



# The Rules of Indoor Soccer

*2015-2016 – Summary of Rule Changes and Instructions to Referees*



## Rule Changes

There are minimal changes to the Rules of Indoor Soccer for 2015-16.

'Rule' changes in the Rules of Indoor Soccer are indicated with a vertical line in the left margin, just like the FIFA book.

### Rule 1 – The Field of Play –

Page 4

Previous wording - none.

- New wording - The restart mark is indicated at the centre of the defensive zone line.

*Reason – as outlined later in the rules, all restarts that are required to take place on the defensive line will now be taken from the centre of the line.*

Page 6

- Previous wording - A line will be drawn, extending vertically to the top of the wall, at the point where the undrawn extension of the goal area line would intersect the wall.
- New wording - A line will be drawn, extending vertically to the top of the wall, at a point that is an equal distance from the beginning of the corner curve at both the goal and touch walls.

*Reason – this wording aligns with how most facilities are marked. Some facilities do not have a line, due to advertising.*

Page 6

- Centre mark has been added to diagram

### **Rule 3 – The Number of Players -**

Page 8

- Previous wording - none.
- New wording - The player must then leave the field through either gate of the team's bench.

*Reason – specifies that the player can't stay on the field inside the restart line indefinitely, and that the player has to use the gate to leave the field.*

### **Rule 7 – The Duration of the Match**

Page 17

- Previous wording - none.
- New wording - Local competition rules may allow for some amount of stopped time, other than in the last two minutes, for time outs, injuries etc.

*Reason – aligns with some competition rules.*

### **Rule 11 – Three Line Violation**

Page 23

- Old wording - For a three-line violation, the referee awards a free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the ball crossed the first defensive line.
- New wording - For a three-line violation, the referee awards a free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the restart mark at the center of the violating team's defensive line.
- 

*Reason – will improve the flow of the game and reduce the need for the referee or assistant referee to 'spot' the ball.*

## **Rule 12 – Fouls and Misconducts**

Page 24

- Old wording – Technical Offences
- New wording – Technical Free Kick Offences

*Reason – clarification of the heading.*

Page 29

- Old wording – Limit on time penalties
- New wording – Grammatical clean up of wording, no change in rule.

*Reason – housekeeping.*

- Old wording – ... the referee will acknowledge the offence by holding the blue card in the air...
- New wording – ... the referee will acknowledge the offence by holding the yellow card in the air....

*Reason – simplifies mechanics, as most delayed penalties will be cautionable offences.*

Page 31

- Old wording – To assist with the 2014-15 changes, a summary chart has been printed on the following page.
- New wording – The Summary Chart has been retained for reference.

*Reason – since this is only the second season after major changes, it was felt that the chart would be useful.*

## **Rule 15 – Ball Out of Play, Ceiling or Side**

Page 39

- Old wording – The free kick is taken at the centre of the defensive line closest to where the ball was last touched or played.
- New wording – The free kick is taken at the restart mark at the centre of the defensive line closest to where the ball was last touched or played.

*Reason – aligns with the mark that has been added to the field.*

Page 39

- Old wording – None
- New wording – In the event of any other infringement of this rule
  - The kick is retaken

*Reason – aligns with infringements on the taking of goal kicks and corner kicks.*

## Language Policy

Leagues and associations have asked us to address how we deal with (or don't) – players and team officials using offensive, insulting or abusive language.

The Rules of Indoor Soccer already tell us how to deal with this.

We offer some additional guidance.

The following are the MINIMUM sanctions that must be administered by officials.

1. Using 'offensive' language directed towards oneself (e.g – after missing a shot), that can be clearly heard by others.

First offence – A clear verbal warning to the player.

Second offence – A caution for 'unsporting behaviour'.

Third offence – A second caution for 'unsporting behaviour' and a subsequent dismissal for the second caution.

2. Using 'offensive' language in a verbal exchange with an opponent (non insulting or abusive), or a team mate or own team official.

First offence – A caution for 'unsporting behaviour'.

Second offence - A second caution for 'unsporting behaviour' and a subsequent dismissal for the second caution.

3. Using 'offensive' language in a verbal exchange with an official (non insulting or abusive).

First offence – A caution for 'unsporting behaviour' or 'dissent'

Second offence - A second caution for 'unsporting behaviour' or 'dissent' and a subsequent dismissal for the second caution.

4. Using 'insulting or abusive' language in a verbal exchange with an official, an opponent, a team mate or own team official.  
First offence – A dismissal for using 'offensive, insulting or abusive 'language'.

5. Using 'offensive, insulting or abusive' language in a verbal exchange with a spectator *or* making 'racist' remarks of any kind to any person.

First offence – A dismissal for using 'offensive, insulting or abusive 'language'

**Notes:**

1. In all cases (other than verbal warning), the sanction must be reported to the proper authorities, using the appropriate reporting method.

2. All of the above sanctions apply to anyone named on the game sheet (player, substitute or team official).

3. In ALL cases, these sanctions are the MINIMUM to be applied, and may be increased by the game official to the next level, if he or she feels that it is warranted.