



HOW TO COACH A SOCCERWISE® SOCCER MATCH

Pre-Match

Instruct teams to form a huddle and explain the rules of the game to each team
Main rules & facts that need to be explained to the children are:

- Players are not to use their hands
- Don't fall over or you'll get hurt

Goalie Rules

- Goalies can **NOT** save the ball with their hands
- No 'footy kicking' or throwing the ball out, the ball must be placed on the ground and kicked in to play (soccer style)
- Make sure children do **NOT** lean on and/or touch the goals – this can cause injury to the child or damage the goals
- Make sure you rotate Goalies every minute or so. It will help keep all of the children engaged

For Less Experienced / Younger / First Time Players

- Explain which way they are kicking and the boundaries of the field and continually reiterate this message
- When the coach blows their whistle all players are to freeze and stop what they were doing. Again - continually reiterate this rule
- Most kids love it when you commentate (like they hear on TV or Radio!). Be funny, energetic and positive with your commentary and your match will flourish!
- When the ball goes out of play only one child needs to go and get it





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During the match

- Referee the match with **PARTICIPANT SAFETY** at the forefront of all decisions
- Help keep the ball in play when possible and play/pass the ball into space when games become congested and crowded
- Most frequent / important instructions you should be continuously saying are:
 - "Keep it (the ball) in"
 - "Don't fall over"
- Discourage arguments regarding scores. Matches are about having **FUN!** Coaches are not to keep score, mention the score or put any value on the scoreline whatsoever
- Coaches can assist a team that is struggling, but do it subtly and safely. Alternatively feel free to change the composition of the teams at the appropriate time (e.g. during a drink break)
- After drink breaks and intermissions don't re-start matches until all children under your supervision are on the ground and accounted for

Optional Rules

- With older more advanced children, coaches can implement the '3 corners is a penalty' rule
 - Make sure the children understand what a corner is
 - Count the corners
 - After there have been 3 corners award a penalty
 - Penalties are taken from the far end of the field (or half way line depending on the size of the field and age of the children)
 - Again - no goalies are allowed
 - Coaches are to make sure students are aware **NOBODY** can touch the ball until it leaves the field or stops in play
 - If an opposing player touches the ball before it passes the goal line or stops in play, it's an automatic goal
- If a match is becoming unsafe due to players constantly falling over (due to wet grounds), a no falling over rule can be introduced
 - Explain to all players that every time someone falls over, a free kick will be awarded to the other team (unless there was a deliberate foul)
 - Tell them "good soccer players try not to fall over" E.g. Messi