



Referee Guidance

North American Sand Soccer Championships 2023

The following have been specifically adapted for the North American Sand Soccer Championships rules of competition using the 2022-2023 FIFA Beach Soccer laws.

It is meant to serve as a reference to highlight the unique differences between soccer and sand soccer, and to clarify the key points that most referees will encounter on most matches, in an attempt to gain greater consistency in how the local matches are officiated.

COIN TOSS

- Before the match (called by visiting team)
 - Winner of toss chooses ball or end
- Between the 2nd and 3rd periods (called by home team)
 - Winner of toss chooses ball or end
- Prior to kicks from the penalty mark
 - First toss (called by referee) -to determine which goal will be used
 - Second toss (called by visiting team) -winner of toss chooses to kick first or second

PERIODS

- Three (3) 11 minute periods
- Two (2) minutes between each period

KICK-OFF

- Same procedures as soccer with the following exceptions:
 - Opponents must be at least **5 yards** from the ball until it is in play
 - A goal **can not** be scored directly from the kick-off
 - A sand mound may be built with the feet or the ball
 - Each team must have and maintain a minimum of 3 players

FREE KICKS

- **free kicks** are **direct** and **require a whistle** to restart play
- **corner kicks** are **direct**, but **DO NOT require a whistle** to restart play
- **no defensive walls** are allowed
- **The player that was fouled must take the free kick**
(If they are injured and must leave the field, their substitute will kick for them)

KICK-IN

- A goal **can not** be scored directly from a kick-in
 - Restart goal clearance for opposing team
- Keeper in their own penalty area may receive the ball from a kick-in, from **either team**, with their hands/arms
- A sand mound may be built with the feet or the ball

THROW-IN

- Same procedures as soccer, with the following exceptions:
 - If the ball does not enter the pitch from a throw-in then a kick-in/throw-in restart is awarded to the opposing team
 - Keeper in their own penalty area may receive the ball from a throw-in, from **either team**, with their hands/arms

DROPPED BALL

- Same procedures as soccer with the following exception:
 - All players from both teams must remain at least **5 yards** from the ball until it is in play

PENALTY KICK

- Same procedures as soccer with the following exceptions:
 - All players except the keeper must be outside the penalty area and at least **5 yards** from the imaginary penalty spot
 - The kicker may make a small mound of sand using their feet or the ball in order to raise the position of the ball
 - The player who was fouled must take the kick
 - If they are injured and must leave the field, their substitute will kick for them
 - If the offense was not a foul (e.g. handball)
 - the penalty kick may be taken by any player or substitute of the team taking the kick

FOUR-SECOND COUNT

- **NO COUNT** is required for **KICK-OFF** or **PENALTY KICKS**

❖ **Referee visibly performs the four-second count for each of the following situations:**

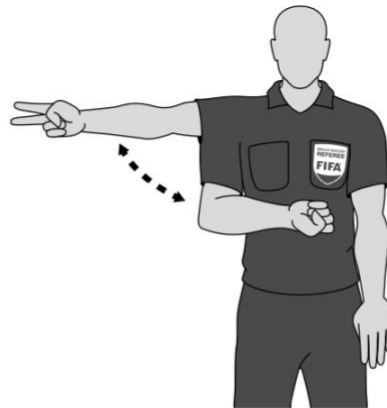
- **Goal Clearance**
 - The ball does **NOT** have to leave the penalty area upon the keepers release, but if it doesn't, and if the defending team is still in possession, a new four-second count is required until the ball leaves the penalty area (violation results in a free kick with clear zone (cone) at midfield)
 - **Team is in possession of the ball in their own penalty area**
(violation results in a free kick with clear zone (cone) at midfield)
 - **Keeper is in possession of the ball in their own penalty area**
(violation results in a free kick with clear zone (cone) at midfield)
 - **Keeper is in possession of the ball anywhere in their own half**
Does not apply to amateur matches. Only applies to US Open matches
(violation results in a free kick with clear zone (cone) at midfield)
 - **Free kicks**
Four-second count begins after **required whistle**
(violation results in a free kick with clear zone (cone) either at midfield or the spot of the violation)
 - If a free kick taken by defending team inside its own penalty area is not kicked directly out of this area, the kick is retaken, but the four-second count is not reset and continues once the player is ready to retake it (violation results in a free kick with clear zone (cone) at midfield)
 - **Kick-in/Throw-in**
 - count begins once the player is ready to take it (violation results in kick-in/throw in for opponent)
 - **Corner kicks**
 - count begins once the player is ready to take it (violation results in goal clearance for opponent)
- If a restart of play is delayed for tactical reasons (time wasting) the referee blows the whistle and visibly starts the four second count, whether the player taking the restart is ready or not
 - The player taking the kick may make a small mound of sand with their feet, or the ball (not the hands) to raise the position of the ball. Four second count begins after the mound is built

Four Second Count

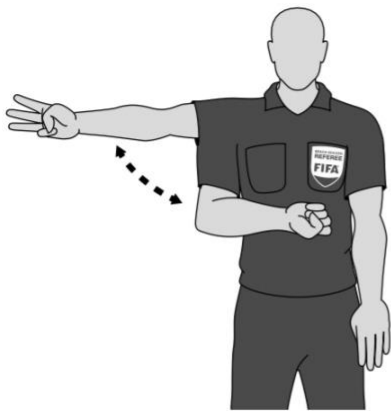
must be visibly performed by the referee



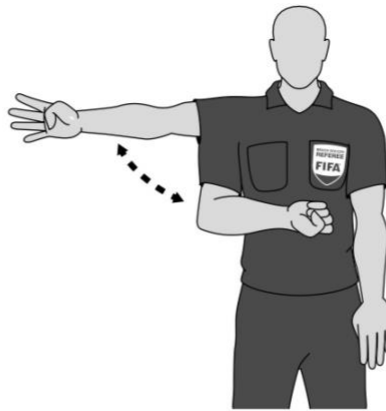
(Step I)



(Step II)



(Step III)



(Step IV)

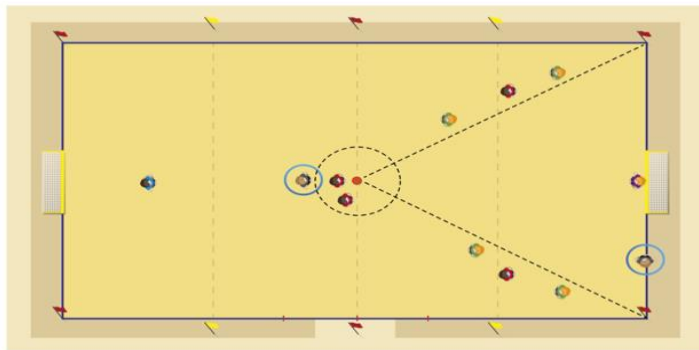


(Step V)

FOUR-SECOND violations during FREE KICKS

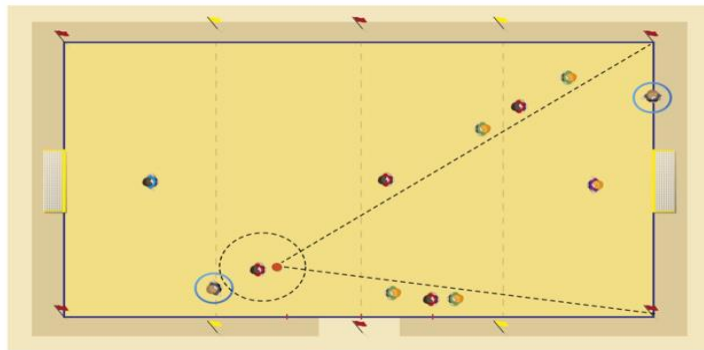
Results in a free kick clear zone (cone) for the opposing team

At midfield



OR

At the spot of the violation



GOAL CLEARANCE

1. Ball must be thrown or released from any point within the penalty area by the keeper within four seconds:

- If keeper takes goal clearance using the foot, warn the keeper and retake the goal clearance using the hand
- The four-second count continues from the point where it was stopped, once the keeper is ready to retake the goal clearance
 - *violation results in free kick with a clear zone (cone) at midfield*

2. The ball is in play when it is thrown/released and clearly moves:

- The ball does **NOT** have to leave the penalty area upon the keepers release for a goal clearance, but if it doesn't, and if the defending team is still in possession, a new four-second count is required until the ball leaves the penalty area
 - *violation results in free kick with a clear zone (cone) at midfield*
- The keeper may not touch the ball a second time if they didn't throw or release it out of the penalty area for a goal clearance
 - *violation results in free kick with a clear zone (cone) at midfield*
- If ball is thrown/released **directly** into the keepers **own** goal on a goal clearance
 - restart is a corner kick for the opponent
- If ball is thrown/released **directly** into **opponents** goal on a goal clearance
 - restart is a goal clearance for the opponent
- If ball is thrown/released, and after touching a team-mate, enters keepers **own** goal
 - The goal is allowed and restart is a kick-off
- At a **goal clearance**, the keeper **is permitted** to use their **hands/arms** to receive the ball from a team-mate **without** an opponent touching the ball. However, they are **not permitted** to use their **hand/arms** a second time to receive the ball from a team-mate until an opponent has touched the ball
 - *violation results in free kick with a clear zone (cone) at midfield*

3. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play:

- If the opponent didn't have time to leave the penalty area and the keeper chooses to take the clearance, the referee allows play to continue

GOALKEEPER

- **NO PUNTING**
- Keeper **CAN NOT** score in **opponents** goal, **directly** from hands/arms, anywhere on the pitch
- Goal **CAN** be scored directly or indirectly into the keepers **own** goal while attempting to play or save the ball using their hands/arms
- Goal **CAN NOT** be scored directly into keepers own goal on a goal clearance
- Keeper **CAN NOT** play the ball outside their penalty area and then return to their penalty area and touch/play the ball with any part of the body before it has touched another player
 - restart is a free kick with Clear Zone (cone) at midfield
- **USE OF HANDS BY GOALKEEPER inside their penalty area:**
(Violations below result in free kick with Clear Zone (cone) at midfield)
 - Keeper **is permitted** to touch the ball in their own penalty area with their **hands/arms** regardless of whether a team-mate has used their feet, body, or head to play the ball to them.
However, once the keeper releases the ball back into play, they are **not permitted** to use their **hand/arms** a second time to receive the ball from a team-mate until an opponent has touched the ball
 - If the keeper executes a **throw-in**, they are **not permitted** to use their **hands/arms** to then receive the ball from a team-mate until an opponent has touched the ball
 - If the keeper does a **kick-in**, they **are permitted** to use their **hands/arms** to receive the ball from a team-mate while keeper is in their own penalty area
 - Keeper **is permitted** to use their **hands/arms** to receive a **throw-in/kick-in** from **either** team while keeper is in their own penalty area

KEEPER CHANGE

- Any **SUBSTITUTE** may change places without informing the referee or waiting for a stoppage in play
- Any **PLAYER** may change places with the goalkeeper, but they must do so during a stoppage in play and inform the referee before the change is made

SUBSTITUTIONS

IMPORTANT-

Discuss substitution process with both teams before each match and try to work with them without issuing cards.

- When issuing a yellow card for improper substitution:
 - A **PLAYER** must be shown a yellow card while **ON** the pitch
 - If a **PLAYER**, receives their second yellow, their team **WOULD** play down a player
 - A **SUBSTITUTE** must be shown a yellow card while **OFF** the pitch
 - If a **SUBSTITUTE**, receives their second yellow, their team **WOULD NOT** play down a player

Substitution zone

- **PLAYER** must leave the field in the substitution zone
- **SUBSTITUTE** must enter the field in the substitution zone, only after the **PLAYER** being replaced has completely left the field in the substitution zone

- If a **SUBSTITUTE**, during a substitution:
 - enters the pitch before the player being replaced has left, or enters the pitch from a place other than the substitution zone:
 - the referee stops play (although not immediately if they can apply advantage)
 - the referee will order the **SUBSTITUTE** to leave the pitch, and once the substitute is off the pitch, the referee will caution the substitute for the improper substitution

- If a **PLAYER**, during a substitution:
 - exits the pitch from a place other than the substitution zone:
 - the referee stops play (although not immediately if they can apply advantage)
 - The referee will order the player back onto the pitch, and once the player is on the pitch, the referee will caution the player for the improper substitution

- If the referee stops play for an improper substitution, it is restarted with a free kick to the opposing team, to be taken:
 - from the position of the ball at the time of the stoppage, if the ball was in the half of the team against which the offense was committed. (Clear zone cone)
 - from the center of the pitch (Clear zone cone) if the ball was in the half of the team that committed the offense

BICYCLE AND SCISSOR KICKS

- A player is considered to be in possession of the ball, for the purposes of a scissors kick or overhead kick (bicycle), when after controlling it with any part of the body except the hands or arms, the ball remains in the air and in close proximity to the player, whether in front or on either side of them.
- If the ball is in the possession of the player who is executing or intends to execute a scissors kick or an overhead kick (bicycle), and an opponent touches them or the ball, or otherwise interferes, a free kick or penalty kick is awarded against the opponent's team.
- If when a ball is passed in the air, and there is an attempt to scissor or bicycle on the volley, the player **IS NOT** considered to have control and may be challenged for the ball.

SLIDING/SLIDE TACKLING -(NASSC)

- Player may slide to save a ball from going out of play or to attempt a shot on goal, providing no defenders are close
- Player may **NOT** slide tackle **AT** the ball
- Player may **NOT** slide tackle **AT** an opponent
- Player may slide **IN FRONT** of the ball and into its intended path in order to block a shot or pass.
- Whether or not a player makes contact with an opponent while performing a slide tackle, a free kick is awarded. (Caution if reckless. Send-off if excessive)

ADVANTAGE

ADVANTAGE IS NOT RECOMMENDED UNLESS:

- There is a clear goal-scoring opportunity
(i.e. the ball going into the goal or an attacker has the ball with no defenders between him and the goal)
- At a corner kick with the opponent less than five yards away if the kicker wishes to take the kick quickly

A free kick is considered the advantage as it gives the fouled player a clear shooting area with only the keeper to defend.

**CALL THE FOUL,
CALL THE FOUL,
CALL THE FOUL**

RED CARDS-

Report Red Cards to tent coordinators immediately after your match

- If a **PLAYER** receives a **Red Card**:
 - they must be sent-off
 - the sent-off player may no longer take part in the match or their next match
 - Referee must write a report for red cards
 - team is penalized with either a 2-minute, or a 10-minute penalty

- **2-MINUTE PENALTY**
If a **PLAYER** receives any **Red Card** that is a result of receiving a **second yellow card**

- **10-MINUTE PENALTY**
If a **PLAYER** receives any **Red Card** that is **NOT** as a result of receiving a **second yellow card**
 - Team plays down one player for 2 or 10 minutes accordingly
 - After time penalty has elapsed, the team may replace the sent-off player
 - Time penalty carries into the next period as needed
 - If team playing down a player is scored against:
 - time penalty ends and team may replace the sent off player
 - If team playing down a player scores:
 - time penalty is not affected

- If a **SUBSTITUTE** receives a **Red Card**:
 - Team does **NOT** play down a player
 - **NO** time penalty for a **SUBSTITUTE** receiving a red card

YELLOW CARDS

- NO TIME PENALTY for yellow cards

QUARTER, SEMI, AND FINALS-

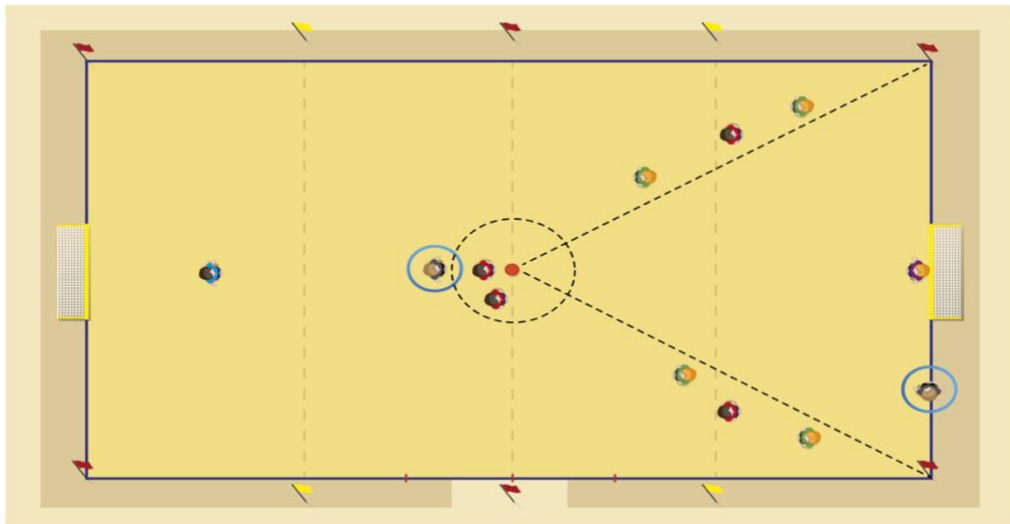
- One 3 minute extra-time will be golden goal. (NASSC)
- Kicks from the penalty mark if still tied after 3 minute extra-time
- If co-ed, at least 2 women must be in first round of kicks from each team.
- Any 5 eligible kickers from each team
- All eligible kickers must kick before repeating
- After first 5 kickers the kicks are one for one until one team scores and the other team doesn't score

LOCATIONS OF FREE KICKS

A. NON-CONTACT OFFENSES COMMITTED BY A TEAM IN THEIR OWN HALF **PROCEDURAL OFFENSES (i.e. indirect free kick "type" offenses)**

RESTART = DIRECT FREE KICK WITH A CLEAR ZONE (CONE) AT MIDFIELD

- If team or its keeper in possession of the ball in its own penalty area for more than four seconds;
- If a goalkeeper commits any of the following offenses:
 - controls the ball in their own half for more than four seconds **(US OPEN ONLY)**
 - plays the ball with the hand/arm inside their penalty area after receiving it from a team-mate, deliberately touches it again with the hand/arm in the same penalty area after receiving a second pass from a team-mate, without the ball having been touched by an opponent in between the two passes
 - deliberately touches the ball with the hand or arm inside their penalty area after releasing it and before it has touched another player
 - Punts the ball
 - after playing the ball outside their penalty area, returns to their penalty area and, before it has touched another player, touches or plays the ball with any part of the body
 -
- Team or keeper in possession of the ball in their own half commits any of the following offenses:
 - plays in a dangerous manner
 - impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
 - attempts to deceive the referees, e.g. by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
 - is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) or other verbal offenses
 - any other offense not mentioned in the Beach Soccer Laws for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player
 - a player, in their own half, commits against a **team-mate** any of the ten offenses (except deliberate handball) for which a penalty kick is awarded



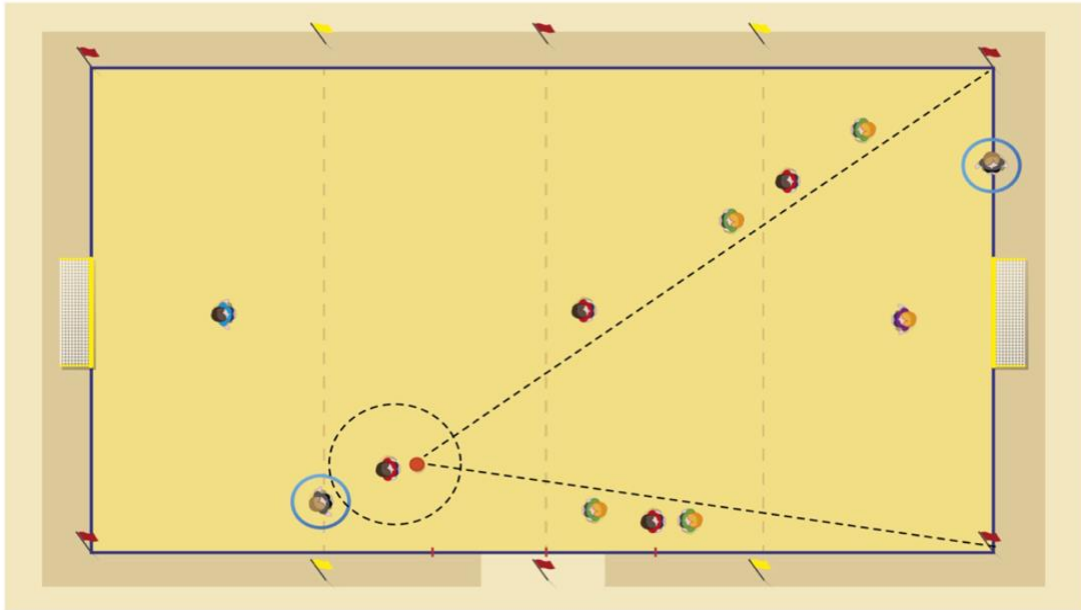
OFFENSE COMMITTED BY DEFENDER (GREEN) IN THEIR OWN HALF

LOCATIONS OF FREE KICKS

B. NON-CONTACT OFFENSES COMMITTED BY ATTACKING TEAM WHILE IN OPPONENTS HALF **PROCEDURAL OFFENSES (i.e. indirect free kick "type" offenses)**

RESTART = DIRECT FREE KICK WITH A CLEAR ZONE (CONE) AT THE SPOT OF THE OFFENSE

- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- attempts to deceive the referees, e.g. by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) or other verbal offenses
- 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
- any other offense not mentioned in the Beach Soccer Laws for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player



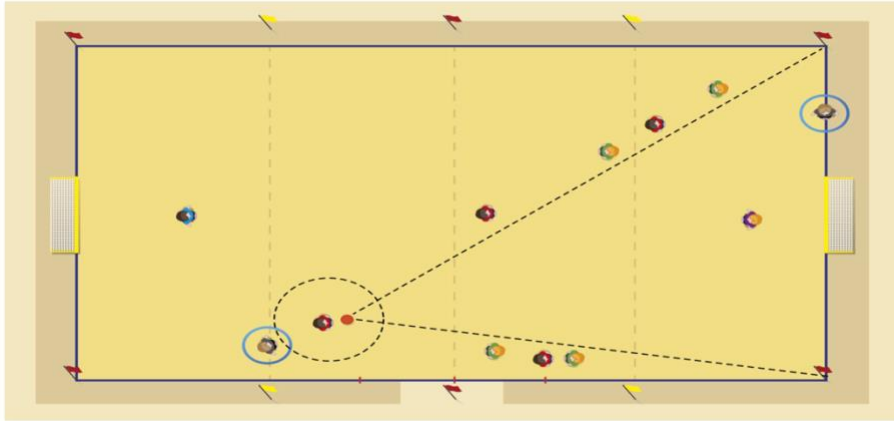
OFFENSE COMMITTED BY ATTACKER (GREEN) IN OPPONENTS (RED) OWN HALF.

C. FOULS COMMITTED ANYWHERE ON THE FIELD
PHYSICAL FOULS (i.e. Direct Free Kick “Type” Fouls)

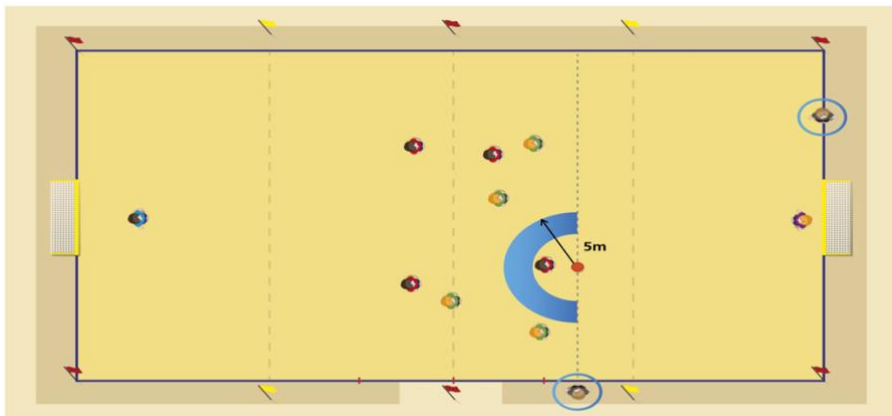
RESTART = DIRECT FREE KICK AT THE SPOT OF THE FOUL OR A PENALTY KICK

- Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Trips an opponent
- Jumps at an opponent
- Charges an opponent
- Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- Pushes an opponent
- Tackles an opponent
- Holds or prevents an opponent from executing a scissors or overhead kick
- Spits or deliberately throws sand at an opponent
- Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
- Slide tackles with or without contact (NAASC)

(See diagrams 1-3 on following page)



(1) DEFENDER (RED) WAS FOULED IN THEIR OWN HALF



(2) ATTACKER (RED) WAS FOULED IN OPPONENTS HALF

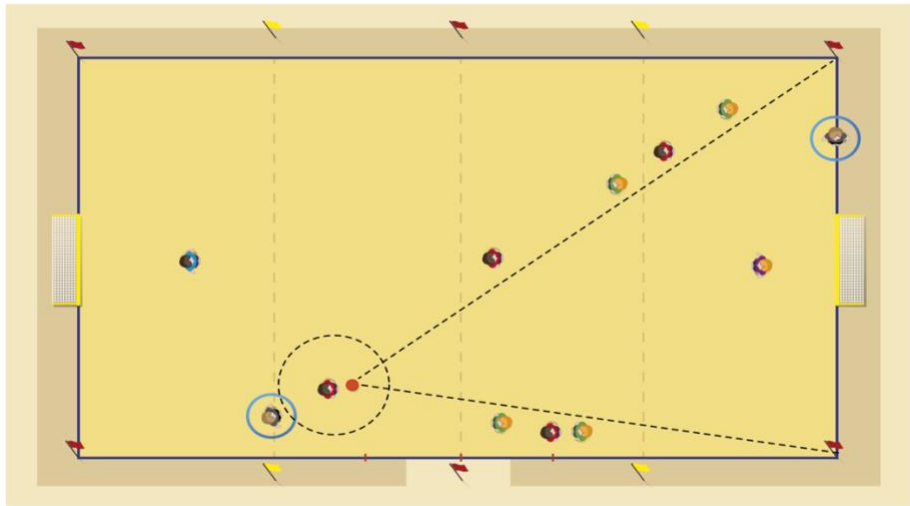


(3) ATTACKER (RED) WAS FOULED IN OPPONENTS PENALTY AREA - PENALTY KICK

RESTARTS FOR FREE KICKS AFTER CLEAR ZONE VIOLATIONS
(WITH OR WITHOUT CONE)

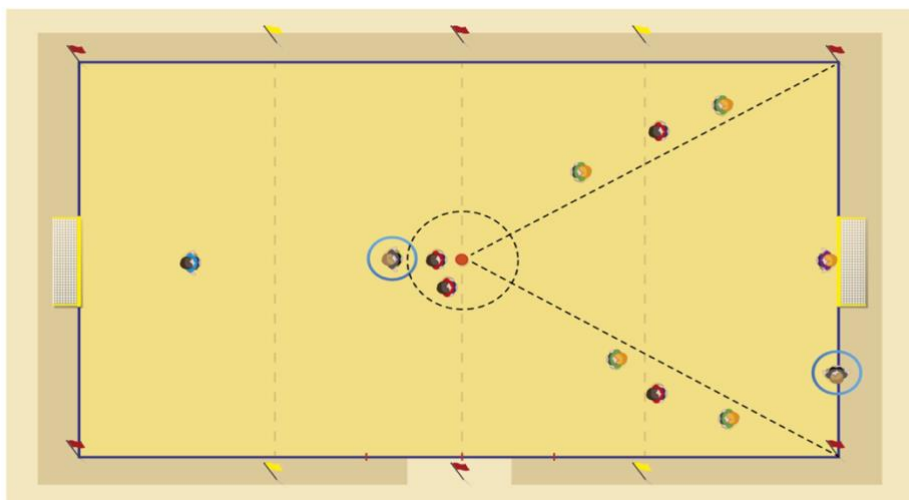
A. if **ATTACKING** team (green) touches the ball, (unless advantage is applied) before it touches the sand, goal frame, or keeper, or ball goes out of play, or ball leaves the cone, the restart is either:

A free kick (cone) from the spot of the touch, if in defending teams own half.



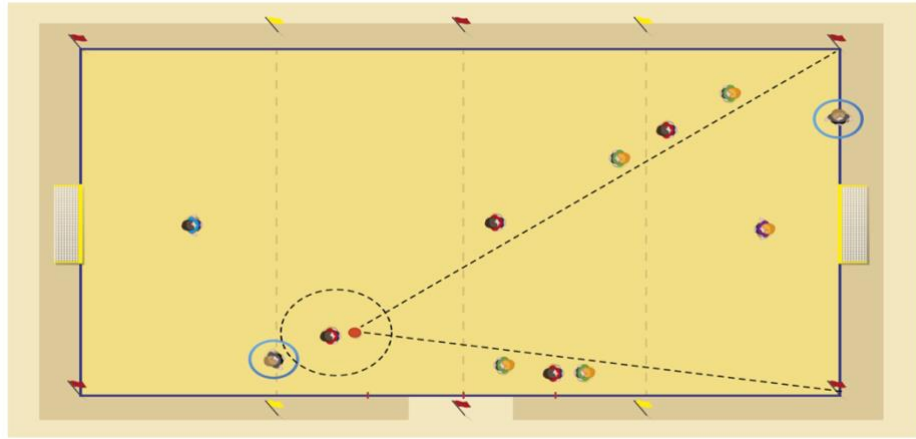
OR

A free kick (cone) at center of midfield, if touched in attacking team's own half.

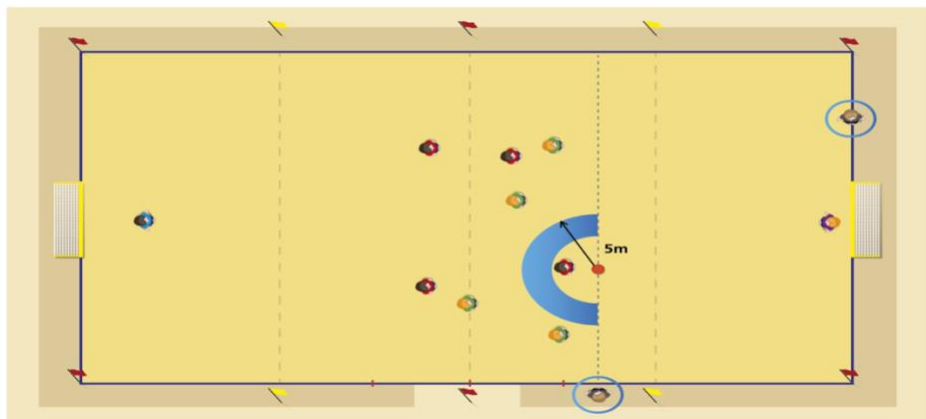


B. If **DEFENDING** team (green) touches the ball, (unless advantage is applied), before it touches the sand, goal frame, or keeper, or ball goes out of play, or ball leaves the cone, the result is either:

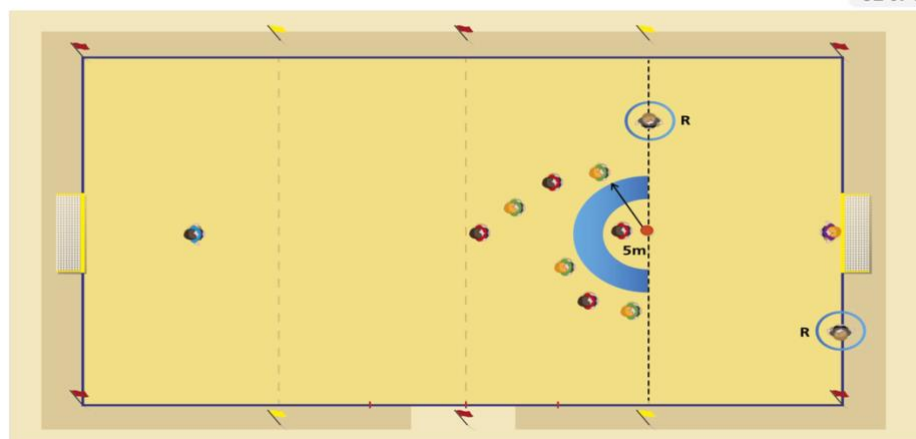
A free kick at the spot the defender touched the ball, if touch was in the attacking teams (red) own half



A free kick at the spot of the touch for the attacking team (red), if in the defending teams own half.



A penalty kick if a defender (green) touches the ball in their own penalty area.



POSITIONING FOR ONE REFEREE

- Referee should move along the touchline, and if they are positioned on the pitch, they should avoid interfering with play in the middle of the pitch unless there is a free kick or disciplinary action that requires the referee to be there
- Referee should be positioned behind and slightly beside the kicker for free kicks with a clear zone (cone), so they may determine clear zone violations
- Referee should position themselves on the goal line for free kicks with clear zone (no cone) as these types of kicks often lead to goals or close saves and the referee will be in a position to determine goal or no goal
- Move onto field to set up all free kicks
- Move as necessary along touch line to maintain the best view

POSITIONING FOR TWO REFEREES

General positioning during the match

The referees must always face the pitch. One of the referees must be in line with the second-last member of the defending team or the ball if it is nearer the goal line than the second-last member of the defending team or, if necessary, level with the goal line.

i.e., When attacking play is moving toward the referee that is closest to the goal, they should move to the goal line for goal-no goal decisions. When the attacking play is moving away from the trailing referee, they should take a position in line with second to last member of the defending team.

Ball in-play situation

Important: On all free kicks a referee needs to be positioned on the goal line because any free kick can lead to a goal. This position ensures accurate goal-no goal decisions.

Recommendations:

- The play should be between the referee and the second referee
- The referees should use a diagonal system, always keeping the ball and players in their field of vision
- Staying outside and parallel to the touch line makes it easier to keep the play and the other referee within the referee's field of vision
- One of the referees should be close enough to see play without interfering with it
- The referees only enter the pitch to restart play, after a foul has been committed, to conduct a dropped ball, to show a card, to assess an injury to a player, or in any other special circumstances
- "What needs to be seen" does not always happen in the vicinity of the ball.
- The referees should also pay attention to:
 - possible offense in the penalty area towards which play is heading
 - aggressive off-the-ball individual confrontations involving players,
 - offense occurring after the ball has been played away

Goalkeeper releasing the ball

One of the referees must take a position in line with the edge of the penalty area and check that the goalkeeper does not touch the ball with their hands outside the penalty area, while also counting the number of seconds they are in possession of the ball.

Once the goalkeeper has released the ball, the referee must take up a suitable position for supervising the match.

Referee signal to track the goal keepers use of hands

(DOES NOT APPLY TO GOAL CLEARANCES)

- ❖ Once the keeper uses their hands or arms to legally receive the ball from a teammate, the referee closest to the keeper should indicate the first touch by extending their arm towards the direction of the keeper downward at a 45 degree angle until the ball is touched by an opponent or goes out of play, at which time the referee stops the signal.
- ❖ This signal will help the referee and the keeper track whether they are permitted to handle the ball in their penalty area from a pass from their team-mate

“Goal – no goal” situations

- When a goal has been scored and there is no doubt about the decision, the referee and the second referee must make eye contact
- If a goal has been scored, but the ball appears to still be in play, the referee who is nearest blows their whistle to attract the attention of the other referee.

Positioning in ball-out-of-play situations

The best position is one from which the referee can make the right decision. All recommendations about positioning are based on probabilities and must be adjusted using specific information about the teams, the players and events in the match up to that point.

- Positioning – kick-off
 - At the start of the match, the referee takes up a position on the goal line on the same side as the substitution zone, from where they watch to see if a goal is scored.
 - The second referee (opposite the substitution zone) takes up a position on the touch line opposite the substitution zone, ensuring that the defenders are in the correct position and using the 5m marks on the touch line to make sure that the defenders do not advance too far forward. They should then move to midfield to ensure kick is properly taken. They should then use the whistle to signal for the kick-off to be taken.
 - Once play has started, and at kick-offs, the referees may take up a different position on the touch lines as necessary for better control of the match.
- Positioning for clear zone (cone) free kicks
 - referee closest to kick should take position behind the kicker without interfering in order to see infringements of the clear zone. The other referee should take up a position on the goal line
- Positioning for direct free kicks
 - Referee closest to the location of free kick positions players and signals restart with a whistle.
- Positioning for kick-in/throw-in
 - Referee on the side of the field nearest this type of restart is to take a position on the touch line that keeps the player and ball between the referee and the goal being attacked.
 - The other referee moves to the second to last defender or the goal line as necessary.

SIGNALLING

Referee and Other Match Official Signals

The referees must give the signals listed below, bearing in mind that most of the signals need only be made by one of the referees, but one signal must be made by both referees at the same time.

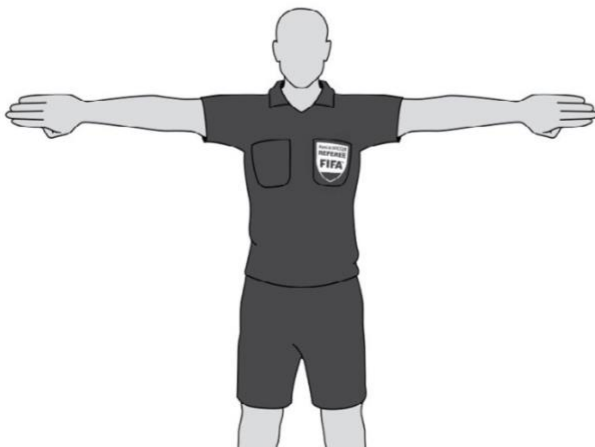
In addition to the existing “two-armed” signal for an advantage, a similar “one-armed” signal is now permitted, as it is not always easy for referees to run with both arms extended.

The assistant referees give the signals that the chronometer has been stopped and that a kick-off has been taken incorrectly.

1. Signals by at least one of the referees



Kick-off/restart of play



Free kick from attacking half of the pitch



Free kick from a team's own half or from the centre of the pitch



Penalty kick



Kick-in/throw-in (Option 1)



(Option 2)



Corner kick (Option 1)



(Option 2)



Goal clearance (Option 1)



(Option 2)