

# **ODSL LAWS OF THE GAME**

Updated Spring 2011

**Except as noted below, ODSL abides by the FIFA LAWS OF THE GAME, GUIDE FOR REFEREES, UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION.**

1. LAW I. Field should be marked with a spectator line one to two yards from each touchline and extending between each 18 yard line parallel to the touchlines. Teams and spectators must remain behind this line.

**Teams are to be on the same side of the field along with their coaching staffs. Only team personnel possessing a VYSA pass are allowed to be on the team side. All spectators must go to the opposite side of the field.**

2. LAW II. U-12 age groups and younger use a size 4 ball. U-13 age groups and older use a size 5 ball.
3. LAW III. **Player passes should be checked prior to the start of the game.** A team has until the end of a match to produce them. The minimum number of players required to begin or continue a match is seven when playing eleven per side. The minimum number of players is six when playing seven per side or six per side. A team may have a 15 minute grace period in which to meet the player minimum. The beginning of the game may be delayed 15 min if the field is unplayable, while the home team makes repairs or corrections.

SUBSTITUTES: Substitutions may be made with the consent of the referee: Prior to a throw-in, unlimited, by the team in possession of the ball (Both teams may substitute players if the team in possession is substituting. Players must be at mid-field waiting to go in when a substitution is requested); Prior to a goal kick, unlimited, by both teams; After a goal is scored, unlimited, by both teams; Injury causing a stoppage in play, for the injured player; At half time, unlimited, by either team; After a player receives a caution, at the request of the coach.

4. LAW IV. Casts or splints are allowed with the permission of the referee. If the referee believes the cast or splint presents a danger, he may disallow it and the player may not play. Field players' jerseys must be numbered and must be tucked into the shorts at all times. When there is a color conflict, the home team must change colors.
5. LAW V. If the referees do not arrive, the game may be started (played) using volunteers if BOTH coaches agree. A referee arriving after the start of a game will take position at the next stoppage in play, and continue the game as if he had been there the entire time.

Referees are responsible for the enforcement of the laws of the game and for insuring proper behavior by spectators, coaches and other team personnel. The referee may banish a coach, team official or spectator from the area where the game is being played. The referee may banish a coach for misbehavior on the part of a spectator who

has been previously warned. The referee may suspend the game while the banished individual leaves the area to the satisfaction of the referee. If the person does not depart the area, the referee may terminate the game. Such actions must be reported.

The ODSL REFEREE GAME REPORT must be completed and mailed within 24 hours. **ODSL will back its referees.**

6. LAW VII. Duration of the game.

U-19 - 90 minutes    \*\* U-12 - 70 minutes

U-17 - 90 minutes    \*\* U-11 - 70 minutes

U-16 - 80 minutes    \*U-10 - 60 minutes

U-15 - 80 minutes    \*U-09 - 60 minutes

U-14 - 70 minutes    \*\* Small sided 8 v 8

U-13 - 70 minutes    \* Small sided. 7 v 7

The referee should conduct two halves of equal time. Matches may NOT be shortened to keep schedules on time. No additional periods will be played in tie games.

7. Home coach is responsible for safety of field and goals. **No match should be played on a field on which the goals are not properly anchored or weighted.** A home coach has no more than 15 minutes to make corrections to the field. After 15 minutes, if the field is still unplayable, the game may be forfeited to the visiting team. If the away team agrees to play they cannot ask for a forfeit after the match.
8. **Forfeits** can **only** be declared by the ODSL Board of Directors. Matches should be played as scheduled and referees should report any incidents on the game card.

**No Guest Players are Allowed**