



EPE Schools Football Tournament Rules

Format:

- 1) 5 v 5 - 7 v 7
- 2) Each team to bring a minimum of 5 players and a maximum of 15 player to a game
- 3) Where 1 team has 6 players both teams play with 6
- 4) Where 1 team has 5 players both teams play with 5
- 5) Where a team only has 4 players this results in a forfeit.
- 6) A friendly may still take place where players are shared across teams to ensure the children still get to play
- 7) All participants must be member of the school they are representing and in year 3-6
- 8) Mix Gender
- 9) Match Length: All fixtures are 7 minutes no half time
- 10) Point system: 2 points for a win 1 point for a draw, 0 points for a loss.
- 11) Each team plays one another once.
- 12) Top two teams play in the final. After full time, if the game is tied, penalties will decide the outcome.
- 13) The Final will range from 7-10 mins depending what time allows.
- 14) Penalty rules – Only 5 players can be selected to take a penalty, no one player can take a penalty again until all teammates have taken a penalty. Penalties will function with a sudden victory rule.
e.g. during any round of penalties if a player does not score and the opposing player does score. The team of the scorer will win the match.

Game rules:

1. **Kick-off:**
 - 1.1. Decided by coin toss.
 - 1.2. Team not taking kick off must be in their own half and 5 yards away from the player taking kick off.
 - 1.3. Kick off taken after a goal is scored.
2. **Offsides:**
 - 2.1. No offside rule.
3. **Back passes not allowed:**
 - 3.1. Keeper cannot pick up the ball if deliberately passed to them from a teammate.

4. Goal kicks:

- 4.1. Opposition team not allowed to be within the final third of the team taking the goal kicks.
- 4.2. Goal kicks can be played over head height.
- 4.3. The ball must not be moving.
- 4.4. The ball can be placed anywhere within the semi-circle.
- 4.5. Goals cannot be scored from a goal kick

5. Goalkeeper:

- 5.1. May throw the ball over head height after catching in open play. (this cannot be headed)

6. Players:

- 6.1. Players from either team are allowed to be in either goal semi-circle during the game with exception to goal kicks and penalties.

7. Slide Tackles:

- 7.1. No slide tackles allowed.
- 7.2. Slide tackles result indirect free kick to the opposing team.
- 7.3. Sliding tackles in the box by the defending team that make contact results in a penalty to the opposing team.
- 7.4. Slide tackles in the box by the defending team that do not make contact result in an indirect free kick to the opposition.

8. Overhead height rule:

- 8.1. The ball cannot be played overhead height during open play. with exception to goal keepers throws. Overhead height will be determined by the height of the tallest player on the pitch.
- 8.2. The ball can be played overhead height during Set pieces. Excluding kick in's. When opting to kick in with the feet the ball must be below head height.
- 8.3. Shots in the opposition half only, may be overhead height. Shots outside the opposition half must not be overhead height.
- 8.4. Violation of overhead height rule results in an indirect free kick.
- 8.5. Where the ball is deflected off an opponent and the ball elevates overhead height a drop ball is awarded

9. Heading:

- 9.1. Headers are only allowed during set pieces and occasions where overhead height rule is in play. However, headers will only be granted early on in this phase of play. A ball headed a considerable time after the set piece or occasion where overhead height rule is in play the team committing the offence will be penalised with a free kick against them. E.g Corner, Free kick or throw in where the ball bounces before a player heads the ball the player heading the ball will be penalised. and the opposition will be awarded with a free kick.
- 9.2. Heading the ball in open play will result in a free kick.
- 9.3. Where the ball strikes a player's face, and the header is not intentional, the ref must stop the game and a drop ball is awarded.

10. Restarting play Kick ins /Throw-ins:

- 10.1. Both Passing in with feet and throw ins are allowed.
- 10.2. The foul throw rule is active when opting to throw.
- 10.3. Beyond the immediate phase of play : the ball being played overhead height results in an indirect free kick.

11. Free kicks:

- 11.1. Opposing team 5 yards back from ball.
- 11.2. Ball can be played over head height.
- 11.3. Fouls and handballs result in a direct free kick or penalty
- 11.4. Beyond the immediate phase of play: the ball being passed overhead height results in an indirect free kick or a penalty. (overhead shot in the opposition half are still allowed)

12. Corner kicks:

- 12.1. Opposing team must be 5 yards back from the ball.
- 12.2. Can be over head height.
- 12.3. Beyond the immediate phase of play: the ball being played overhead height results in an indirect free kick.

13. Penalties:

- 13.1. Penalty taker only permitted to take a maximum of 3 steps before striking the ball.
- 13.2. keeper must have one foot on the goal line when penalty is taken.
- 13.3. Incorrect penalties or keeper position result in a penalty retake.
- 13.4. On the third fault from the penalty take the ball is given for an opposition goal kick.
- 13.5. On the third fault from the Goalkeeper a goal is awarded.