

6v6 Rule Differences for U9 coaches beginning BAYS

Wayland Youth Soccer (WAYS) has designed its in-town league rules to simplify the game for its youngest players. As U9 teams move into travel play as part of the Boston Area Youth Soccer (BAYS), coaches need to be aware of the rule differences from our in-town program. While you should be familiar with the rule differences, don't invest too much energy going over them with your young players. They will learn quickly from playing in games.

We encourage you to review all the BAYS/FIFA rules of the game - they are available on the web at <http://www.bays.org/BAYSrules.pdf>.

BAYS Zero Tolerance Rule

This rule governs coach, parent, and player interaction with the referee. Simply put, no one may talk to the referee during or after a game. Violation of this rule can result in the referee banning a coach or a spectator from a game or carding a player. Referees are directed to report all zero tolerance infractions to both BAYS and WAYS. Any infractions brought to WAYS attention will be dealt with swiftly.

The few exceptions for talking with a referee are:

1. For emergencies. E.G. to attend to an injured player. *Be sure to ask permission to enter the field first!* (This exception does *not* include pointing out rough play.)
2. If the referee initiates communication
3. For substitutions

At no time are these exceptions permission to harass or intimidate the referee.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their parent spectators. Please, please remind parents and co-coaches of BAYS zero tolerance rule. Referees have the authority to direct either a coach or spectator to leave the game and, if necessary, to forfeit a game.

If a coach has questions regarding particular calls or rules or wish to provide feedback regarding a referee, you can communicate through the referee feedback button on the home page of our website (waylandsoccer.org) or communicate directly to BAYS through their referee feedback button on the home page of their website (www.bays.org.)

Questionable calls are an opportunity to display good sportsmanship. Players should be taught to focus on what they can control, their play, not the calls of the referee. As our children learn from example, it is essential that both coaches and parents set the right example in this regard!

“No Offside” Rule still in effect

Like the WAYS in-town program, For BAYS 6v6 soccer, there is NO offside rule. This only applies for 8v8 and 11v11 soccer.

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WAYS Intramural vs. BAYS 6v6 RULES

The following are the main differences between our intramural 6v6 rules and BAYS 6v6 rules:

1. **No second chances for throw-ins.** BAYS makes no allowance for a re-try for any improperly taken throw-in.

Coaching Implications: Make your players aware there are no second chances. You should practice correct throw-ins, to minimize turnovers due to violations.

2. **Direct and indirect kicks.** Referees award free kicks following certain rule violations. In the in-town program, all free kicks are indirect- that is, following a free kick, another player (a teammate or a member of the opposing team) must touch the ball before a goal can be scored. In BAYS, a team can score a goal on a free kick directly. Fouls which result in the awarding of a direct kick include kicking, tripping, jumping at a player, pushing, tackling without first touching the ball, holding, spitting, or deliberately handling the ball. Violations resulting in the awarding of an indirect kick include impeding a player, interfering with the goalkeeper's release of the ball, and technical violations such as making two consecutive touches of the ball on a free kick.

Coaching Implications: The referee should indicate whether a kick is direct or not by his arm position: straight up in the air indicates an indirect kick, and horizontal means direct.

From a practical standpoint, if there is any doubt, treat the free kick as direct. Teach your players to form a wall when the kicker is close to your goal. Make your players aware that they or the other team can score a goal directly from the kick when it is a direct kick.

3. **Punting allowed.** The goalkeeper may punt a ball from within the penalty area. It may not cross mid-field without having touched either a player or the ground. When this happens, the referee will award an indirect free kick at mid-field where the punt crossed the mid-field line.

Coaching Implications: Punting may be beyond the skills of the younger goalkeepers. Help your players make good decisions on when to punt, that they help the other team if their punt is poor. Do encourage goalkeepers, whether they are punting or not, to move to edge of the penalty area.

You can practice punting. This is an extra way of distributing the ball for your goalkeeper. You will want to encourage your goalkeeper to vary his releases to become less predictable. Defensively, you don't want players too far forward, where a punted may go over their heads.

4. **Yellow and Red Cards.** Though it is unusual for a young referee to show a yellow or red card in 6v6 play, you should understand how they are "earned" and their implications.

Players committing major fouls or dissenting with the referee may result in the referee cautioning the players with a yellow card. In this situation, you must substitute the player. They can return to play later. If the referee shows a player two yellow cards in a single game, or if the foul is particularly egregious, the referee will show the player red card. Not only does the player have to leave the field immediately, but he/she cannot re-enter play later, nor can he/she be replaced on the field: his team must play a "player down" for the remainder of the game. Referees can show coaches yellow cards, particularly for dissent (see the Zero Tolerance Rule above).

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Coaching Implications: From a practical standpoint, it is rare for a young player to receive a card. However, Coaches do have an obligation to encourage fair play. Deliberate fouls (kicking, tripping, pushing opposing players) left unchecked, leads to reprisals, potential injuries, and degradation in play. Our recommendation is to pull any of your players not playing fairly off the field and explain why you are doing it.

5. **Penalty Kicks.** Any fouls occurring in the penalty area that in WAYS intramurals results in a direct kick in BAYS play will instead result in a penalty kick. The most common violation is a handball by a defensive player, although tripping (especially from behind) is another common call.

The way penalty kicks are handled is as follows (keep in mind that young referees may not know all of this – in these instances, you must adhere to the zero tolerance rule, accept his/her directions and say nothing!!!!) :

- a. All players except for the goalkeeper and the player taking the kick line up outside the penalty area. They may not distract the penalty taker, nor cross the line until the ball is touched.
- b. The goalkeeper has to stay on his line until the ball is touched. The goalkeeper may move side to side on his line, however.
- c. The player taking the penalty kick may not touch the ball after kicking it until another player touches it.
- d. If the ball misses the goal and passes the goal line, the defending team takes a goal kick if the goalkeeper did not touch it, otherwise the attacking team is awarded a corner kick.
- e. If the ball completely passes the goal line into the goal, it is scored as a goal.
- f. If the ball bounces off the goalkeeper or the post, the ball is in play.
- g. If the goalkeeper saves the ball and holds on to it, play continues as normal.

Coaching implications:

1. Penalty kicks are an exciting and stressful play for young players, but aren't worth a lot of time practicing. Consider reviewing the PK procedure with your team as a break between activities, or as a fun shooting/goal keeping activity.
2. As a minimum, you will want to warn your team about handballs and tripping in the penalty area, and that the ball is "live" following a penalty kick.
3. NOTE: not all referees follow the exact procedure with respect to player positions; under no circumstances can you question him or her on it. See the BAYS zero tolerance rule above.