

# **AVSL Game Rules**

## **HAVE FUN & PLAY SAFE!**

FIFA rules (2023-2024), except as otherwise noted  
For new Law changes, see 2023-2024 IFAB Updates

1. 40 min halves
  - Game clock starts at scheduled time.
  - 5 min Half Time Break
  - Game must end 5 min before scheduled start of next game
  
2. Home Team starts with kick off.
  - Attacking directions determined by first team as they arrive.
  
3. Minimum 8 players from each team required.
  - If team does not have 8 players by 10 mins after scheduled kickoff, opposing team takes 1-0 forfeit, and still play a "friendly"
  - Any team with under 12 players, may borrow to get up to 12 (11 +1 Sub), with approval from opposing Team Captain.
  - No restriction on borrowing a Goal Keeper, except unrestricted borrowed Goal Keeper may only play that position.
  - Borrowed Players may not take Penalty Kicks
  
4. Rolling substitution
  - Play is not stopped. Substitute as needed during play.
  - Dedicated stoppage about 1/2 way through each half for substitution
  - On hot days, 1 min cooling break, given approx. 1/2 way through each half
  
5. No slide tackling when challenging. Exceptions below:
  - Allowed by GK, in Penalty area only.
  - To save or clear ball, when no other opponents are in immediate playable vicinity of ball.
  - A slide tackle is defined as entire body moving across playing surface to the ball, not just a poke or sweep of an extended leg/foot
  
6. No charging the Goal Keeper in Penalty Area (automatic yellow).
  - 50/50 Ball in Penalty Area with GK, is automatically GK's ball.

- Attacker with possession of ball, within playing distance of ball is not 50/50.
7. No forceful charging of players.
  8. Number of Female players versus Male players on the field is not restricted.
  9. No Male to Female charges.
    - Applies outside Female player's attacking penalty area only.
    - May challenge for ball with feet only.
  10. No arguing with Referee (automatic yellow)
    - Team Captain may respectfully talk with Referee(s) only
  11. No profane or vulgar language.
  12. Length of Season: 17 games each team.
    - Champions Division: 14 weeks of Regular Play, followed by 3 weeks of Playoffs.
    - Legends Division: 15 weeks of Regular Play, followed by 2 weeks of Playoffs.
    - All teams play every week, including Playoffs
  13. Rostered athletes must participate in at least one regular season game to be eligible to participate in playoffs.
  14. Playoff Games, Weeks 16-17
    - Borrowed players only allowed at the discretion of opposing team Manager/Captain, and Referee notified. Borrowed players may not then be revoked, except by arrival of regular team players.
    - No restriction on borrowing a Goal Keeper, except unrestricted borrowed Goal Keeper may only play that position.
    - Coin toss decides kickoff and directions
    - On games requiring a winner, If game is tied or becomes tied within 10 minutes of end of game, game is stopped and we proceed directly and immediately to Penalty Kicks.
    - No Borrowed players may participate in PK's

- Only team players on field when games goes to PK's, may participate in the taking of PK's.
- Determination in PK's is standard FIFA procedure until there is a winner: 5v5, then 1v1 if necessary

15. Yellow card offender must leave field for 5 minutes

- 3 yellow cards accumulated (over multiple games) = out for 1 game
- 1 red card = out for remainder of game and next game

16. Red Cards

- Nonviolent red card= 1 game suspension
- Violent red card= Automatic 2 game suspension with review by league administration
- Teams who accumulate 3 red cards will automatically forfeit the following game as a whole.

17. Repeated violation of rules may lead to expulsion from League

- The intent of the League is to provide Safe, Fun, Respectful & Competitive environment, for adults who wish to continue the enjoyment of the game.
- Refer to the league's fair play pledge.
- HAVE FUN!

18. Misconduct by league membership and/or spectators pre, during, and post game will be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee and can lead to being barred from the league. ANY assault or attacks made towards another player, referee, or spectator will result in an immediate expulsion from the league.

- This type of behavior will not be tolerated by Santa Barbara Soccer Club and directly goes against our contract with SBCC, threatening our ability to use these facilities.

19. AVSL is administered by the Santa Barbara Soccer Club and adheres to its policies, procedures, and player safety rules.

- Steering Committee: AVSL's Governing Body which consists of the Referee Coordinator, Executive Director, Program Director, and all team managers. This group is responsible for establishing league rules, creating league structure, reviewing policy, upholding the culture, cultivating growth, and making decisions as a whole to maintain the league's quality, character, and spirit.

- Disciplinary Committee: AVSL's Player Conduct Review Board which consists of approximately 4-6 At-Large Members (team managers and/or team representatives), the Referee Coordinator, Executive Director, and Program Director. This group is responsible for reviewing all delinquent acts that occur on field resulting in a yellow or red card, as well as off field incidents which go directly against the league's code of conduct. This group receives detailed incident reports and makes collaborative decisions on whether or not further disciplinary action is required.

#### Significant Law changes 2023-24 (IFAB)

- "Kicks from the Mark" to determine winner of a game now called "Penalties", "Penalty Kicks", or "PK's"

#### Point System for Games

3 points for win

1 point for tie

0 points for loss