

# Beach Soccer Competition – Rules and Information



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In this competition the emphasis is on enjoyment & social atmosphere. While competitiveness is not discouraged, it should be remembered that novice players need some encouragement and the "win at all costs" philosophy is not appropriate. The normal rules of Soccer shall apply except to the extent that they are negated or modified by these rules. All rules are open to the interpretation of the Referee and their decision is final.

### Number of Players

- Teams are allowed a maximum of **6 players on the field**.
- Mixed teams will have no more than **4 male players on the field**.
- Teams are allowed unlimited substitutions. (Maximum of **6 reserves on the bench**)
- Teams may commence games with a minimum of **4 players**.
- Teams can *borrow* players from other teams only if they cannot field a full team, and may only play with **5 players** on the field if they do so. If regular players are just running late, the team may play with **6 players** only once they are no longer using another team's player.

### Length of Game & Late Penalties

- Games will consist of **2 x 18 minute** halves with a **3-minute** half time break. No clock stoppages will be made except under exceptional circumstances. Such circumstance will be at the sole discretion of the Referee.
- No time-outs are allowed.
- If a game commences late then it still must finish at the scheduled time. Equal minutes will be deducted from each half.
- If a team is more than **5 minutes late**, they will concede a try every minute thereafter, however, after **12 minutes** the game will be forfeited.

### The Playing Area & Goals

- The field will be marked out to be roughly **32m x 32m**, with goals **5.25m wide x approx. 2.1m high**.
- In mixed males goals will be worth **1 point**, females goals will be worth **2 points**.

### Required Uniform and Jewellery

- Teams should all wear the same colour t-shirt. Bibs are available, however it is encouraged to organise a team uniform.
- Numbered jerseys are not required.
- All players are to play with bare feet, socks or approved beach footwear (Soft rubber or neoprene only. No hard plastic soles).
- Foam shin pads can be worn at the player's discretion, however hard plastic pads are not allowed.
- No one will be permitted to play while wearing jewellery of any kind. If a player forgets and it is missed by the referee, they player accepts responsibility if it is broken or lost.
- Mouthguards are recommended, but not compulsory.

### Off-Sides & Pass-Backs

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- There are **no off-sides**, even at the kick-off (you don't have to be in your own half when kicking off). Any player can stand anywhere on the field at any time in the match.
- There is also **no pass-back rule**, so you can pass the ball back to the goal keeper and they can pick it up.

## Kick-Off

- On kick-off, a goal cannot be scored directly.
- All players except the person kicking the ball must stand 3 metres from the ball, and the ball must be moved at least **1 metre** from its original position before another player can touch the ball. Failure to do so will result in a direct Free Kick to the opposite team from the half way point.

## Free Kicks

- If a team commits a foul in their own half, the other team has a **direct free kick with no walls** (no players can be posted between the ball and the goal), from the point of infringement. If this is closer than a **9 metre radius** of the goal, than the direct free kick will be taken from the penalty spot, **9 metres out and directly in front of goal**.
- If the foul is committed in the oppositions half, then a wall is allowed but must keep a minimum distance of 3 metres.
- The referee will confirm the spot where all free kicks are taken from.
- Accidental hand balls will result in an **indirect free kick** (the ball must be touched by another player before a goal can be scored), no matter where they occur, however a hand ball which is deemed deliberate, will be treated as a foul and the appropriate action will be taken.

## Goalkeepers & Goal-Kicks

- **Goalkeepers can be rotated at any time**, as long as the referee is notified. If not notified and a field player catches the ball in goals, it will count as a goal.
- There is **no goal box**, the goalkeeper can pick up the ball from anywhere in **his/her own half**.
- The goalkeeper must re-enter the ball using **hands only**, within 6 seconds of picking it up.
- Goalkeepers cannot score directly when re-entering the ball, however they can roll the ball to themselves, and then **shoot off the ground and score**.
- A goal-kick can be taken by any member of the team, but must be kicked off the ground within a **3 metre radius of the goal**.
- A goal-kick cannot be kicked directly to the goalkeeper and picked up; it must be **touched at least twice**.
- You **cannot score directly** from a goal kick.

## Throw-In/Kick-In & Corners

- When a ball leaves the field of play over a sideline, the ball can be either thrown in (using the regular soccer technique) or kicked in from the point where it went out.
- You **cannot score directly** from a Throw-In, Kick-In or a Corner.

## Disciplinary Action

- This competition is social. Any rough play, abusive language, bickering or challenge to the referees authority will not be tolerated.
- Any deliberate foul or deliberate dangerous behaviour may result in a **warning or immediate send-off** depending on referee's discretion. The idea is to play a safe game to minimize injuries and maximize fun.
- If sent off, another player from your team can take the field as a substitution after **2 minutes**.
- Depending on the severity of the instance, the referee may allow you back on the field after a **5 minute** cooling off period.
- Severe cases of intolerable behaviour will result in **suspension from the competition and/or a complete ban**, with no refund of registration or match fees already payed.
- **Kicking or throwing of sand** will not be tolerated. Anyone caught doing this deliberately will be immediately sent off.

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- Accidental kicking up of sand can result in a free kick at the discretion of the referee.

## Finals

- Players can only play for **1 team** across the finals series.
- To be eligible to play in the Grand Final a player must be a registered Beach Sports member and have played at least 3 games for the team in the final.

*Meet Friends, Have Fun, Keep Fit!!*