
- throws an object at the ball, an opponent, or a match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object

Advantage

If a team against whom an offence is committed would, in the opinion of the referee, gain a greater advantage by having play continue than by having it stopped to award a free kick, the referee will award the advantage, and signal for play to continue.

If, after several seconds, the advantage has not materialized, the referee will stop play and award a free kick for the original offence. A player may be cautioned or sent off for an offence not originally punished by a free kick under the advantage rule.

Cautionable (yellow card) offences

A player or substitute is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering, re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick, or throw in
- persistent offences (no specific number or pattern of offences constitutes "persistent")
- unsporting behaviour
- denying the opposing team a goal scoring opportunity in an attempt to play or challenge for the ball, and which the referee awards a penalty kick
- excessive celebration of a goal

Where two separate cautionable offences are permitted (even in close proximity), they should result in two cautions.

Players guilty of cautionable offences, or who receive a caution at U11 and younger may be asked to sit off for a couple minutes at the discretion of the referee.

Sending-off (red card) offences

A player or substitute is sent off if guilty of:

- denying the opposing team a goal or obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence (except a goalkeeper in their own penalty area)
- denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offenders' goal by an offence punishable by a free kick
- denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity with no attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick
- serious foul play
- biting or spitting at someone
- violent conduct
- using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or action(s)
- receiving a second caution in the same match

A player or substitute who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play, and the technical area. In U10 and U11 divisions, a player who is sent off may be replaced by a substitute. In U12+ the team is required to continue the match with one player fewer.

Law 13: Free Kicks

Direct free kicks and penalty kicks can only be awarded for offences and infringements committed when the ball is in play.

In U7-U11 divisions, all free kicks are indirect.

In U12+ divisions, free kicks may be direct or indirect depending on the offence.

Indirect free kicks are indicated by raising the arm above the head, and the arm will remain raised until the kick has been taken, and the ball has touched another player, gone out of play, or it is clear that a goal cannot be scored.

When an offence is committed and the ball is in active play, the referee will stop play and award a free kick to the opposing team. The ball must be stationary, and defending players must remain the division-specific distance specified in Law 8 (e.g. 10 yards in U14+ divisions) back from the ball until it is played, or on the goal line in the case of an indirect free kick taken less than 10 yards from the goal.

The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves, and the kick taker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player. Defending players may form a “wall,” and attacking players must stay 1 yard from the wall until the ball is in play.

If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents’ goal, no goal shall be awarded, and the referee will restart play with a goal kick. If an indirect free kick is sent directly into the team’s own goal, a corner kick will be awarded to the opposing team.

If a player, while correctly taking a free kick, deliberately kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again but not in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, the referee allows play to continue.

An opponent who deliberately prevents a free kick from being taken by standing less than the division-specific required distance back from the ball will be cautioned for delaying the restart of play, however if they were incidentally too close to the free kick (e.g. following a quickly taken free kick) no caution will be shown, and play will continue.

Law 14: The Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

The ball must be stationary, on the penalty mark (or 12 yards from the centre of the goal line if no penalty mark exists), and the goalposts, crossbar and goal net must not be moving. The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified.

The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, and between the goalposts, until the ball is kicked. The goalkeeper must not behave in a way that unfairly distracts the kicker (e.g. delaying the taking of the kick or touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net).

The players other than the kicker and goalkeeper, must be at least 10 yards from the penalty mark, behind the penalty mark, inside the field of play, and outside the penalty area.

The kick taker must kick the ball forward, and must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player. The kicker may not feign to kick the ball once they have completed the run-up (feinting in the run-up is permitted).

If an offence occurs before the penalty kick is taken:

- If the attacking team commits an offence, and the ball enters the goal, the kick will be re-taken.

- If the attacking team offends and the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play, and restarts with an indirect free kick.
- If the defending team commits an offence, and the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded.
- If the defending team commits an offence, and the ball does not enter the goal, the penalty kick is retaken.
- If players on both teams offend, the kick is re-taken.

Further details can be found in the IFAB LOTG.

Law 15: The Throw-in (or Kick-in/Dribble-in)

If the ball leaves the field of play by wholly passing over a touch line, a throw-in (U12+ divisions) or a kick-in/dribble-in (U7-U11 divisions) is awarded to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball before it wholly passed over the touch line.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in or kick-in/dribble-in. If the ball enters the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded. If the ball enters the throw-in or kick-in/dribble-in taker's goal, a corner kick is awarded.

A player taking a throw-in may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player. If this occurs, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team.

A player taking a kick-in/dribble-in may touch the ball a second time before it has touched another player.

The throw-in taker must stand facing the field of play, have part of each foot on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line, and throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where the ball left the field of play.

All opponents must stand 2 yards from a throw-in taker. An opponent who unfairly distracts or impedes the thrower is cautioned for unsporting behaviour, and if the throw-in has been taken, an indirect free kick is awarded.

If a throw-in is taken incorrectly, the referee will award a throw-in to the opposing team. In U12-U13 divisions, the referee may allow the thrower a second attempt to correctly take the throw-in.

Should the ball touch the ground outside the field of play before entering the field of play, the throw-in is retaken by the same team from the same position.

Law 16: The Goal Kick

A goal kick is awarded if the whole of the ball crosses the goal line having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored.

A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team. If the ball is sent directly into the kicker's goal on a goal kick, a corner kick shall be awarded to the opposing team.

The ball must be stationary in the goal area on a goal kick. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

If the kicker touches the ball twice before any other player touches the ball, an indirect free kick is awarded. If a handball offence occurs, a direct free kick will be awarded if the offence occurred outside the penalty area, or a penalty kick will be awarded if the offence occurred inside the penalty area (unless the kicker was the goalkeeper, in which case an indirect free kick is awarded).

If any opponent deliberately remains in the penalty area and intercepts the ball, the goal kick is retaken. If an opponent is in the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, play is allowed to continue.

Law 17: The Corner Kick

A corner kick is awarded if the whole of the ball crosses the goal line having last been touched by a defending player, and a goal is not scored.

A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team. If the ball directly enters the kickers' goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.

The ball must be placed in the corner area nearest to the point where the ball passed over the goal line. The ball must be stationary, and kicked by a player of the attacking team. The opposing team must remain 10 yards back until the ball is kicked and clearly moves (the ball does not need to leave the corner area if one is present for it to be in play). If corner flags or cones are present, they may not be removed for the corner kick.

Additional Rules and Clarifications

The Retreat Line:

In U7-U13, if the goalkeeper handles the ball, or has a goal kick, the opponents must "retreat" to one third of the field for U12-U13 divisions, or the halfway line for U7-U11 divisions.

The retreat line may be indicated with cones/pylons, and the referee shall assist players in recognizing it.

Once the goalkeeper has played the ball and it has either touched a teammate or reached/passed the retreat line, the opponents may resume normal play. If an opponent impacts play by encroaching past the retreat line, touches the ball before another player

on the attacking team, or impacts the ability of an attacking player to play the ball, the referee will award an indirect free kick to the defending team where the offence occurred.

Coaches and Spectators

No coach or spectator may enter the field of play at any time without the permission of the referee.

All coaches, substitutes, players, and spectators must provide adequate distance along the sidelines, may not be within 5 yards of, or behind either goal, and may not interfere with any ball in play. Where possible, spectators are to position themselves on the opposite sideline from coaches and substitutes.

In U7-U13 divisions, one coach is permitted to be behind the goal line to assist their team's goalkeeper.

In U14+ divisions, coaches must not position themselves on a sideline that is shared by two fields, must remain in their bench area, and cannot cross the halfway line, or leave their team's technical area should one be present. The referee is the final authority on where coaches and spectators may position themselves, and is authorized to abandon the match or expel from the field and its vicinity any person who interferes with play or who does not comply with the referee's instructions.

Dogs/Pets

Some fields/venues used by North Toronto Soccer do not allow dogs/pets on their property (i.e. turf fields). If a coach, player, or spectator brings a dog(s)/pet(s) to a field where they are not permitted, Club staff members and match officials have full authority to ask the individual in possession of the dog(s)/pet(s) to leave, and will suspend play if the individual refuse to leave. Club staff members and match officials are authorized to abandon a match if the individual refuses to leave.

Further Questions

Any further questions or clarifications about the NT Soccer Outdoor LOTG can be directed to the Club Head Referee at referees@northtorontosoccer.com.