



E LITE PLAYERS LEAGUE RULES BRIEF 2023

The EPL follows all the fundamental rules of soccer with the following exceptions, primarily implemented to provide a conducive platform for U6, U7, U8, U9, U10 & U11 development.

Games are 9v9, 7v7 or 5v5. Coaches can agree to change playing format to fit players available. We will support the U10/U11 age group if we have enough teams that wish to play 9v9.

All free kicks are indirect except Penalty Kicks. On indirect kicks, one player must simply touch the ball before the ball can go directly into the goal. Defensive players must remain outside a 7-yard radius while and until the free kick is taken. Any fouls committed inside the penalty box will result in a Penalty Kick.

Goalkeepers CANNOT play the ball from their hands—thrown or drop kicked—over midfield. The ball must be touched or bounce once before it crosses midfield. If a GK does kick or throw the ball beyond midfield, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick at the half field line approximately where the ball crossed over half field in the air. Goalkeepers CAN elect to put ball at their feet and play the ball as if they were a field player without restriction, but the GK CANNOT put the ball down and pick it up again.

The 5v5 fields will use a “kick in” system of play instead of throw ins and ball in GK hands instead of Goal Kicks. Referees are given the discretion to have a player retake an incorrect throw-in, provided they inform the player of the violation and consequently instruct the player on the proper manner to execute a throw in..

A size 4 ball is utilized and games consist of two, 25 minute halves with a 5 minute break at halftime.

There is no offside in 5v5 or 7v7, However, we trust that each coach will instruct his or her team in the spirit of an offside rule (in other words don't encourage cherry-picking). Sometimes coaches have become frustrated because they wanted offside to be a crutch for their team's lack of defensive balance. There is no offside! Ultimately, you must have your team positioned appropriately.

Offside **will be recognized and called** in all 9v9 matches

If a game becomes overly lopsided in favor of one team, the EPL recommends the **losing team put an additional player** on the field to even out play and scoring. **Both coaches and the referee must be in agreement and notified before a player is added to the field.**

The league expects there to only be ONE coach for each team standing and providing instruction to their respective team. A second coach can interject intermittently, but the league does NOT condone multiple coaches standing and shouting at the same time continuously. It serves no constructive purpose!

Coaches or parents who verbally abuse the referee will be asked to leave the facility. If they refuse to leave the match will be canceled. NO ABUSE of referees will be tolerated in any way.



Team/Coach

1. Matches will not be rescheduled after scheduling meeting except for matches canceled by weather
2. Teams that fail to show for scheduled matches will be fined \$50 for referee and admin fees
3. Coaches or parents asked to leave the field will receive an automatic 1 match ban
4. Coaches or parents that refuse to leave the facility after being ejected will receive an automatic 2 match ban