



Summer Sports – Soccer Highlighted Rules & Addendums

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Football (Soccer) shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules for football (soccer) found at <http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html> FIFA or National Governing Body (NGB) rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Football (Soccer) or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Football (Soccer) shall apply.

No Slide tackling! No Jewelry! (except medical alert) No Billed Hats!

All athletes MUST wear shin guards during team play.

1. Teams:

- All matches 5 a-side, either traditional (all athletes) or unified.
- Unified has 3 athletes and 2 partners. The ratio of athletes to partners must be 1 to 1 or higher.

2. Equipment:

- Every player is required to wear shin guards covered by long socks. Always a problem.

3. Time of Game:

- The game is two equal periods of 15 minutes with a five-minute half-time. The referee is responsible for keeping the official playing time.
- There are NO time outs in soccer.

4. Overtime:

- Every match must have a winner! If the match is tied at the end of regulation time, **one** five minute, "Golden Goal" overtime period is played.
- If the game is still tied after overtime, penalty kicks will be used. Only players on the field can kick.
 - If unified, the order kicks is Athlete-Partner-A-P-A.

5. Substitutions:

- Teams are allowed unlimited substitutions. Substitutions are only made during stoppages in play.
- The coach must signal, the referee acknowledges the signal, to make a substitution. A substituted player can only come onto the field only when a signal is given by the referee.

6. Kick-ins:

- If a ball crosses the sideline, it is kicked back into play from the point it crossed the line.
- The ball is stationary and the opposing players team must be at least five meters (5m) the ball.

- The kicker cannot play the ball again until another player has touched it.
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in.
- A goalkeeper may not pick up a ball passed directly to him/her by a teammate from a kick-in.

7. Goalkeeper:

- When the ball passes over the goal-line (not in the goal), last touched by an attacking player, the goalkeeper, standing within his/her own penalty area, must throw the ball back into play beyond his own penalty area, but not further than the mid-field.
- If the ball goes over mid-field line without touching another player or the ground, it is a IDFK for the opponent. The ball is in play only after it leaves the PA.
- The above rule also applies when the goalkeeper gains possession with his/her hands.
- If the goalkeeper touches the ball with their hands, they must throw the ball back into play. No punting or drop-kicks allowed!

8. Off-Side: There is no offside.

9. Free Kicks:

- Opposing players must retreat 5m from the ball.