



Laws of the Game

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1. The Field of Play

- 1.1. Players' Box: No one except coaches and players currently playing are allowed in the team boxes (maximum of 2 coaches). No children other than those playing the present game are allowed in the boxes.
- 1.2. Photography: No videotaping or photography is allowed from inside the player's boxes.
- 1.3. Glass Containers Prohibited: No glass containers in the boxes.
- 1.4. Leave the Bench Neat for Next Team: Exit the field after your game and PLEASE pick up belongings and garbage to leave the box clean for the next game.
- 1.5. No Alcohol or Prohibited Food Products: No smoking is allowed and no chewing tobacco, gum or alcohol may be brought into the premises.
- 1.6. Participant Intoxication: No players or coaches may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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2. The Ball

- 2.1. Size #5: U-13 through adult
- 2.2. Size #4: U-9 to U-12
- 2.3. Size #3: U-8 and under
- 2.4. Arena Sports will provide all game balls, as well as balls to warm up with before games. No outside balls are permitted.

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3. The Players

Number of Players	
	Issaquah Outdoor Field
Coed Adult	4 players, at least two women in the field
U16 To Adult	4 players, one of whom is a goalkeeper

3.1. Minimum Number of Players: The minimum number of players for the start of the game is 3 players, one of which is a goalkeeper.

3.2. Guest Player Policy: A team is allowed to use guest players who are not on the roster as long as the player has a current Arena Sports membership (single day or annual) AND the opposing team gives permission prior to the start of the game. Failure to follow this policy results in forfeiture for the team using non-rostered players.

3.2.1. Guest Player Removal: Once the opposing team has approved the use of a guest player, it is up to the referee's discretion to remove the guest player from the game (due to player conduct, ability level restrictions, etc.)

3.3. Play on Only One Team Per Division: Players can only play on 1 team per division. Violations will result in a loss for the teams that the player plays for. Divisions are separated by levels of play and weekday.

3.4. Arena Sports Membership: All players must have a current Arena Sports membership and be on their team's roster before the start of each game.

3.5. Adult Age Specific Leagues: Adults must be the age of their league during the session (i.e. over 30 etc.).

3.6. Liability Waivers: All players must have a signed waiver on file at an Arena Sports facility. Youth Players must have a parent or legal guardian sign on their behalf.

3.7. Youth Age Deadlines: The age group that a player is assigned depends upon the player's birth year (i.e., a U-15 player will be turning 15 years old during the current calendar year).

3.8. Ability Level Restrictions: A player in a C or D league determined by the referee to be playing at a level that is not cohesive with the rest of the league may be removed from play by the referee.

3.9. Coed Leagues:

3.9.1 Coed Substitution Restrictions: Male players may not substitute for female players, however females may play in place of males.

3.9.2 Minimum Number of Women: In Coed Leagues, at least 1 player must be a woman to start a game.

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4. The Equipment

4.2. The goalkeeper must wear colors that distinguish them from all other players.

4.3. All team members must wear the same color jerseys to distinguish them from the opposing team and the referee. Players are asked to bring an alternate shirt (dark and light). In the event both teams are the same color, the home team must change.

4.4. Shin guards are REQUIRED for all players. Socks must be worn over shin guards and be pulled up to completely cover the shin guards. Goalkeepers or any other players wearing any kind of protective gear (i.e. knee pads) must wear the soft cushioned type.

4.5. All players with a cast must have it wrapped in a manner acceptable to the referee. All other equipment the referee deems dangerous to players or opponents will not be allowed. By allowing them to play, Arena Sports in no way accepts responsibility for any aggravation of the injury that may occur while playing.

4.6. A player may not wear jewelry (watches, bracelets, etc.) which is dangerous to themselves or other players.

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5. The Referee

5.1. Enforces Arena Sports Rules;

5.2. Controls the match;

- 5.3. Ensures that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Law 3;
- 5.4. Acts as timekeeper and keeps a record of the match;
- 5.5. Stops, suspends or terminates the match, at their discretion, for any infringements of the laws;
- 5.6. Stops, suspends or terminates the match because of outside interference of any kind;
- 5.7. Stops the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that they are removed from the field of play. An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted;
- 5.8. Allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in their opinion, only slightly injured;

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6. Duration of Match

- 6.1. Length of Halves: All adult games consist of two 20-minute halves. Youth leagues matches include 20-minute halves.
- 6.2. Half-Time Interval: The half-time interval will be 30 seconds. In the interest of time constraints the half-time may be shortened to catch up on lost time due to injuries or other stoppages in play.
- 6.3. Time Between Games: Time between games shall be 1 ½ minutes and teams are required to be ready to play. Time constraints may also require this interval to be shortened.
- 6.4 Game Start Times: The game clock will be started at the scheduled start time, including the second half, regardless of the number of available players on the field.
- 6.5. Time Stoppage: The clock may be stopped at the referee's discretion, including in the event of serious injury or if the ball leaves the perimeter wall.
- 6.6. Substitution Required: When time is stopped for an injury, the injured player must leave the game for a substitute. Any player who suffers a head injury will not be allowed to re-enter the game.
- 6.7. Goalkeeper Exception: If it is the goalkeeper whose injuries require the clock to be stopped and the keeper is able to continue to play they may forgo substitution and continue to play.
- 6.8. Forfeit Declared: A forfeit is declared when a team is unable to put the minimum number of players on the field within 5 minutes after the game start time, and will result in a 3-0 win for the team that was forfeited on. The game clock will continue to run while the team is attempting to field their players and the time elapsed will not be reinstated.
- 6.9. Forfeits Not Rescheduled: Forfeits are rescheduled only if it was an administrative error. Weather conditions may cause Arena Sports to close. If we are open, please make your scheduled game if possible.

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7. Start and Stop of Play

7.1. No Whistle Required: With the exception of kickoffs, penalty kicks, or a specific dead ball otherwise specified by the referee, all restarts can be taken once the ball has been placed at the spot of the foul.

7.2. No Second Touch: Once the ball has been kicked and clearly moves, the player restarting play cannot play the ball again until someone else touches the ball.

7.3. 5 Second Rule: If a player taking a kick delays longer than 5 seconds after having placed the ball for restart, the ball will be turned over to the opposing team to take the restart.

7.4. 5 Feet Required: For any restart of play, the team not in possession of the ball must provide 5 feet of space from the ball as soon as the foul has been spotted until play has resumed.

7.5. Macho Restarts: When a female is in goal in Coed C or Coed D leagues, all restarts taken from the red line and forward must be taken by a female player.

7.6. Disallowed Goals: The restart on a disallowed goal is a kick in by the goalkeeper.

The following sections outline specific restarts of play:

7.7. Direct Free Kicks: All restarts not outlined in the sections below are direct. This means that a goal can be scored directly from the kick without the need to be played by another player.

7.8. Indirect Free Kicks:

7.8.1. Procedure: Goals cannot be scored directly from an indirect free kick, and must be touched by another player other than the kick taker before a goal can be scored.

7.8.2. Kickoffs: All kickoffs at the start of a half or following a goal are indirect.

7.8.3. Injury Restarts: Play will restart with the team in possession the moment the injury occurs. If neither team had clear possession, the game will be restarted with a dropped ball.

7.8.4. U-11 Red Line Free Kicks: All U-11 and younger leagues will have indirect free kicks from the team's offensive red line and forward (excluding penalty kicks).

7.8.5. U-11 Headers: All U-11 and younger leagues will not allow intentional heading of the ball. This will result in a free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the header.

7.9. Kickoffs:

7.9.1. Visiting Team Kicks Off: The visiting team shall kick off to start the game.

7.9.2. Half Time Switch: At each half, teams will switch sides and the Home team kicks off to start the second half.

7.9.3. Kick-Off Direction: On a kickoff the ball may be kicked in any direction.

7.9.4. Players Must Be On Own Side: All players must be on their own side of the field at the start of each kickoff.

7.10. Dropped Ball:

7.10.1. Procedure: The ball will be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched the player.

7.10.2. No Clear Possession: A stoppage of play where no one team is awarded the ball, and neither team had clear possession.

7.10.3. Simultaneous Fouls: At least one player from both teams commits a foul at the same time.

7.10.4. Referee Interference: The ball touches a match official and results in a team starting a promising attack, the ball going directly into the goal, or the team in possession of the ball changes.

7.11. Penalty Kicks:

7.11.1. PK Awarded: Penalty kicks are awarded when a defensive physical foul takes place in the goal box or is an attempt to deny an obvious scoring opportunity. This will result in an automatic blue card or higher.

7.11.2. Penalty kick Spot: Penalty kicks shall be taken from the designated spot in the field.

7.11.3. Clock Not a Factor: If the clock stops for half-time or the end of the game, prior to the penalty kick, then the kick will be immediately taken by one of the players on the field at that time (Rebounds will not be playable.)

7.11.4. Players Behind the halfway line: All players, other than the goalkeeper and the kicker, must be behind the halfway line until the ball has been played.

7.11.5. Referee's Whistle Signals Start: Once the ball has been spotted and the goalkeeper has stated they are ready, the referee will blow their whistle to signal the restart. Failure to play the ball within five seconds will result in a goalkeepers kick.

7.11.6. GK Stays on Goal Line: The goalkeeper has to start in the line when the ball is first touched, and can move as soon as the forward makes contact with the ball.

7.11.7. Forward Can Dribble to Score: The attacking player can dribble the ball to score.

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8. Ball In/Out of Play

8.1. Out of Bounds: The ball is out of play when it goes outside the perimeter field lines.

8.2. Kick In: When the ball passes over the perimeter line, it shall be kicked in from the point where it passed over the line. The ball may be played in any direction by a player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched it before it left the field. The ball shall be in play immediately after it has clearly moved.

8.3. Kick In: When the ball goes over the line in the end perimeter wall between the corner marks (excluding when a goal is scored) having last been played by one of the attacking team, play shall be restarted with a goalkeeper kick-in, from any point within the penalty arc. The ball must be distributed

to another player within 5 seconds. The ball can be distributed to a teammate who is within the penalty arc.

8.4. Injury Stoppage: Play will restart with the team in possession the moment the injury occurs. If neither team had clear possession, the game will be restarted with a dropped ball.

8.5. Corner Kick: When the ball goes over the line in the end perimeter wall between the corner marks (excluding when a goal is scored) having last been played by a player on the defending team, play shall be restarted with a corner kick. The ball will be placed on the corner spot nearest the point where the ball made contact with the netting. A goal may be scored directly from such a kick.

8.6. Over The Net Out of Bounds: The ball is out of play when it goes over the field. The ball will be given to the opposite goalkeeper of the team who kicked the ball off the field for a goalkeeper kick-in.

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9. Substitutions

Substitutions are made during the play of the game. The referee will not stop either the game or time for a substitution.

10.1. Player Entering Must Wait: The player coming off the field must be off before the player replacing him/her may enter the field of play.

10.2. Possible Penalty: If players continue to enter the field of play or get involved in playing the ball before the exiting player is off the field, a foul will be called and the ball will be awarded to the other team at the spot of the ball when the foul was called.

10.4. Goalkeeper substitutions: A team can change its GK either during the play of the game as stated above or teams may request the referee for a goalkeeper change at the next dead ball. If this occurs the referee will hold play (when doing so will not take away an advantage for the opposing team) while the goalkeeper change is made within a reasonable time frame (10 - 15 seconds).

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10. Fouls & Misconduct

A player who commits any of the following offenses shall be penalized by the referee awarding a direct free kick to be taken by the opposing team from the point of infraction, at the referee's discretion. There will be no whistle to restart. All calls are at the discretion of the referee.

11.1. Kicking: Inadvertently kicks an opponent while attempting to strike the ball.

- 11.2. Tripping: Inadvertently trips an opponent while attempting to play the ball.
- 11.3. Jumping: Jumps at an opponent.
- 11.4. Striking: Strikes an opponent.
- 11.5. Charging: Inadvertently charges into an opponent while attempting to play the ball.
- 11.6. Pushing: Pushes a player in an attempt to prevent them from getting to the ball.
- 11.7. Charging the Goalkeeper: Charging into the goalkeeper.
- 11.8. Dangerous Play: Playing in such a manner as to be out of control. This also includes, at the referee's discretion, attempts to play the ball by leaving their feet without landing back on their feet.
- 11.10. Holding: Holds an opponent to prevent them from playing the ball or defending.
- 11.10. Handball: Intentionally plays the ball with the hand and gains control or an advantage from the handball.
- 11.11. Obstructing: When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructs an opponent by standing between the opponent and the ball so as to form an obstacle. Obstruction is not called when a player has a ball and is shielding so as to prevent an opposing player from stealing the ball or if the ball is kicked down the field and a player attempts to run through an opponent whose has established position.
- 11.12. Playing Ball While on the Ground: Except for the goalkeeper in their own goal box, playing the ball while on the ground or while having a part of your body other than your feet (3-point rule) on the ground.
- 11.13. Youth League Headers: All U-11 and younger leagues will not allow intentional heading of the ball. This will result in an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the header.
- 11.14. Coed Macho Rule: The intent of this rule is to protect female players from uncontrolled and unreasonably aggressive play by male players. If the referee feels that a male player, in the reasonable belief of a female player, intimidates or threatens a female player, on his team or the opposing team, a foul may be called and a direct free kick awarded at the location of the female player during the macho call. This includes:
- 11.14.1. High/Hard Kicks: Any kick (or goalkeeper kick-in) taken with excessive force in the direction of a female player, and within an arc described by her arm span, and which rises above waist level in relation to that player. The ball need not make contact with the player in question for a foul to be called.
- 11.14.2. Physical or Verbal Intimidation: Any attempt to take advantage of gender differences through physical or verbal intimidation.
- 11.14.3. Adult Combination League: If a league is a combination of two ability level leagues, the macho rule of the lower league will apply.

Application of Macho Rule

	Coed A	Coed B	Coed C	Coed D	Coed Beginner
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Field Player	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Goalkeeper	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

11.15. Advantage: Advantage is to be used at the referee's discretion and in the offensive end.

11.16. Goalkeeper Violations: The following goalkeeper violations shall cause the referee to stop play and award a direct free kick to the opponents at the top of the arc.

11.16.1. GK Handball: The goalkeeper may not reach outside the goal box and use their hands, even if they are standing inside the goal box.

11.16.2. Play Ball into Box: The goalkeeper may not outside the box, play the ball into the box and then play it with their hands.

11.16.3. Pass Back to Hands: The goalkeeper may not use their hands when the ball is passed or intentionally deflected, with the foot, to them from a teammate.

11.16.4. 5 Second Violation: The goalkeeper may not possess the ball in their hands for more than 5 seconds.

11.16.5. GK Slide: If the goalkeeper begins a slide inside the box (allowed) and as a result of their slide goes outside the box they will be called for a foul.

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11. Time Penalties

Penalties assessed to players during the game shall be divided into the following categories:

	Blue	Yellow	Red
Duration	2 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes
If Opponent Scores	Team returns to full strength	Team returns to full strength	Team remains short-handed for entire duration
Individual Foul	Serves duration off field	Serves duration off field	Ejected. Must exit building promptly
Team Foul	Player serving penalty may return	Player serving penalty may return	N/A

Time penalties may be assessed against players regardless of whether or not play is in progress. Time penalties that do not expire by the end of the first half are continued into the second half.

12.1. Blue Card Penalties: A player who commits any of the following offenses shall be penalized by the referee issuing a blue card that will result in the player serving a two minute penalty. Once the blue card has been issued the penalty time will not begin until the player has left the field. Calls are at the referee's discretion.

12.1.1. Intent: Any foul defined in section 12, which in the referee's judgment was intentional may result in a Blue Card or more severe penalty.

12.1.2. Boarding: Propels an opponent into the boards in a violent manner. A trip that inadvertently causes a player to make contact with the boards may not result in a blue card.

12.1.3. Sliding: Any slide, whether offensive or defensive, where a player slides toward the ball or another player in an attempt to gain possession or kick the ball is not allowed. This also applies to a goalkeeper who begins their slide outside the box.

12.1.4. Unsporting behavior: Unsporting behavior includes, but is not limited, to the following:

12.1.4.1. Persistent Disregard: Persistent disregard for the rules.

12.1.4.2. Dissent: Any dissent by word or action regarding a referee's decision.

12.1.4.3. Taunting: Taunting another team/player in a manner so as to cause a confrontation.

12.1.4.4. Encouraging Harm: Encouraging players by word or action to foul, harm or retaliate against an opponent.

12.1.5. GK Obstruction: Obstructing the goalkeeper in any manner, as they attempt to distribute the ball.

12.1.6. Intentionally Distracting: Making a loud noise or action intended to distract an opponent.

12.1.7. Illegal Substitution: Making an illegal substitution (as defined above).

12.1.8. 6th Foul in a Half: A team will be issued a 2 minute bench penalty for every sixth foul committed in a half.

12.1.9. GK Protection: Kicking or striking the goalkeeper while the keeper has possession of the ball.

12.1.10. Encroachment: Failing to provide a reasonable effort to retreat 5 feet from the ball by the time it is put into play. If after giving 5 feet, the player moves towards the ball and is struck by the ball, they will serve a penalty.

12.1.11. Failure to leave Field: If a player does not immediately leave the field after receiving a blue card, they will receive a second blue card, which will be accompanied by a yellow card. If the player continues to refuse to leave the field or delays the game further they will be issued a third blue card accompanied by a red card and ejected from the game.

12.1.12. Foul in Goal Box: A player will receive an automatic blue card if they are whistled for a foul in the goal box.

12.2. Yellow Cards Penalties: A player who commits any of the following shall be penalized by the referee issuing a yellow card which will result in the player serving a 4 minute penalty. A player

receiving a second blue card will be shown a yellow card and must serve 4 minutes instead of 2 minutes. Any player receiving any other time penalties after a yellow card will be issued a red card and ejected from the game.

12.2.1. Persistently Infringes: A player persistently infringes on the rules.

12.2.2. Persistent Dissents: A player persistently dissents by word or action any referee's decisions.

12.2.3. Persistent Unsportsmanlike Conduct: A player is guilty of persistent unsportsmanlike conduct.

12.2.4. Aggravated Manner: Commits any act defined in section 12.1 intentionally and in an aggravated manner that is more likely to cause harm to an opposing player.

12.3. Red Card Penalties: Red cards are issued for the following infractions followed by ejection from the game. A player issued a red card will be required to leave the premises. Any player refusing to leave after being asked by the person in charge, whether it is a referee or office personnel, may result in the police being called and a complaint filed.

12.3.1. Violently Kicks: Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent in a violent manner, when not attempting to play the ball, or in retaliation for a perceived foul.

12.3.2. Spits: Spits at an opponent or on the field or intentionally expels other bodily fluids on the field.

12.3.3. Strikes: Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent whether as the aggressor or in retaliation for a perceived foul.

12.3.4. Violent Conduct: Is guilty of a violent conduct or serious foul play.

12.3.5. Foul or Abusive Language: Uses foul or abusive language in a confrontational manner.

12.3.6. Fighting: Fighting, regardless of the reason.

12.3.7. Leaves Bench: Any player who leaves the bench to become involved in a fight, even if their intent is to break up the fight.

12.3.8. Bench Clears: If more than one player from a team leaves the bench, the players who left the bench will be issued red cards. The game will be stopped and the team whose players left the bench will be assessed a forfeit for the game.

12.3.9. Dual Abandonment: In the event that players from both teams leave the bench, the players that left the bench will be issued red cards and the game will be stopped and both teams issued forfeits for the game.

12.3.10. Referee Abuse: Any abuse of the referee whether verbal or physical. Verbal abuse may be defined, but is not limited to, swearing at or threatening a referee, or disputing a call in an overly aggressive manner, in an attempt to intimidate the referee.

12.3.11. 18th Foul in a Half: A team will be issued a red card for the 18th foul committed in one half. They will then play down a player for 5 minutes regardless, even if a goal is scored.

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12. Serving Penalties

13.1. **Serve Your Own:** All players, including the goalkeeper, must serve their own penalties.

13.2. **After Opponent Scores:** If a goal is scored against a team that is playing shorthanded, except when a red card was issued, then that team may return one player to the field, but the player who was penalized (including the goalkeeper) must continue to serve their penalty.

13.3. **Team Penalty:** A team that has committed 6/12/18 fouls in a half and has received a blue/yellow/red card as a result may pick the player who will serve the penalty; it does not have to be the player who committed the last foul. The person serving the penalty may return to the field if the other team scores a goal.

13.4. **Playing Short by 2:** When a team has two players who have received cards and the opposing team scores a goal, only the first player penalized can be replaced. If another goal is scored then the second player may also be replaced even though both players must serve out their penalties.

13.5. **Both Teams Serving Penalties:** If one player from each team is serving a penalty or an equal number of time penalties are being elapsed when a goal is scored, teams continue to play shorthanded until the penalties are served.

13.6. **Maximum of 2 Simultaneous Penalties:** A maximum of two penalties against one team shall be served simultaneously. If a player is penalized while two players on the same team are serving penalties then the penalty time of the third, fourth, etc player shall not commence until the first penalty time of the two players expires. However, the player assessed the third, fourth, etc penalty must leave the field and be replaced by a teammate until their time begins.

13.7. **Play Shorthanded:** In all cases where a time penalty is issued the team will play shorthanded.

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13. Ejections and Suspensions

14.1. **Red Card is Automatic Ejection:** A person receiving a red card will be ejected from the game and must leave the premises. The person will be suspended through at least one additional division game. The suspension includes all play at all facilities, including play with other teams, for the duration of the suspension.

14.2. **Fighting 1 Year Ejection:** A person receiving a red card for fighting will be suspended from all play at all facilities for a period up to one year.

14.3. **Referee Intimidation 1 Year Ejection:** A person who makes an attempt to intimidate the referee by threat of physical abuse, pushing or attempting to make contact with the referee will be suspended from all play at all facilities for a period of one year.

14.4. **Striking an Arena Sports Employee Permanent Ejection:** A person who strikes or attempts to strike any Arena Sports employee shall receive a permanent suspension from all facilities and will be excluded from any event at Arena Sports, including tournaments. Arena Sports will also file a criminal complaint with the police whenever an employee is struck in the conduct of their duties.

14.5. Ejections Carry Over Season to Season: In all instances, where necessary, suspensions will carry over into the next session.

14.6. Failure to Provide Name: When a player receives a red card they must give the referee their full name and failure to do so will result in a forfeit of the game for the team with which the player was playing on.

14.7. Suspension Discretion: Suspensions can be extended beyond what is listed above for repeat offenders or depending on the circumstances.

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14. Tie Games

15.1. No Tie Breakers During Regular Season: Games resulting in a tie during regular season play end in a tie.

15.2. No Tie Breakers During Playoffs except Championship Game: Playoff games resulting in a tie other than the Championship game will end in a tie. The higher seeded team will advance to the championship as a result of a tie.

15.3. Shots for the Mark Rules: If a championship game ends in a tie, shots from the top of the arc are used to break the tie. Penalty kick rules apply except as follows:

15.4. 3 Shooters: Each team must declare 3 shooters in order.

15.5. Coin Flip Determines Order: A coin flip is used to determine which team shoots first

15.6. Alternate Shooters: Teams alternate shooters.

15.7. Conclusion: The game is over when one team cannot catch up with the remaining shots left.

15.8. Extension of Shoot-out: If the game is still tied the remaining players including the goalkeeper alternate shots in a defined order until one team makes one more shot than the other after an equal number of shots.

15.9. Equal Number of Players: Both teams must have an equal number of players participating in the shootout. If one team has more players than the other, the team with more players must exclude the number of players necessary to equate to the second team's head count.

15.10. Tournament Rules: Tournaments may declare special tie breaking rules that supersede these tie breaking rules.

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