**6v6 Small Sided Rules of Competition (Sports Dome)**

All IFAB rules of competition shall apply unless stated otherwise below.

Field dimensions are 50 yards x 32 yards. Goalie box is 7 yards x 10 yards.

There is no slide tackling of the player with the ball in any coed division of the Erie Soccer League. A player deemed to put in a purposeful sliding challenge on a player with the ball shall be shown (at minimum) a yellow card. Goalkeepers are permitted to slide for the ball in a lawful manner within their own box.

Shin guards are required. In the event that a player is found to be playing without shin guards, he/she will be shown a yellow card and removed from play until such time that they have put on a pair of shin guards. The player may only re-enter the field of play AFTER play has stopped and the referee has verified that the player has proper shin guards and deemed the player fit to continue.

All red cards shall warrant a minimum one match suspension. Instances of violent conduct and/or referee abuse, the incident shall be referred to the Erie Soccer League’s disciplinary committee. If a player is found guilty of either referee abuse or violent conduct, the player can expect a fine (up to $150) and/or minimum of a two match ban on their first offense. In short, we do not tolerate abusing other players or referees in our league.

All procedural protests must be made prior to kickoff, at halftime, or immediately upon conclusion of the game. A procedural protest is something such as “my opponent fielded an illegal player”. A procedural protest is not “that referee missed a call”.

All feedback regarding officiating and/or conduct of opposing teams shall be made in writing. Players and team captains should refrain from providing feedback on a referee or opposing team in person to the league organizer. The league organizer is an unpaid volunteer and it is unfair to put him (or anyone else) in that situation. As such, please “good game” one another, say your goodbyes for the evening, go home and reflect. If you still feel strongly about voicing a concern or complaint, feel free to drop the league organizer an email.

Players other than the team captain (as defined by the person who pays the referee) shall avoid commenting directly to or about the referee. Our referees will often provide an explanation for their calls but they are not required to do so beyond who’s kick it is and whether direct or indirect. ALL players and fans shall completely avoid yelling at the referee in any fashion.

**Law 2 – The Ball**

An official match ball shall be provided by the league for use in the match. The ball shall be an Official Size and Weight Futsal ball. Size wise, this is approximately the same size as a size 4 soccer ball. The futsal ball has a layer of foam within the ball, which limits the “bounce” in the ball. As such, players will find that their shots will not go “sailing” nearly as often. Additionally, the ball will not bounce out of control nearly as much as playing small sided soccer with a regular soccer ball.

**Law 3 – Players**

Matches shall consist of five field players plus a goalkeeper. Unless the divisional rules of competition state otherwise, coed divisions shall play with no fewer than two female field players.

In the event a team does not have two females, the team must play “short” meaning that no more than three male field players may be on the field at any one time.

Goalkeepers are considered “gender neutral” with regards to player count.

A Game may not start or continue if there are fewer than four players (including the goalkeeper) on a team.

Substitutions are unlimited and can occur on the fly. Substitutions must occur “near” midfield closest to the player bench area. To be more specific, the players must enter and exit the field in substitution at this similar point. This will help to avoid confusion amongst teams and the referee.

All “bench areas” shall be on the ”inside” of the dome’s pitch (the space “in between” both fields.

**Law 5 – Referee**

Minimum certification as a US Soccer Grade 8 Referee is required to officiate the match.

**Law 6 – Other Match Officials**

Other match officials (ie - Assistant Referees) shall be used at the discretion of the competition.

**Law 7 – Duration of the Match**

A game shall consist of two halves. Each half shall be 24 minutes in length.

Halftime shall be three minutes in duration. At the beginning of the second half, teams will change sides.

There will be no added time.

A match may end in a draw unless a playoff or final. In the event of such a match, play will continue with two four minute halves (no golden goal, 1 minute to switch sides). If at the end of both halves, if the score is still tied, a best of three kicks from the mark will determine the winner.

Any suited player who has taken part of the match and not been sent off may participate in kicks from the mark. A female player must take one out of every three kicks at minimum for each team.

**Law 8 – Start and restart of play**

Standard Rules apply.

**Law 9 – Ball in and out of play**

When the whole of the ball crosses the touchline, a kick-in will be awarded in lieu of a throw in. Kick ins are indirect. Opposing team players must concede five yards on all kick ins.

Corner kicks and goal kicks are indirect kicks.

**Law 10 – Method of scoring**

Normal rules apply

**Law 11 – Offside**

There are no offside fouls.

**Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

Normal rules apply.

**Law 13 – Free kicks**

Normal rules apply aside from all defensive players must concede five yards from the spot of the kick. Please note, it is the player’s responsibility to concede the five yards. A player **may** be cautioned for failing to concede the five yards if in the opinion of the referee the player is deliberately delaying play.

**Law 14 – Penalty Kicks**

Penalty kicks will be spotted at the top of the box (seven yards from goal). All players must concede five yards or more on a kick from the mark.

**Law 15 – Throw in**

Kick ins will be taken in lieu of throw-ins. Kick ins are indirect.

**Law 17 – Corner Kicks**

Corner kicks are considered an indirect kick. Defensive players must concede a minimum of five yards.