

**WCSSF Short-sided Rules**  
**High School Division – Fall Season Only**  
**Adult Summer League**  
**Revised 1-1-17**

1. 35 minute halves (5-minute half time) – for High School division - Fall Season Only and Adult Summer League.
2. Normal play is 7v7, 8v8 if both coaches agree.
3. If the goalie stops, traps, handles or picks up the ball with his/her hands, then the ball must be released from their hands and the goalie **CANNOT** touch the ball again until another player on the field has touched it.
4. Goalies **CANNOT PUNT** the ball. (Penalty: an indirect kick is awarded to the other team from the point where the goalie punted the ball.)
5. Goalies **cannot DROP or PLACE the ball on the ground and then kick it**. Once the goalie has the ball in their hands, they cannot touch the ball with their foot until the ball has touched another player in the field of play.
6. Goalies **CANNOT DROP-KICK** the ball. (Penalty: an indirect kick is awarded to the other team from the point where the goalie drop-kicked the ball.)
7. **Goal kicks must NOT travel past midfield in the air**. If the whole of the ball lands beyond the midfield line, the ball is whistled dead and an indirect free kick is awarded to the other team from the point that the ball passed over midfield.
8. Minimum number of players to start play is 5.

**Just for further clarification:**

1. Free kicks (except goal kicks) may pass over midfield without play stoppage.
2. Goalies may throw the ball over midfield without play stoppage.
3. Goalies may pass (by foot) or shoot the ball after the ball has been passed back to them by a teammate.
4. All other FIFA rules apply including off-sides.
5. Unlimited Substitutions may be done by either team on the kick off, or goal kick. Both teams may substitute on a throw in as long as the team with possession has a substitute to come in. Players ready to substitute **MUST** take a pinnie unto the field and hand it off to the player that they are replacing on the field. Players ready to substitute **MUST** take a pinnie unto the field and hand it off to the player that they are replacing on the field.

**Question was raised,** “If the goal keeper drops the ball to the ground after it has been saved in goal (not a drop Kick) waits a second and kicks it or takes a touch of the ball and then kicks it past the mid line what is the ruling?”

**Answer from the WCSSF Board:** The intent for the Adult and HS short sided is that if the goalie has the ball in his/her hands, they **MUST** throw/roll the ball to their teammates. **NO FOOT** action at all. Since goal kicks are required by rule, there are no goal kicks over the halfway line rule in place. Now, if the goalie made a save by deflecting/hitting/punching the

ball and it stays in the penalty area, then, yes, the goalie can kick it as far as he/she wants since they did not catch it, drop it to the ground and then kick it. That would be entirely at the referee's discretion on whether to allow the action. Once again, if the goalie has the ball in his/her hands, the only legal action to put it back into play is a throw/roll out of the penalty box to another player.

"If the goalie handles or controls the ball with their hands, they must distribute the ball with their hands and the ball must be touched by a teammate or opponent on the field of play before that same goalie can touch the ball again with their foot."

This will ensure the intent that we want the goalie to throw the ball into play and make the teams develop play from the back. By clarifying the "no goalie double touch" rule, we make it clear that punts, drop kicks, drop-roll-and-kicks and etc. cannot happen.