

The World's Game



Activity Workbook

Table of Contents



Create Your Soccer Passport – page 3

Sharpen soccer skills and learn about the six FIFA confederations



Soccer-Themed Bingo – page 18

Your child can choose from two bingo activities



Learn About Soccer Countries – page 21

Kids will cut out flashcards and learn about soccer teams around the world



Create Your Own Soccer Team – page 37

After exploring soccer fundamentals, your child will create a team of their own



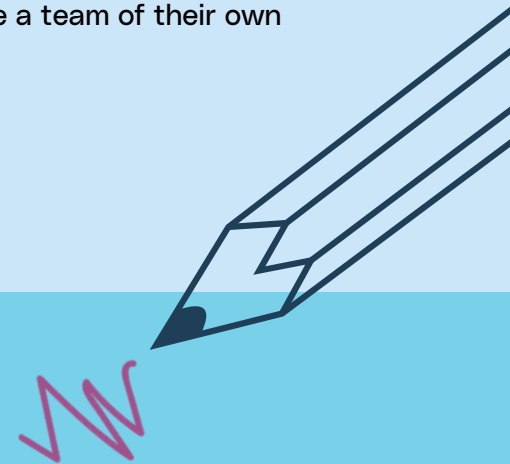
Learn Soccer Laws – page 45

Explore the Laws of the Game, plus activities for each

Boost Your Child's Soccer Knowledge

Go beyond kicking the ball with this collection of activities that'll provide hours of entertainment and a whole lot of insight into the beautiful game. Print out the whole package or specific sections – it's up to you!

At the start of each section, you'll find details on how each activity works along with a suggested age range. Each activity is targeted at either big kids (age 8 and up) or little kids (age 7 and below). But keep in mind: Younger children can participate in activities geared toward big kids with some support from parents or caregivers.





Section #1

**BIG
KIDS**

Create Your Soccer Passport

A Note for Parents and Caregivers

This passport activity opens a world of soccer knowledge for children! They'll be able to:

- Practice soccer drills to build key skills
- Learn self-care habits that will be useful on and off the field
- Explore the countries and territories within the six FIFA confederations

How to Do This Activity

- Print out the 14 pages within the passport
- Children can fill out their whole passport at once, or work on it over time
- This printable activity is designed to be completed independently. (Younger kids may need support from caregivers.)

Want to share the completed results?



Tag **@ussoccerfoundation** in photos and videos of completed passports! We can't wait to see your child's travels around the soccer-playing globe.



STAPLE PASSPORT PAGES ALONG THIS EDGE

PASSPORT

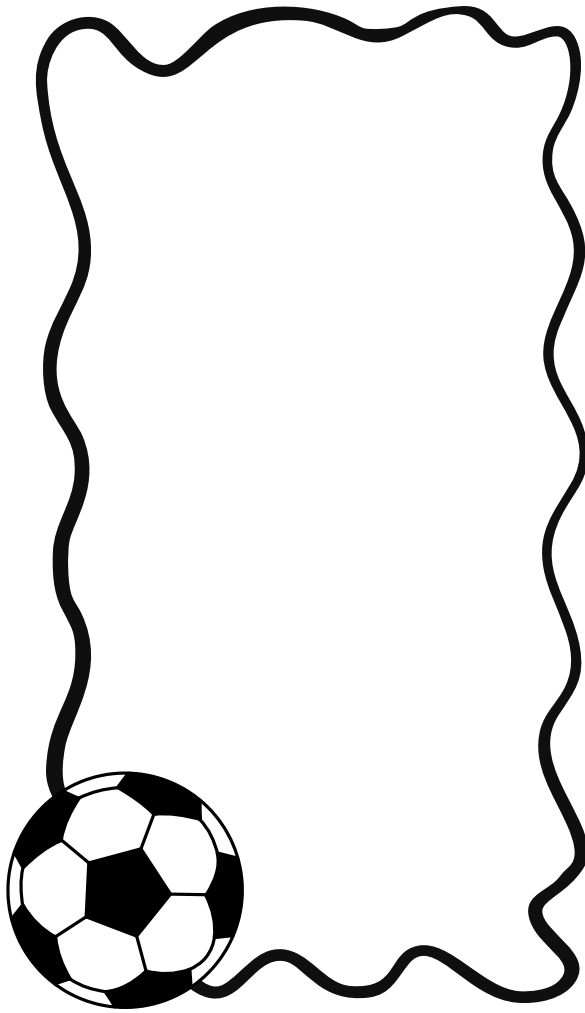


Soccer Around the World

THIS PASSPORT BELONGS TO:

.....

PERSONAL INFORMATION



NAME:

AGE:

COUNTRY YOU WERE BORN IN:

SIGNATURE:

Draw a picture
of yourself in a
soccer jersey!



About the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)

- ★ **Who's in the AFC:** There are 47 member countries/territories in the AFC – including Jordan, Australia, Japan, Iran, and South Korea.
- ★ **World Cup:** The 2002 World Cup was the first one ever hosted in Asia. It was co-hosted by Japan and South Korea.
- ★ **Fun Fact:** Asia is home to the world's largest population of soccer fans.

Complete These Activities to Earn Passport Stamps

As you complete each one, find the passport stamp on the next page and color them in!



Go Outside! Build Your Soccer Skills

Grab a friend or family member and practice precision passing. Aim to complete 10 short passes without losing control of the ball.

★ **Bonus:** Count how many passes you can complete in one minute.



Explore Soccer-Playing Countries & Cultures

Here's how to say "hello" in three AFC countries:

- Japanese – *Konnichiwa* (pronounced kah-ni-shiwuh)
- Korean – *Annyeonghaseyo* (pronounced a-nyo-ung-haysyoh)
- Arabic – *Salaam* (pronounced sa-lahm)

Practice saying these three greetings aloud. If you were playing soccer in one of these countries, it might be fun to greet players in their own language!



Practice Self-Care

Deep breathing helps you feel calm and relaxed. It's great before big moments (like a penalty kick!). Find a clock, and do a deep-breathing exercise for 1 minute.

Here's how: Inhale through your nose while counting to four. Purse your lips, then exhale slowly while counting to six.



COLOR IN YOUR STAMPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fill in Your Passport!
AFC ACTIVITY STAMPS





About the Confederation of African Football (CAF)

- ★ **Who's in the CAF:** This confederation has 54 member countries/territories, including Tunisia, Egypt, South Africa, Morocco, Senegal, and Ghana.
- ★ **World Cup:** South Africa hosted the 2010 World Cup, the first in Africa.
- ★ **Fun Fact:** The CAF is the second-largest confederation in the world!

Complete These Activities to Earn Passport Stamps

As you complete each one, find the passport stamp on the next page and color them in!



Go Outside! Practice Creative Dribbling

Try weaving through cones (or shoes) using only your right foot, then only your left foot.



Explore Soccer-Playing Countries & Cultures

Clap or step to a rhythm inspired by African drumming.

- ★ **Bonus:** Learn a short dance move (like the “Shaku Shaku” from Nigeria).



Practice Self-Care

Exercise for five minutes and then drink some water. Write a list of reasons why it is important to stay hydrated throughout the day.



COLOR IN YOUR STAMPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fill in Your Passport!

CAF ACTIVITY STAMPS





About the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF)

- ★ **Who's in the CONCACAF:** This confederation has 41 member countries/territories, including the USA, Mexico, Canada, Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Panama.
- ★ **World Cup:** The hosts of the 2026 World Cup are the USA, Canada, and Mexico.
- ★ **Fun Fact:** World Cup hosts automatically qualify.

Complete These Activities to Earn Passport Stamps

As you complete each one, find the passport stamp on the next page and color them in!



Go Outside! Test Your Speed

Set up two cones about 10 paces apart. How many times can you dribble from cone to cone in 30 seconds?



Explore Soccer-Playing Countries & Cultures

Search online for Official FIFA World Cup Songs or Anthems. Listen to a few! What's your favorite?



Use Your Imagination: Create a Poster

Make a poster for your favorite team. The next time you watch this team play, display your poster and cheer for them proudly!



COLOR IN YOUR STAMPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fill in Your Passport!

CONCACAF ACTIVITY STAMPS

TRY SPEED DRILLS



EXPLORE ANTHEMS



MAKE A POSTER





About the Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL)

- ★ **Who's in the CONMEBOL:** This confederation has the smallest number of members – only 10 countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile, and Ecuador.
- ★ **World Cup:** South American teams have won the World Cup 9 times (Brazil: 5, Argentina: 3, Uruguay: 1).
- ★ **Fun Fact:** The CONMEBOL is the oldest continental confederation in the world (founded 1916).

Complete These Activities to Earn Passport Stamps

As you complete each one, find the passport stamp on the next page and color them in!



Go Outside! Try Jogo Bonito Dribbling:

In Portuguese, jogo bonito means “the beautiful game.” It’s considered a mindset! Practice 1v1 moves: fake one way, go the other.

★ **Bonus:** Try juggling the ball five times in a row without dropping it.



Explore Soccer-Playing Countries & Cultures

Carnival is a huge festival held annually in Brazil. It’s known for parades, samba music, colorful costumes, and dancing.

Create a Carnival mask using colored paper, markers, or any other arts and crafts supplies you have at home.



Practice Self-Care

Eating a healthy, balanced diet is important for everyone, not just soccer players. Plan a meal that will fuel your body to be its best.



COLOR IN YOUR STAMPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fill in Your Passport!

CONMEBOL ACTIVITY STAMPS

PRACTICE DRIBBLING



CREATE A MASK



PLAN A HEALTHY MEAL





About the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC)

- ★ **Who's in the OFC:** There are 11 member countries/territories in the OFC, including New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Tahiti. The OFC, founded in 1966, is the youngest of the FIFA confederations.
- ★ **World Cup:** New Zealand is the only OFC country to ever qualify for the Men's World Cup.
- ★ **Fun Fact:** Australia was a founding member of the OFC in 1966, but officially left and joined the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) in 2006.

Complete These Activities to Earn Passport Stamps

As you complete each one, find the passport stamp on the next page and color them in!



Go Outside! Grab Friends or Family Members

2v1: Play a game of keep-away with two players on offense and one on defense. Emphasize teamwork to reflect the cooperative nature of the cultures within the OFC.



Explore Soccer-Playing Countries & Cultures

New Zealand is home to the indigenous Maori people, known for the Haka, a traditional war dance performed before games. This traditional dance symbolizes unity, pride, and strength.

Create a short chant or movement sequence that expresses your own team spirit or family pride.



Practice Gratitude

Reflect on someone in your life who has helped, inspired, or supported you. It could be a friend, family member, teacher, coach, or teammate.

Write a letter of gratitude to share your appreciation.

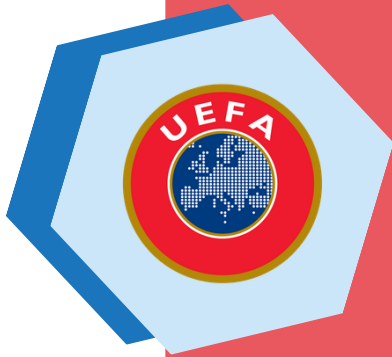


COLOR IN YOUR STAMPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fill in Your Passport!

OFC ACTIVITY STAMPS





About the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

- ★ **Who's in the UEFA:** The UEFA has 55 member countries/territories, including Spain, France, Germany, England, Portugal, and Italy.
- ★ **World Cup:** As of spring 2026, UEFA countries have won every men's World Cup since 2006.
- ★ **Fun Fact:** UEFA runs the European soccer championships (Euros), the UEFA Champions League, Europa League, and Nations League.



Complete These Activities to Earn Passport Stamps

As you complete each one, find the passport stamp on the next page and color them in!



Go Outside! Shoot a Target

Take 10 shots and then reflect on your shooting form. Take 10 additional shots, working to improve your performance.



Practice Self-Care

After you complete the target exercise, write down 3–5 words or short phrases that inspire you to keep going and stay positive.



Use Your imagination

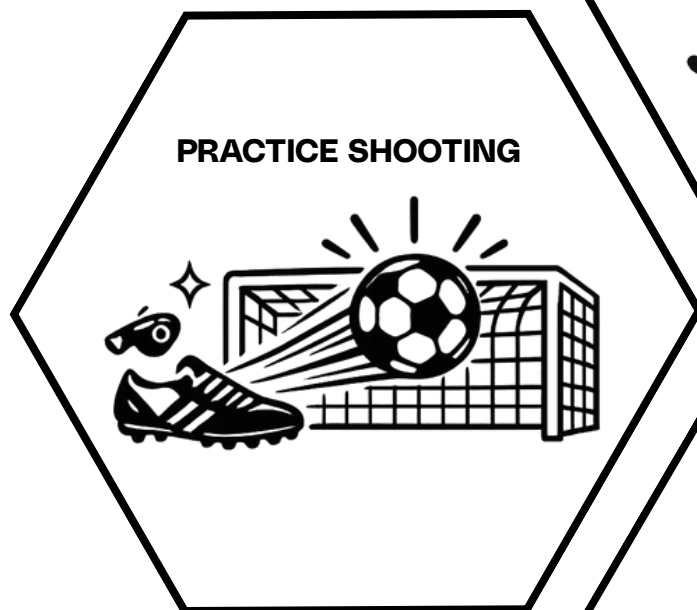
UEFA has won more World Cups than any other confederation. Have you played on a team that experienced success? What role did you have that helped?



COLOR IN YOUR STAMPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fill in Your Passport!

UEFA ACTIVITY STAMPS





Section #2

LITTLE
KIDS

Soccer-Themed Bingo

A Note for Parents and Caregivers

Encourage your child to practice soccer skills and get moving with **Let's Play Soccer Bingo**. Meanwhile, **Watch Soccer, Play Bingo**, makes watching a soccer match participatory, encouraging kids to follow along as they look for common soccer moves, such as a corner kick or a player receiving a yellow card.

How to Do This Activity


Mark off squares as they're completed. Have several kids around? Print out one bingo copy for each one – the first child to get five in a row (either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally) will win. Or, encourage your child to fill in every square on the printout.





Let's Play Soccer Bingo!

Practice essential soccer skills with these activities. Follow the prompts in each square. Once you've completed an activity, mark it off. Say "Bingo!" once you've marked off five in a row, either across, down, or diagonally.

20 Successful Pass and Traps	1 Minute of Low Plank	20 Soccer Ball Toe Taps	Shuttle Run	30 Seconds of Change of Direction Dribbling
Slalom Dribbling	10 Squats	Ladder Shuffle	5 Soccer Ball Juggles	Box Drill
Ladder Single Leg Hops	20 Power Skips		20 High Knees	800m Run
50 Yard Sprint	20 Tuck Jumps	10 Jump Squats	30 Seconds of Close Control Dribbling	10 Broad Jumps
30 Seconds of Change of Direction Dribbling	1 Minute of High Plank	30 Seconds of Jumping Jacks	20 Lunges	20 Successful Pass and Traps



Watch Soccer, Play Bingo!

Use this bingo board to follow along as you watch your next soccer match. Mark off squares as you see these plays occur. Say "Bingo!" once you've marked off five in a row, either across, down, or diagonally.

Corner Kick	Free Kick	Coin Toss	Goal	Offside
Throw-in	Yellow Card	Substitution	Penalty Kick	Red Card
Diving Save	Slide Tackle		Punt	Extra time
Goal Kick	Crossing Pass	Crossbar Hit	Long Pass	Defensive Wall
Offside	Lead Pass	Foul	Blocked Shot	Corner Kick



Section #3

**BIG
KIDS**

Learn About Soccer Countries

A Note for Parents and Caregivers

Playing styles, chants at games, and World Cup traditions vary from one soccer-playing country to another. With these flashcards, your child will learn more about countries where soccer is a big part of the culture.

How to Use

Have kids cut pages on the horizontal dotted line. Each page has two flashcards.

Fold each flashcard in half. Use tape, a glue stick, or staples to make it double-sided, so that the country name is on one side, and facts about the country are on the back. If you're short on supplies, simply fold the paper.

Ask kids to study all the information. Then, match up iconic players with the country they played for.





Team Name: La Albiceleste

Style of Play

- Creative attacking flair mixed with grit
- Known for individual brilliance and teamwork
- Competitive spirit rooted in national pride

Iconic Players

- Lionel Messi
- Gabriel Batistuta
- Javier Zanetti

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Streets flood with blue-and-white flags and jerseys. Viewing parties are full of singing and drumming.
- **Chants:** "*Muchachos, ahora nos volvimos a ilusionar*" became the anthem of 2022. This means something like, "Guys, we have hope again." Argentina won the 2022 World Cup, cementing Lionel Messi's legacy.



Team Name: Socceroos

Style of Play

- Physical, hardworking, and disciplined
- Strong in defense and aerial battles
- Emphasis on team unity and relentless effort

Iconic Players

- Tim Cahill
- Harry Kewell
- Mark Schwarzer
- Lucas Neill

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans are clad in green and gold, and wave boxing kangaroo flags. Celebrations involve singing, barbecues, and fan gatherings in city squares.
- **Chants:** "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie! Oi, Oi, Oi!"



Brazil



The Samba Kings

Team Name: Seleção

Style of Play

- Known for attacking flair and skillful dribbling
- Emphasizes pace and improvisation
- Balanced with a strong defensive organization in the modern era

Iconic Players

- Pelé
- Cristiano Ronaldo
- Ronaldinho Gaúcho
- Romário

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Samba drums and dancing fill stadiums and fan zones, with celebrations spilling into the streets.
- **Chants:** "*Eu sou brasileiro, com muito orgulho, com muito amor*" – this chant, said while clapping, means, "I am Brazilian, with much pride, with much love."



Canada



Unity, Growth, and Resilience

Team Name: Les Rouges

Style of Play

- Fast, athletic, and counterattacking style
- Relies on wing play and pace
- Growing technical skill via European-based stars

Iconic Players

- Alphonso Davies
- Jonathan David
- Craig Forrest
- Dwayne De Rosario

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wave the maple leaf flag. Celebrations often mix Canadian multicultural traditions, from drumming to dance.
- **Chants:** "*Allez Les Rouges!*" (Go Reds!) and "O Canada"

Colombia



Passion, Flair, and Resilience

Team Name: Los Cafeteros

Style of Play

- Attack-minded with flair and creativity
- Strong wing play and skillful dribbling
- Passionate, fast-paced, and resilient in big matches

Iconic Players

- Carlos Valderrama
- Faustino Asprilla
- James Rodríguez

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans dressed in yellow, blue, and red fill stadiums with drums and singing. Streets turn into carnivals with music, flags, and fireworks after victories.
- **Chants:** "Colombia, Colombia!"

Croatia



The Blazers

Team Name: Vatreni

Style of Play

- Technically skilled, creative midfield play mixed with grit
- Strong in knockout matches, especially in penalty shoot-outs
- Good balance: counter-attacks plus possession when needed

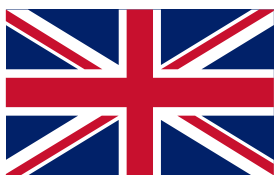
Iconic Players

- Davor Šuker
- Luka Modrić
- Ivan Rakitić
- Mario Mandžukić

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear red-and-white checkered kits everywhere.
- **Chants:** "*U boj, u boj, za narod svoj!*" ("To battle, to battle, for our people!")

England



Tradition and Passion

Team Name: Three Lions

Style of Play

- Direct, physical, and fast-paced
- Balanced with modern technical flair and youthful creativity
- Strong focus on teamwork and pressing

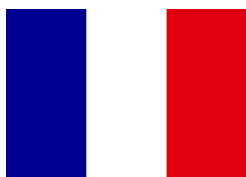
Iconic Players

- Bobby Charlton
- David Beckham
- Steven Gerrard
- Harry Kane

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear the white Three Lions jersey and carry St. George's Cross flags. Celebrations fill city streets, pubs, and public squares with chants and cheers.
- **Chants:** "Football's Coming Home" is sung loudly in stadiums and pubs.

France



Elegance and Power

Team Name: Les Bleues

Style of Play

- Dynamic attacking with pace and precision
- Strong technical skills balanced with physical power
- Known for producing world-class talent across generations

Iconic Players

- Zinedine Zidane
- Thierry Henry
- Marcus Thuram
- Michel Platini

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear blue jerseys (maillot bleu) and wave the French tricolor flag. When Les Bleues win, millions gather to celebrate at the victory parade on the Champs-Élysées.
- **Chants:** "*Allez Les Bleus!*" (Go Blues!)

Germany



Efficiency and Excellence

Team Name: Die Mannschaft

Style of Play

- Disciplined, organized, and highly efficient
- Strong focus on teamwork and tactical adaptability
- Known for resilience and late-game comebacks

Iconic Players

- Thomas Müller
- Miroslav Klose
- Philipp Lahm
- Bastian Schweinsteiger

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear black, red, and gold. They paint their faces and carry flags. Large fan zones in cities like Berlin and Munich host massive watch parties.
- **Chants:** "Deutschland! Deutschland!" ("Germany! Germany!")

India



Growing Passion

Team Name: Blue Tigers

Style of Play

- Developing a blend of technical skill and endurance
- Heavy emphasis on counterattacking football
- Led by veterans while nurturing a young generation

Iconic Players

- Sunil Chhetri
- Bhaichung Bhutia
- I.M. Vijayan

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans proudly wear the Blue Tigers jersey. Though not a World Cup regular, India's passion for football is growing rapidly, especially in states like West Bengal, Kerala, and Goa.
- **Chants:** "India! India!"



Team Name: Azzurri

Style of Play

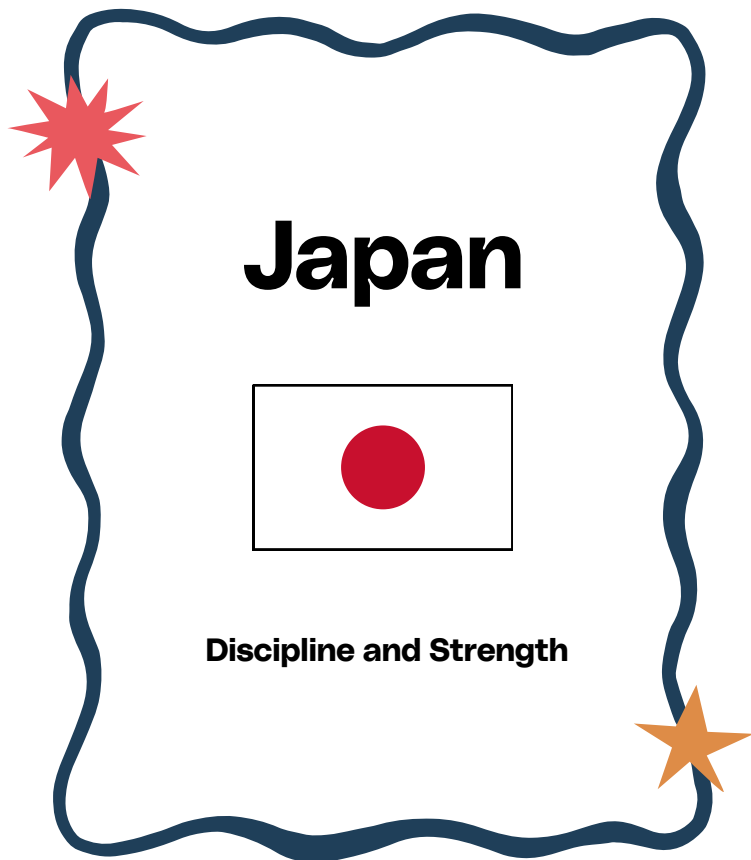
- Famous for catenaccio (defensive mastery)
- Tactical, organized, and disciplined
- Blends solid defense with creative counterattacks

Iconic Players

- Paolo Maldini
- Roberto Baggio
- Alessandro Del Piero
- Andrea Pirlo
- Francesco Totti

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans in blue (Azzurri) jerseys wave the Italian tricolor flag. Celebrations spill into the streets with singing, horns, and fireworks after victories.
- **Chants:** "Forza Azzurri!" ("Go Blue!")



Team Name: Samurai Blue

Style of Play

- Fast, technical, and highly disciplined
- Emphasis on teamwork and work ethic
- Known for resilience and tactical organization

Iconic Players

- Hidetoshi Nakata
- Keisuke Honda
- Shinji Kagawa
- Maya Yoshida

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear blue jerseys and carry the national flag, and when the match is over, the fans clean the stadium. Celebrations mix traditional drumming and modern fan culture.
- **Chants:** "Nippon! Nippon!" (Japan! Japan!)



Team Name: El Tri

Style of Play

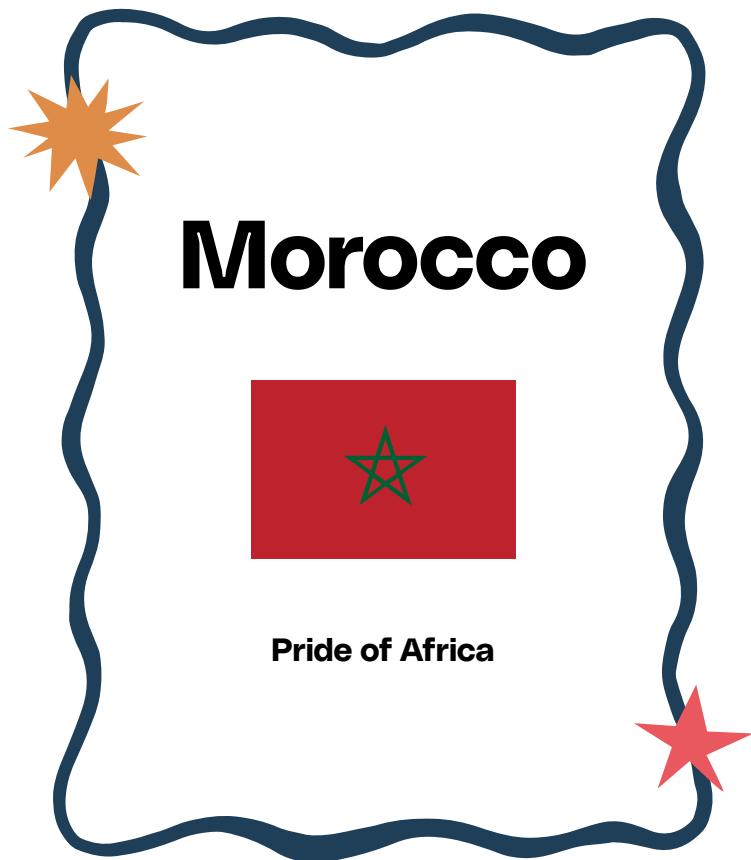
- Quick, attacking football with strong wing play
- High tempo and pressing game
- Known for flair, energy, and creativity

Iconic Players

- Alexis Sánchez
- Guillermo Ochoa

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans dress in green jerseys and wave Mexican flags. Mariachi bands and celebrations often fill plazas with singing, fireworks, and traditional dances.
- **Chants:** “¡Sí se puede!” (“Yes we can!”)



Team Name: Atlas Lions

Style of Play

- Strong defensive structure with quick counterattacks
- Emphasis on tactical discipline and resilience
- Blend of African flair and European club experience

Iconic Players

- Nouredine Naybet
- Mustapha Hadji

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans dress in red and green and proudly wave Moroccan flags. Celebrations spill into city streets with music, dancing, and fireworks.
- **Chants:** “*Dima Maghreb!*” (Always Morocco!)

Netherlands



Total Football Innovators

Team Name: Oranje

Style of Play

- Famous for “Total Football” philosophy – fluid positions and movement
- Technical skill and attacking creativity
- Strong emphasis on tactical organization and pressing

Iconic Players

- Johan Cruyff
- Ruud Gullit
- Marco van Basten
- Arjen Robben
- Dennis Bergkamp

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear bright orange jerseys and wigs, creating “Oranje fever.” Celebrations are lively, filled with parades, music, and street parties.
- **Chants:** “*Hup Holland Hup!*” (Go Holland Go!)

New Zealand



Oceania’s Battlers

Team Name: All Whites

Style of Play

- Physical, disciplined, and resilient
- Strong aerial play and organized defense
- Known for teamwork and grit rather than individual stars

Iconic Players

- Wynton Rufer
- Ryan Nelsen
- Chris Wood

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear white jerseys and wave the silver fern flag. Celebrations are community-based, with gatherings at pubs, local clubs, and family events.
- **Chants:** “*Kiwi! Kiwi!*” and “*All Whites*”



Nigeria



Soaring Pride

Team Name: Super Eagles

Style of Play

- Fast, physical, and attack-oriented
- Known for athleticism and counterattacking power
- Blend of African flair with European club experience

Iconic Players

- Jay-Jay Okocha
- Nwankwo Kanu
- Rashidi Yekini
- Sunday Oliseh
- Finidi George

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear green-and-white jerseys and wave national flags. The stadiums are filled with drums, trumpets (vuvuzelas), and dancing.
- **Chants:** "Super Eagles!" and "Up Nigeria!"



Portugal



Skill and Strategy

Team Name: Seleção das Quinas

Style of Play

- Technical, attack-minded football with flair
- Strong in possession, creative through midfielders and wingers
- Versatile, often switching between disciplined defense and fast transitions

Iconic Players

- Eusébio
- Luís Figo
- Cristiano Ronaldo

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** You'll see fans in red and green, waving the Portuguese flag. There are celebrations in Lisbon, Porto, and across the country when Portugal wins.
- **Chants:** "Força Portugal!" ("Go Portugal!")



Qatar



The Desert Falcons



Team Name: Maroon

Style of Play

- Compact, defense-first strategy with quick counters
- Emphasis on disciplined teamwork
- Heavy focus on players from Aspire Academy, Qatar's elite training system

Iconic Players

- Almoez Ali
- Akram Afif
- Hassan Al-Haydos

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear maroon jerseys and wave national flags.
- **Chants:** "Qatar, Qatar!"



Senegal



Pride and Power



Team Name: Lions of Teranga

Style of Play

- Physical, fast, and tactically sharp
- Known for resilience and strong defense
- Combines African flair with European club experience

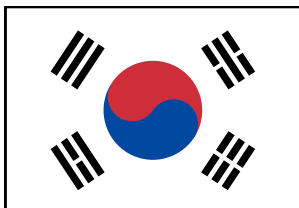
Iconic Players

- Lamine Camara
- Khalilou Fadiga
- Sadio Mané
- Kalidou Koulibaly

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans dressed in green, yellow, and red fill stadiums with drums and dancing. Celebrations are joyous, with parades, music, and communal gatherings.
- **Chants:** "*Lions de la Teranga!*" (Lions of Teranga)

South Korea



Resilient and Fearless

Team Name: Taegeuk Warriors

Style of Play

- High-energy, fast pressing game
- Strong teamwork and defensive organization
- Relies on quick transitions and counterattacks

Iconic Players

- Park Ji-sung
- Cha Bum-kun
- Ahn Jung-hwan
- Son Heung-min

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans known as the Red Devils, filling stadiums in red shirts. The streets of Seoul and other cities turn into massive viewing parties with flags and fireworks.
- **Chants:** “*Dae-han-min-guk!*” (“Republic of Korea!”) synchronized with drumming.

Spain



Masters of Professional Soccer

Team Name: La Roja

Style of Play

- “Tiki-taka” passing system
- Ball possession and technical precision
- Team-first approach with fluid movement

Iconic Players

- Xavier Hernández
- Andrés Iniesta
- Iker Casillas
- Fernando Torres

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Streets are adorned in vibrant red and yellow, representing the national colors and fans gather in plazas and cafés to watch games together.
- **Chants:** “*¡Sí se puede!*” (Yes, we can!) and “*Olé, Olé, Olé!*”



A team card for Switzerland. It features a dark blue wavy border. At the top left is a red starburst, and at the bottom right is an orange starburst. The word "Switzerland" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it is the Swiss flag (a red square with a white cross). Underneath the flag, the text "The Red Cross Warriors" is written in bold black letters.

Switzerland



The Red Cross Warriors

Team Name: Nati

Style of Play

- Highly disciplined and tactically organized
- Strong defensive structure with quick counterattacks
- Teamwork and resilience are central traits

Iconic Players

- Stefan Frei
- Stephan Lichtsteiner
- Tranquillo Barnetta
- Granit Xhaka

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans in red and white proudly wave the Swiss flag. Celebrations take place in public squares and mountain towns after key victories.
- **Chants:** "Hopp Schweiz!" ("Go Switzerland!")



A team card for the United States. It features a light blue wavy border. At the top left is a blue starburst, and at the bottom right is a red starburst. The words "United States" are written in large, bold, black letters. Below it is the United States flag. Underneath the flag, the text "Rising Stars" is written in bold black letters.

United States



Rising Stars

Team Name: USMNT

Style of Play

- Fast, physical, and athletic approach
- Emphasis on pressing and counterattacking
- Growing technical skill as younger players shine in Europe

Iconic Players

- Landon Donovan
- Clint Dempsey
- Brian McBride
- Tim Howard

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear red, white, and blue. U.S. supporters' groups like American Outlaws bring drums, flags, and energy.
- **Chants:** "I Believe That We Will Win!"

Uzbekistan



Rising Force of Central Asia

Team Name: White Wolves

Style of Play

- Organized and hardworking, with strong defensive focus
- Emphasis on counterattacking football
- Developing technical and tactical identity in Asian football

Iconic Players

- Server Djeparov
- Odil Ahmedov
- Eldor Shomurodov

Soccer Traditions

- **During the World Cup:** Fans wear white and blue, waving the national flag with pride. Celebrations feature music, dancing, and traditional Uzbek spirit when the team plays well in qualifiers or Asian Cups.
- **Chants:** "O'zbekiston!" ("Uzbekistan!")

Now you're a global soccer expert! Claim your trophy and color it in.





How Well Do You Know Iconic Soccer Players?

Draw a line matching the player to the country they play for.

Andrés Iniesta	Uzbekistan
Paolo Maldini	Brazil
Carlos Valderrama	Japan
Tim Cahill	Morocco
Ruud Gullit	Netherlands
Jonathan David	Argentina
Jay-Jay Okocha	Senegal
Sadio Mané	Portugal
Landon Donovan	Qatar
Park Ji-sung	Switzerland
Eusébio	Germany
Hassan Al-Haydos	United States
Thomas Müller	Canada
Wynton Rufer	South Korea
Guillermo Ochoa	Italy
Sunil Chhetri	Spain
Thierry Henry	Croatia
Pelé	Nigeria
Server Djeparov	Australia
David Beckham	New Zealand
Lionel Messi	Colombia
Nouredine Naybet	India
Maya Yoshida	Mexico
Davor Šuker	France
Stefan Frei	England



How Well Do You Know Iconic Soccer Players?

Answer Key

Wynton Rufer – New Zealand
Server Djeparov – Uzbekistan
Hassan Al-Haydos – Qatar
Noureddine Naybet – Morocco
Andrés Iniesta – Spain
Lionel Messi – Argentina
Pelé – Brazil
Thierry Henry – France
Maya Yoshida – Japan
Ruud Gullit – Netherlands
Sadio Mané – Senegal
David Beckham – England
Guillermo Ochoa – Mexico

Sunil Chhetri – India
Thomas Müller – Germany
Landon Donovan – United States
Eusébio – Portugal
Davor Šuker – Croatia
Park Ji-sung – South Korea
Jonathan David – Canada
Paolo Maldini – Italy
Carlos Valderrama – Colombia
Tim Cahill – Australia
Jay-Jay Okocha – Nigeria
Stefan Frei – Switzerland





Section # 4

**BIG
KIDS**

Create Your Own Soccer Team

A Note for Parents and Caregivers

Here's a playful way to explore the fundamentals. This knowledge will make both playing and watching the game more rewarding for your child.

How to Do This Activity

You can't become a coach overnight! First, your child will need to study up, reading through the information provided here. Once they have a grasp of soccer fundamentals, your child can design their own team, choosing players, a formation, and a playing style, as well as coloring a team jersey.



What Makes a Soccer Team?

Get to Know Player Positions

Find out the roles of each of the positions – plus, famous players and what makes each position fun to watch.

Goalkeeper (GK)

Goalkeepers protect the goal, prevent the other team from scoring, organize the defense, and often begin the team's attack out of the back

Famous Players:

- Alisson Becker (Brazil)
- Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)
- Lev Yashin (Russia)
- Oliver Khan (Germany)

What Makes Goalkeepers Fun to Watch: Diving saves, catching crosses, and directing teammates

Defenders

There are two types of defenders:

- **Center Backs (CB):** Strong players who stop strikers and block shots
- **Full Backs (LB/RB):** Defend the wings and often join the attack

Famous Players:

- Virgil van Dijk (Netherlands)
- Lucy Bronze (England)
- Franz Beckenbauer (Germany)
- Paulo Maldini (Italy)

What Makes Defenders Fun to Watch: Tackles, headers, and stopping breakaways

Midfielders

There are three types of midfielders:

- **Central Midfielders (CM):** Control the game with passing, vision, and stamina
- **Attacking Midfielders (CAM):** Create scoring chances
- **Defensive Midfielders (CDM):** Protect the defense and win the ball back

Famous Players:

- Kevin De Bruyne (Belgium)
- Luka Modric (Croatia)
- Lothar Matthaus (Germany)
- Andres Iniesta (Spain)
- Casemiro (Brazil)

What Makes Midfielders Fun to Watch: Fancy passes, ball control, and teamwork

Forwards

There are two categories of forwards:

- **Wingers (LW/RW):** Fast players on the outside who cross or cut in to shoot
- **Strikers (ST):** Main goal scorers

Famous Players:

- Lionel Messi (Argentina)
- Sam Kerr (Australia)
- Erling Haaland (Norway)
- Miroslav Klose (Germany)
- Pele (Brazil)
- Just Fontaine (France)

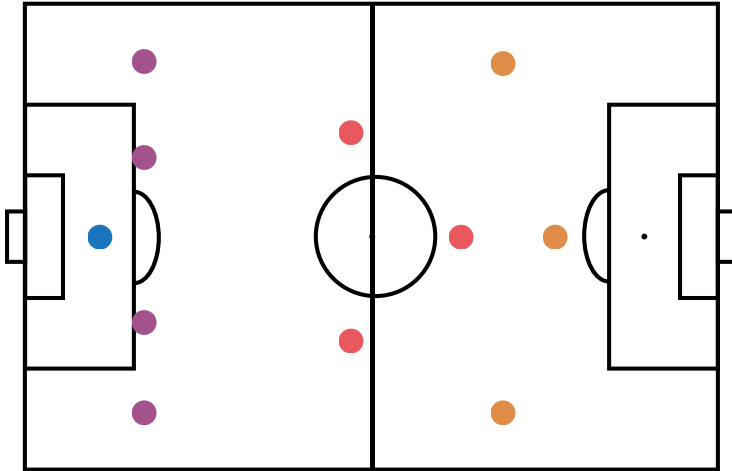
What Makes Forwards Fun to Watch: Speed, tricks, and scoring goals!

Understanding Soccer Formations

Below, get information on the four main soccer formations, including which teams use it and each formation's pros and cons.

Formation 4-3-2-1

This formation features double pivot midfielders, a central playmaker, and wide attackers cutting inside. It's great for teams with a star striker and a strong midfield.



Strengths

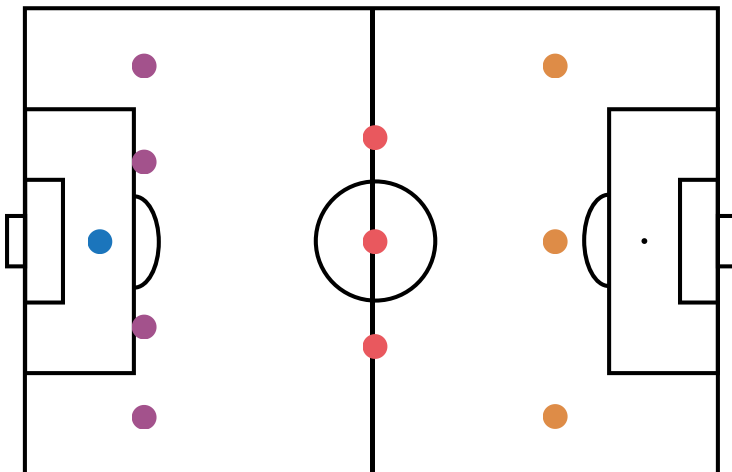
- Balanced with stability defensively and creativity up front
- Flexible thanks to overlapping fullbacks and someone behind the striker

Weaknesses

- Gaps can occur if fullbacks push too high and defensive mids don't cover
- Isolation for that lone striker

Formation 4-3-3

This formation allows for quick passing and wide wingers. Defense is typically flat. You'll find many modern teams (like Germany and the USA) and clubs (including Liverpool, Real Madrid, and Man City) using this formation.



Strengths

- Provides more attacking width
- Aids in possession-based games
- Allows teams to press high, use wing play, and overload attacks

Weaknesses

- Requires stamina and discipline from defenders and midfielders
- Teams can become exposed defensively if the midfield triangle is weak or one winger drops back

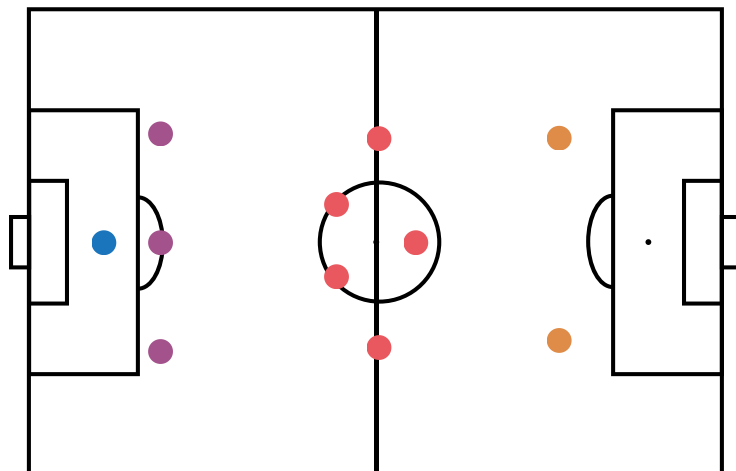
● Forwards ● Midfielders ● Defenders ● Goalkeepers

Understanding Soccer Formations, Continued

Below, get information on the four main soccer formations, including which teams use it and each formation's pros and cons.

Formation 3-5-2

In this formation, wingbacks run nonstop, shape shifting from defense (5-3-2) to attack (3-5-2). It's ideal for teams that want more defensive cover but also options to attack via wingbacks. It might be used by underdog teams or teams with very strong wing players.



Strengths

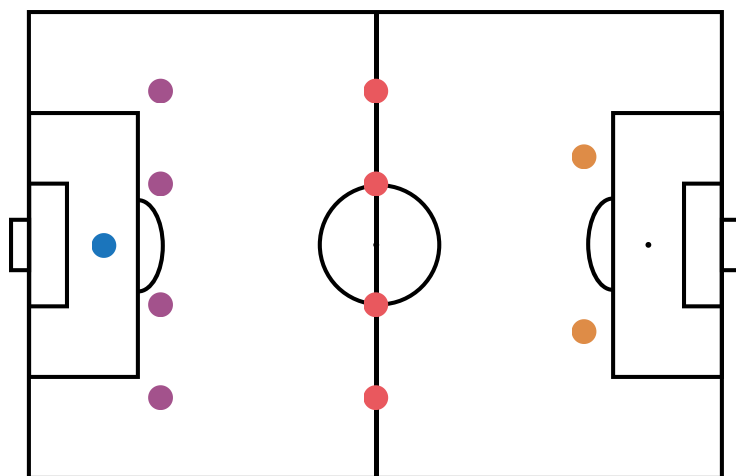
- Provides defensive solidity, plus width from wingbacks
- Flexible – can switch to 5-3-2 when defending
- Good for counter-attacking or controlling midfield

Weaknesses

- Defense can become stretched if the wingbacks don't track back well
- Requires wingbacks and midfielders who can cover a lot of ground

Formation 4-4-2

This is a less common formation that relies on teamwork and crossing. You may see this in matches with smaller or mid-ranked teams.



Strengths

- Classic and simple
- Provides good attacking options with two strikers
- Often very balanced and easy for players to understand

Weaknesses

- In modern top football, teams can sometimes be outnumbered in the midfield by teams using 3 or 5 in midfield
- Less flexibility in attack if wide players are pressed or if the midfield doesn't support well

● Forwards ● Midfielders ● Defenders ● Goalkeepers

Explore Styles of Play in Soccer

Take a look at common soccer-playing methods, along with their pros and cons.

What Is a Style of Play, Exactly? The style of play is how a given soccer team prefers to play games – how the team moves the ball, works together, and tries to score. There's no "correct" style of play: Some teams prefer a fast-paced attack, others pass and possess the ball, while still others focus on defense. Every team adopts a style that matches its players' strengths and abilities.

Tiki-Taka (Possession- Based Play)

Example Country: Spain

Characteristics:

- Short, quick passes and constant movement
- Focus on maintaining possession and controlling the tempo
- Players spread out and create triangles for passing options

Benefits: Dominates the ball and tires out opponents

Drawbacks: Can be vulnerable to fast counterattacks

Catenaccio (Defensive / Counterattacking)

Example Country: Italy

Characteristics:

- Highly organized defense
- Relies on counterattacks when possession is won
- Emphasizes tactical discipline and positioning

Benefits: Hard to score against; strong defensive record

Drawbacks: Can be less attacking and may require precise execution

Total Football

Example Country: Netherlands

Characteristics:

- Players can switch positions seamlessly
- High fluidity and adaptability across the field
- Focus on pressing opponents and exploiting space

Benefits: Difficult for opponents to predict; encourages versatility

Drawbacks: Requires highly skilled and well-coordinated players



Create Your Own Soccer Team

You're the coach! Now that you know all about positions, formations, and playing styles, put it all together and design your own soccer team.

Step 1

Choose Your Formation – Decide how your team will be arranged on the field. Why do you think this is a strong formation?

Step 2

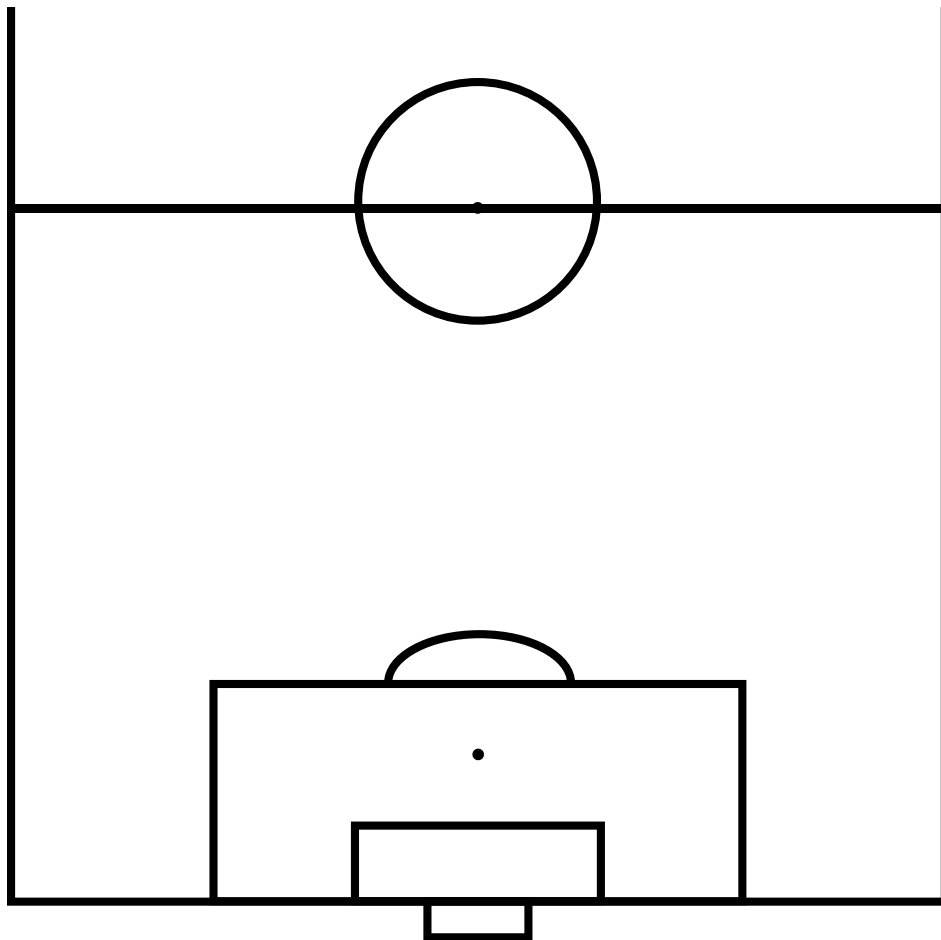
List Your Players – Draft your 11 players from around the world! Choose professional athletes who are currently playing, and include their name, position, and country below:

	Player Name	Position	Country
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
GK			

Step 3

Pick a Style of Play – How will your team play together? Share why you picked this style of play.

Draw your formation and label all the players on this diagram:

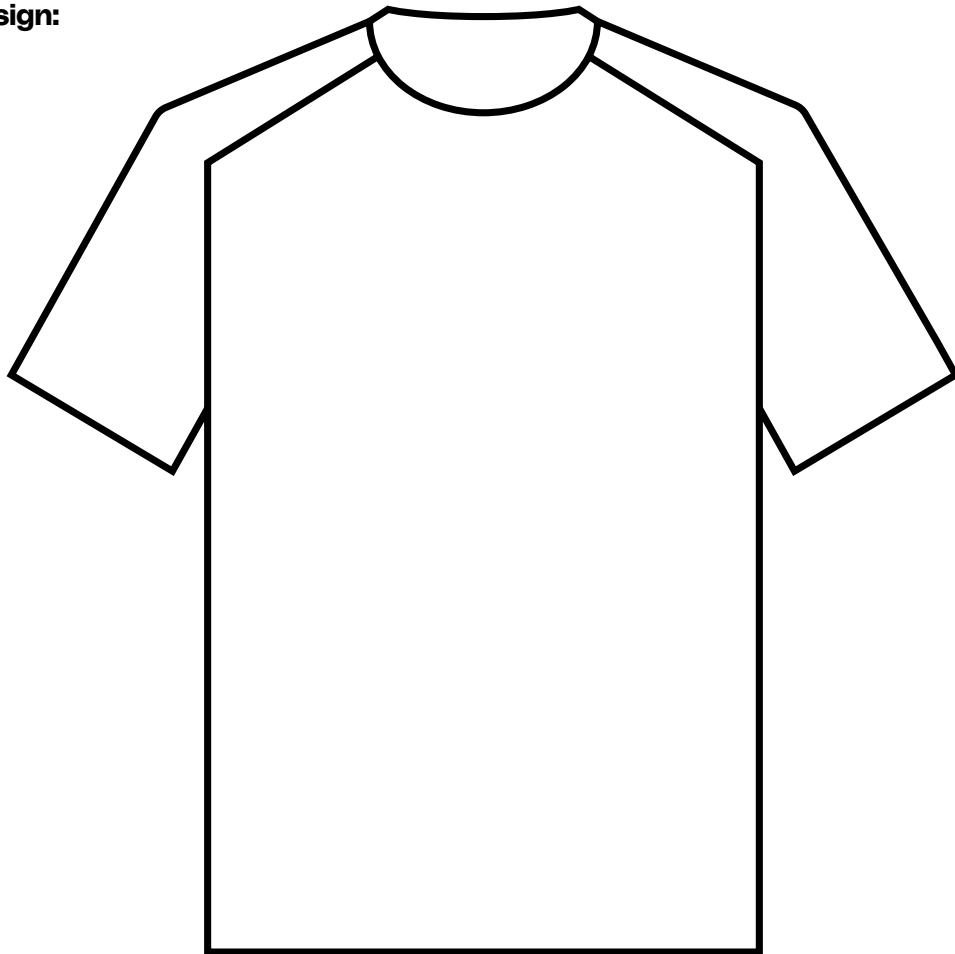


Step 4

Design Your Team's Identity – Now, get creative! Name your team, design its jersey, and come up with a chant for your fans.

Team Name:

Jersey Design:



Team Chant:



Section #5

**BIG
KIDS**

Learn Soccer Laws

A Note for Parents and Caregivers

Football is played around the world, and no matter what country – or continent! – it's played on, the Laws of the Game remain the same.

These activity pages will help your child gain an understanding of the 17 Laws, which will in turn make it easier to follow the game, whether kids are watching or playing.

How to Do This Activity

Your child will read a short explanation of each law. Then, they can complete a brief activity, such as labeling players' positions on a field or identifying equipment. Plus, next time you watch a match (on TV or at a nearby pitch), have your child follow along with questions about the Laws of the Game.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 1: The Field of Play

**The first soccer law is all about the field where the game is played.
Here's what you need to know.**

What Law 1 Means

Soccer is always played on a rectangular field with clear boundary lines, goals at each end, and markings that show important areas like the penalty box, goal box, and center circle. The field can be natural grass or artificial turf, but it must be safe, even, and the right size (big enough for players to spread out, but not so big it becomes impossible to play).

Why It Matters

The field is like the “game board” of soccer. Without its lines and zones, we wouldn't have a fair way to know when the ball is in or out, or where key plays like penalty kicks should take place.

The markings also help players make decisions – for example, defenders know they must be extra careful inside the penalty box because fouls there lead to penalty kicks.

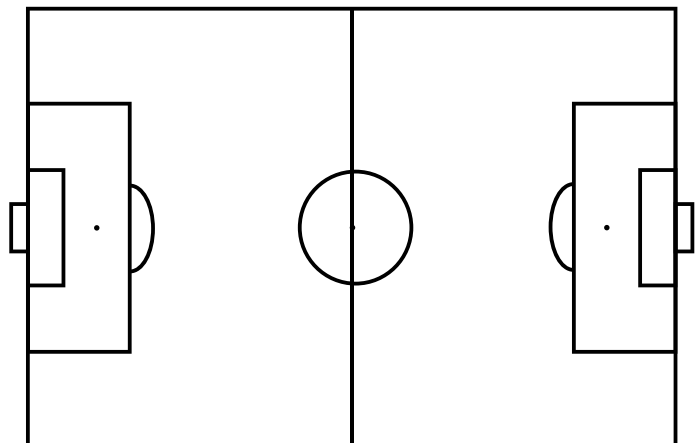
Fun Facts About Law 1

- FIFA allows professional fields to be anywhere from 100–130 yards long and 50–100 yards wide – so not every field is exactly the same!
- The goal is always the same size in professional play: 8 feet tall by 24 feet wide.
- The penalty spot (where penalty kicks are taken) is exactly 12 yards from the goal line.
- The penalty area is the area where goalkeepers are allowed to use their hands.

Law 1 Activity: Label the Lines & Zones

Use the field diagram and label the following:

- Sideline (touchline)
- Goal line (endline)
- Center circle
- Penalty area
- Penalty mark
- Goal area



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 2: The Ball

What Law 2 Means

Soccer is played with a round ball that must meet specific size and weight standards. Younger players use smaller soccer balls that are easier to control, while professional players use size 5 balls (the largest). A proper ball helps the game stay fair and fun for everyone.

Why It Matters

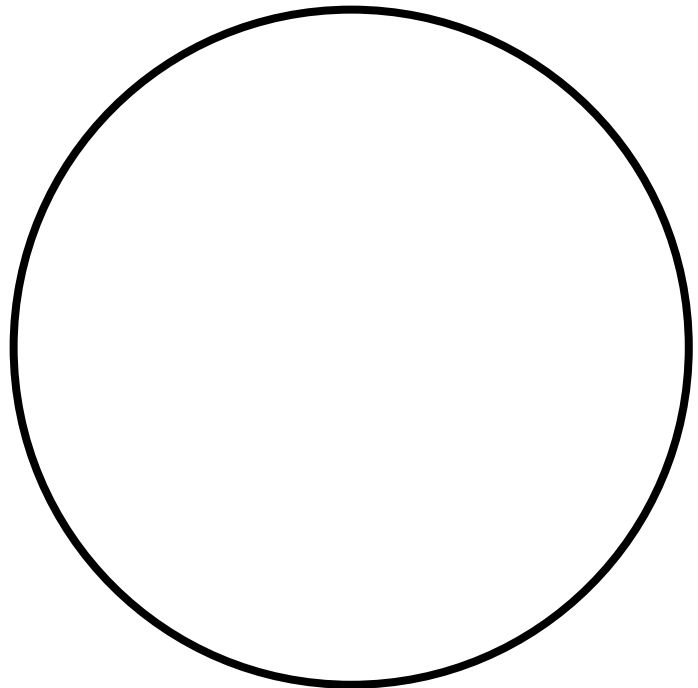
The ball is the heart of the game. Using the right-sized ball keeps players safe and makes learning skills like dribbling, passing, and shooting more manageable.

Fun Facts About Law 2

- The Official Match Ball changes design every tournament – each one has a special name and style.
- The 2026 Official Match Ball is named the Adidas Trionda, and its name and design celebrate the three host nations: the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. The Spanish name "Trionda" combines "Tri," meaning "three," with "Onda," which means "wave."
- The first World Cup in 1930 used two different balls in the final – Argentina's ball for the first half and Uruguay's for the second!
- Balls are tested for bounce, roundness, and water absorption before being approved for official matches.

Law 2 Activity: Draw Your Own Ball

Pretend that you have been asked to design an official match ball. What would your soccer ball look like? Use this circle to design and color it in.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 3: The Players

What Law 3 Means

A soccer game is played between two teams, each with no more than 11 players on the field (10 outfield players and 1 goalkeeper).

A professional game cannot start if a team has fewer than 7 players.

Why It Matters

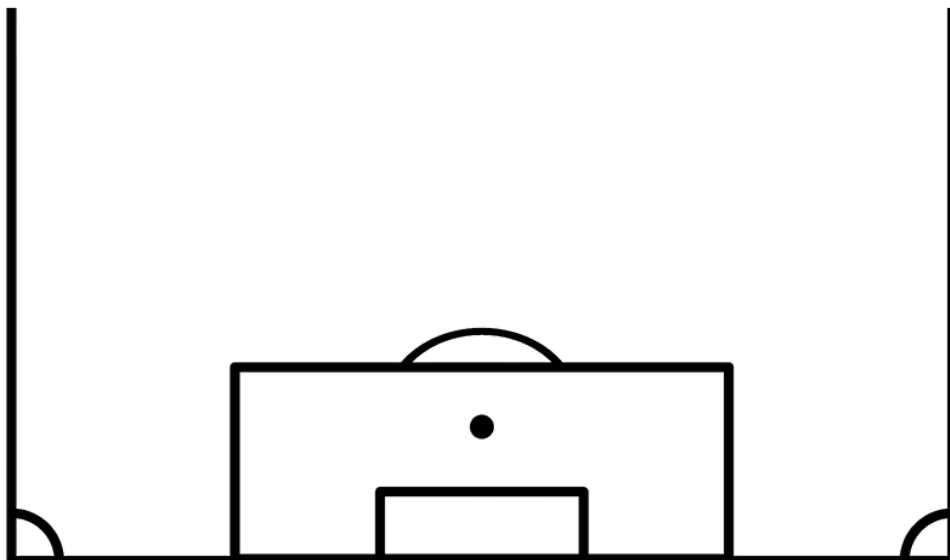
Having the right number of players ensures fairness, balance, and teamwork.

Fun Facts About Law 3

- The goalkeeper is the only player allowed to use their hands on the field, but only within their penalty area.
- In professional games, substitutions are limited and final. In youth games, players can often re-enter the field of play again after being substituted off.
- A referee checks both teams have the correct number of players on the field before kickoff.
- If a player on a team receives a red card, their team is left with fewer players!

Law 3 Activity: Show Players' Position on the Field

Use the field diagram below. Place or draw circles to show where 11 players line up. Use these letters for each position: GK = Goalkeeper, D = Defender, M= Midfielder, F = Forward.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 4: The Equipment

What Law 4 Means

All players must wear safe equipment: a jersey, shorts, socks, shin guards, and cleats. The goalkeeper wears a different color to stand out. Jewelry and unsafe items are not allowed.

Why It Matters

Proper equipment keeps players safe and helps everyone know who is who. For example, the goalkeeper's different color lets players (and referees) recognize them quickly.

Fun Facts About Law 4

- Shin guards are required in every official game with no exceptions.
- Goalkeepers often wear gloves to help them grip the ball better.
- Professional players may wear GPS trackers in their jerseys to measure running distance.
- Referees check shoes/cleats, shin guards, and uniforms before every match.

Law 4 Activity: Identify Equipment

Circle the five items below that all players must wear during a soccer match. Put an "X" through the items that would be considered unsafe and not allowed.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 5: The Referee

What Law 5 Means

Every soccer game has a referee who ensures the game is fair, safe, and played according to the rules. The referee has final authority on all decisions.

Why It Matters

Without referees, games could become unfair or unsafe. Referees protect players and make sure the match is played with respect and integrity.

Fun Facts About Law 5

- Referees wear black or bright colors to stand out from players.
- They use whistles to stop play and hand signals to show decisions.
- Referees hand out penalty cards. Yellow cards = warning. Red cards = player is sent off the field and must go to the locker room or another designated area.
- The referee starts every game with a coin toss to decide which team kicks off.

Law 5 Activity: You're the Referee!

Pretend you are the referee for the Final Match. Describe how you would keep the game fair and safe for all players.

Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 6: The Other Match Officials

What Law 6 Means

Besides the referee, there are assistant referees (linesmen), the fourth official (who handles substitutions), and even video assistant referees (who review calls made or missed on the field).

All of these officials help the referee by watching for offsides, out-of-bounds calls, and fouls the referee may not see.

Why It Matters

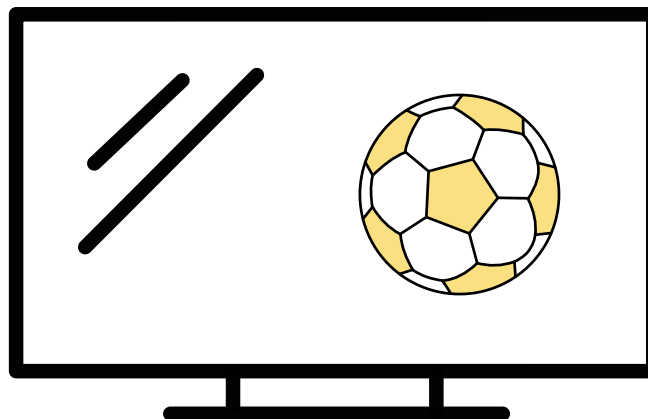
Other match officials support the referee to ensure the game remains fair, accurate, and safe. They help cover the entire field, ensuring important details aren't missed.

Fun Facts About Law 6

- Assistant referees use brightly colored flags to signal decisions.
- The 4th official manages substitutions and the electronic board that shows extra time.
- A video assistant referee (VAR) was first used at the 2018 World Cup.
- Officials communicate with headsets during professional games.

Law 6 Activity: Watch a Game

Watch a game and look for the assistant referees. What do you notice about their flags or signals? What information is displayed on the fourth official's board? Can you catch a moment when VAR is used?



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 7: The Duration of the Match

What Law 7 Means

A professional soccer game consists of two halves of 45 minutes each, plus extra time added for stoppages such as injuries or delays. If the score is tied in certain tournaments, extra time (two 15-minute halves) and, sometimes, penalty kicks are used to determine a winner.

Why It Matters

Understanding the length of the match helps players manage energy, pace themselves, and stay focused through both halves.

Fun Facts About Law 7

- A full match is 90 minutes, but stoppage time is often added at the end of each half to compensate for in-game delays, such as injuries or substitutions.
- The referee is the only one who keeps the official time.
- Extra time was first introduced in 1897 in England.
- The longest professional soccer match lasted over 3 hours due to delays.

Law 7 Activity: Do Some Math

Watch a soccer game, then determine how much time was added.

Official Match Time	How Long Was the Half	How Much Stoppage Time Was Added?
<i>Example: 90 minutes</i>	<i>Example: 95 minutes</i>	<i>Example: $95 - 90 = 5$ minutes</i>

Law 8: The Start & Restart of Play

What Law 8 Means

The game starts with a kickoff at the center circle. Play also restarts with a kickoff after goals, or with free kicks, goal kicks, throw-ins, or corner kicks, depending on how the ball went out or what foul occurred.

Why It Matters

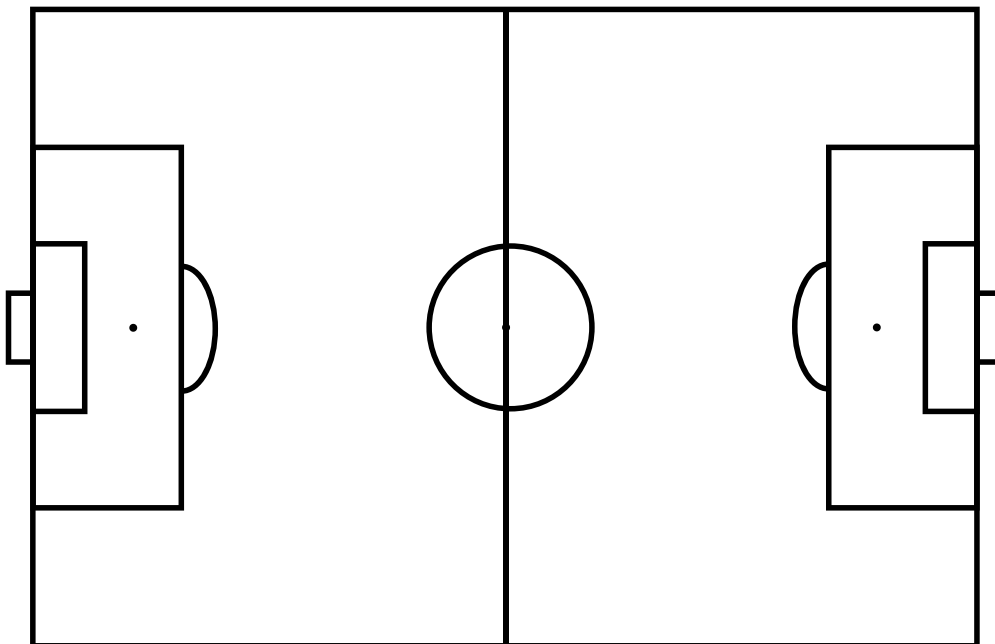
Kickoffs and restarts provide both teams with fair and clear opportunities to begin or continue play. It keeps the game's flow organized.

Fun Facts About Law 8

- The coin toss before the game decides which team kicks off.
- Corner kicks are considered a good scoring opportunity.
- If the ball goes out on the sideline, the other team restarts play with a throw-in.
- Some teams practice elaborate kickoff strategies to surprise opponents.

Law 8 Activity: Show Restarts

Using the soccer field diagram below, challenge someone in your family to draw arrows showing where the ball restarts for throw-ins, corner kicks, and goal kicks.



Law 9: The Ball In & Out of Play

What Law 9 Means

The ball is in play as long as it hasn't completely crossed the goal line or sideline. If any part of the ball touches the line, it's still in play. The ball is out only when it fully crosses the line – on the ground or in the air.

Why It Matters

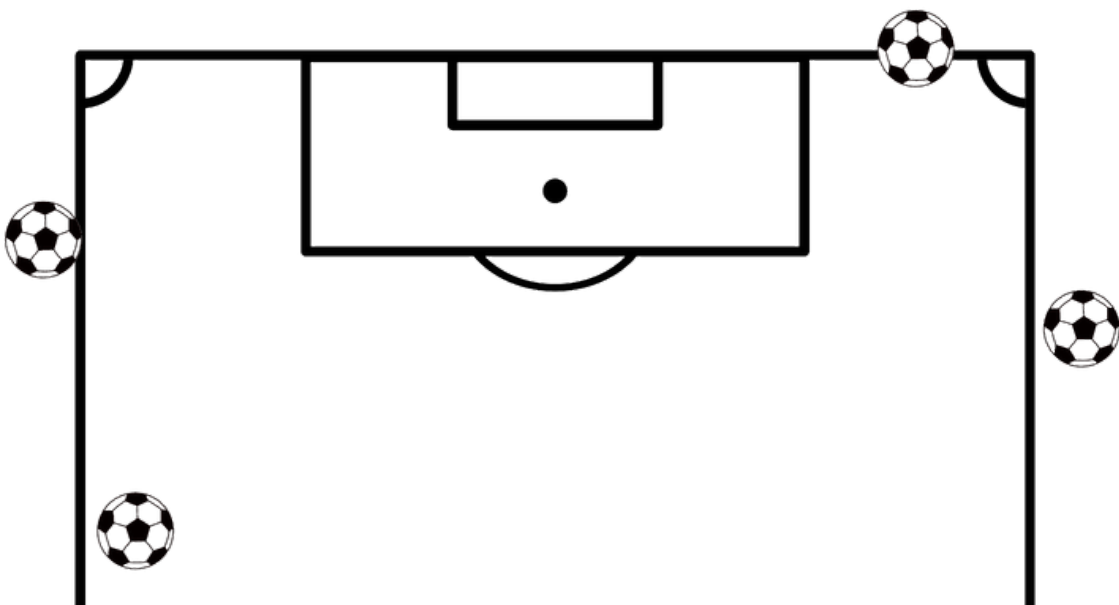
Knowing when the ball is in or out ensures fairness. It prevents arguments and helps teams quickly transition to the correct restart.

Fun Facts About Law 9

- The whole of the ball must cross over the line.
- The ball is out of play once it fully crosses the line, whether it's on the ground or in the air.
- The ball can roll along the line for several yards and still be in play.
- Referees are trained to watch their assistant referees for assistance with out-of-bounds calls.

Law 9 Activity: Find the Out of Play Ball

Only one of the balls below is out of play. Circle it and explain your answer.



Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match

What Law 10 Means

A soccer match is generally decided by who scores the most goals. If the score is tied in certain competitions, extra time or penalty kicks are used to find a winner.

Why It Matters

This law ensures everyone knows how a winner is chosen. It adds drama and fairness, giving both teams equal chances to secure the win.

Fun Facts About Law 10

- Penalty shootouts were first used in the 1970s.
- The longest recorded penalty shootout in a professional match ended 17–16!
- The "Golden Goal" (first goal in extra time ends the match) was once a rule, but it was removed in 2004.
- The Final Match has gone to a penalty shootout three times.

Law 10 Activity: Be a Good Sport

Play any game (e.g., cards, board game, 1v1 soccer, etc.). After the game ends, practice being a gracious winner or loser. Shake hands and say "good game."



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 11: Offside

What Law 11 Means

A player is offside if they are closer to the opponent's goal than the second-to-last defender when the ball is played to them – unless they're in their own half or level with the defender.

In this diagram, the red player who is closest to the goal is in an offside position. If the ball is passed to this player, the referee would award the blue team an indirect free kick.

Why It Matters

The offside rule maintains fairness in soccer by preventing attackers from “goal-hanging” too close to the goal. It makes the game more strategic.

Fun Facts About Law 11

- Offside has been a part of games since its inception in 1863.
- A player cannot be offside on a throw-in, corner, or goal kick.
- Some of the fastest goals scored occur on restarts and counterattacks when players aren't in an offside position.
- Some famous goals have been wrongly called offside (and vice versa). Now with VAR, this is a less common occurrence.

Law 11 Activity: Make the Call

Next time you watch a game, try spotting offside calls before the referee does. Were you right or wrong?



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 12: Fouls & Misconduct

What Law 12 Means

Players must play fairly and safely. Fouls include kicking, tripping, holding, pushing, or handling the ball on purpose. Yellow cards = warnings, red cards = ejection from the field and bench area.

Why It Matters

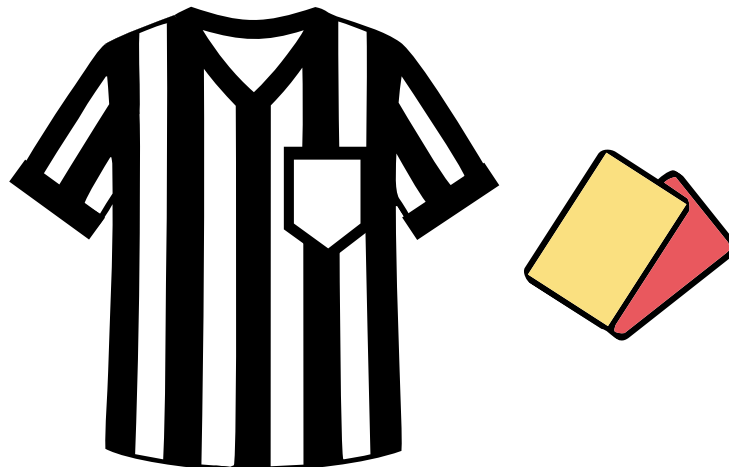
This law keeps the game safe and respectful. It also teaches accountability – bad choices have real consequences.

Fun Facts About Law 12

- The yellow and red card system was introduced at the 1970 World Cup.
- A team can finish with as few as 7 players before the game is stopped.
- Players can be issued cards before, during, and after the match. They can also receive them while on the field of play or on the bench.
- Famous stars like David Beckham, Zinedine Zidane, and Cristiano Ronaldo have all received red cards in big games.

Law 12 Activity: Role Play

Grab some friends. Have one person act as the referee. The others can be players. Act out safe play vs. fouls. The “referee” can pretend to give yellow or red cards.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 13: Free Kicks

What Law 13 Means

When a foul happens, play restarts with a free kick. There are two types of free kicks:

- **Direct** – you can score directly from these
- **Indirect** – another player must touch the ball before it crosses over the goal line

Opponents must stay 10 yards away from the spot of the kick, if asked.

Why It Matters

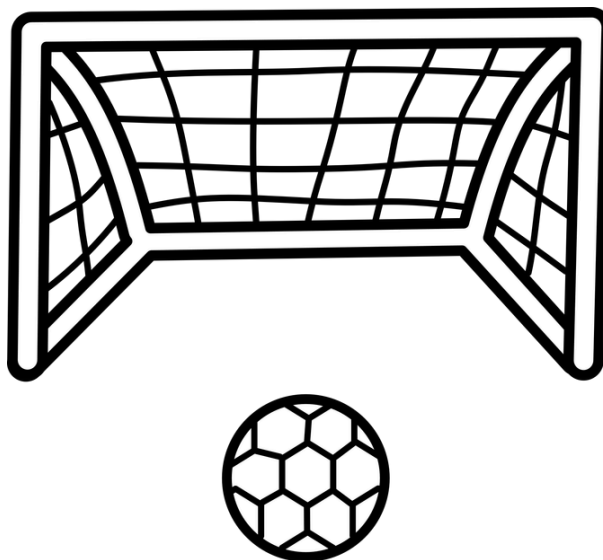
Free kicks give teams a chance to restart fairly and add excitement to the game. They reward skill while also punishing fouls.

Fun Facts About Law 13

- Famous free-kick specialists include David Beckham and Lionel Messi. Roberto Carlos scored one of the most famous bending free kicks in 1997.
- The “vanishing spray” referees use to mark the free kick line was introduced in 2014.
- Indirect free kicks are often awarded for mistakes made by the goalkeeper.
- Defending teams often form a “human wall” standing side-by-side to block free kicks.

Law 13 Activity: Practice Free Kicks

Set up a cone as a “wall” and practice bending the ball. Track how many times you clear the wall and hit the target or goal behind it.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 14: Penalty Kicks

What Law 14 Means

When a foul occurs inside the penalty box, the attacking team is awarded a penalty kick. The ball is placed on the penalty spot (12 yards from the goal). Only the kicker and the goalkeeper are involved until the shot is taken.

Why It Matters

Penalties are high-pressure moments that can decide entire games or tournaments. They test skill, nerves, and bravery.

Fun Facts About Law 14

- The penalty spot was introduced in 1891.
- A penalty kick is sometimes referred to as “the loneliest walk” in soccer.
- The fastest awarded penalty kick occurred only 6 seconds into a match.
- Goalkeepers must keep at least one foot on the goal line until the ball is struck.

Law 14 Activity: Practice Penalty Kicks

Create your own penalty shootout at home. If you are not able to get outside, a sock ball and a laundry basket or small goal works well. Take turns being the kicker and goalkeeper.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 15: Throw-In

What Law 15 Means

When the ball crosses the sideline, play restarts with a throw-in. The thrower must use both hands, keep both feet on the ground, and throw from behind and over their head.

Why It Matters

Throw-ins keep the game moving and reward the team that didn't lose possession out of bounds. They also create scoring chances when done strategically.

Fun Facts About Law 15

- The longest recorded throw-in traveled over 61 yards!
- A player cannot score directly from a throw-in.
- Both feet must be on or behind the line, not lifted off the ground.
- Some teams have specialist throw-in coaches to maximize advantage.

Law 15 Activity: Practice Throw-Ins

Go outdoors and practice throw-ins. Focus on using two hands, keeping both feet planted, and throwing over your head. See how far you can throw the ball without breaking the rules.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 16: Goal Kick

What Law 16 Means

If the ball crosses the goal line (but not into the goal) and was last touched by the attacking team, the defending team restarts with a goal kick. The ball is placed anywhere inside the goal area and kicked back into play.

Why It Matters

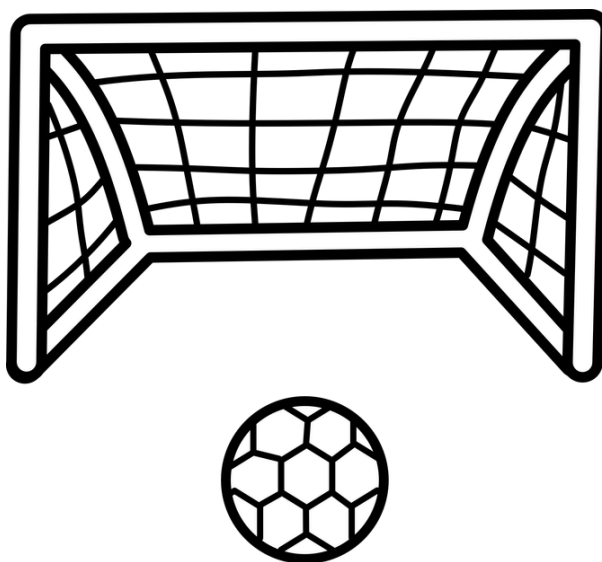
Goal kicks help teams reset, relieve pressure, and build up new attacks. They also test a goalkeeper's decision-making skills – should you go long or play short?

Fun Facts About Law 16

- Players can now receive the ball inside the penalty box from a goal kick (a rule change in 2019).
- Goalkeepers don't always take goal kicks – defenders often do.
- A goal can be scored directly from a goal kick.
- Teams sometimes use short goal kicks to keep possession instead of kicking long.

Law 16 Activity: Practice Goal Kicks

Grab a friend or family member. Practice kicking the ball to this person while they're standing in different spots (e.g., short, medium, and long distances).



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Law 17: Corner Kick

What Law 17 Means

When the ball crosses the goal line (but not into the goal) and is last touched by the defending team, the attacking team gets a corner kick. The ball is placed in the corner arc closest to where it went out.

Why It Matters

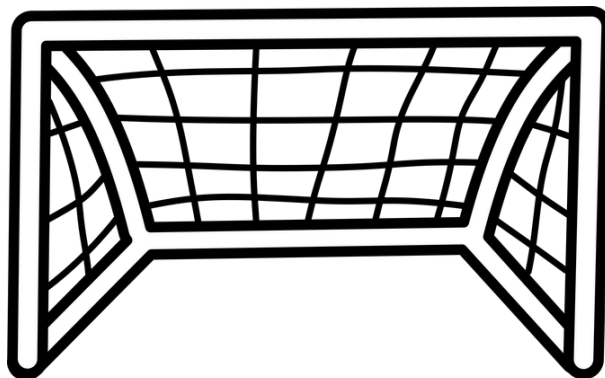
Corner kicks provide attacking teams with a prime opportunity to score, while defenders must remain organized under pressure.

Fun Facts About Law 17

- The first recorded corner kick happened in 1872.
- Goals can be scored directly from corner kicks.
- On average, about 2–3% of corner kicks result in goals.
- Teams use special plays like “short corners” or “near post runs.”

Law 17 Activity: Practice Corner Kicks

Set up a corner spot in your yard or living room. Kick the ball to a friend or family member who tries to score a goal. Switch roles after five kicks.



Exploring the 17 Soccer Laws

Watch a Game and Spot the 17 Laws of Soccer in Action

How well do you understand the fundamental soccer laws?
Test your knowledge with these activities while watching a game.

● Watch a soccer game together (on TV or at a local park). See if you can spot:

- The penalty box (big rectangle in front of the goal)
- The penalty spot (the little dot)
- The halfway line and center circle

Talk as a family: Why do you think the field needs all these lines?

● Watch a game and notice the match ball – what colors and designs do you see? Does it look different from the one you use at practice?

● Count how many players are on each team when you watch a game. Notice the players' movement for both teams. Are the players bunched up around the ball or do they spread out? Why?

● When watching a game, take a close look at what the goalkeeper wears compared to the other players. Why do you think the goalkeeper is dressed differently from the other players?

● During a game, watch the referee closely. How many times do they blow the whistle? What are some of the signals you notice?

● Watch a game together and point out the assistant referees. What do you notice about their flags or signals? What information is displayed on the fourth official's board? Can you catch a moment when VAR is used?

● When watching a game, notice how it restarts when it goes out of play. Is it via a throw-in, corner, or goal kick?

● Next time you watch, count how many throw-ins happen in just 10 minutes of play.

● Watch how different teams restart with goal kicks. Do they usually kick long or short? Why might that be?

● Watch a game and notice how teams set up during corner kicks. Who stands near the goalkeeper? Who waits outside of the box?



ussoccerfoundation.org