

Ocean City Recreation and Parks  
St. Patrick's Indoor Soccer Tournament  
Rules and Regulations 2024

The Ocean City Indoor Soccer Rules are based on the Youth and Amateur Edition of the United States Indoor Soccer Association rulebook. In the case that a rule is not specifically covered in this document the US Indoor Youth and Amateur rulebook will be consulted. This book is available at [www.usindoor.com](http://www.usindoor.com). Tournament referees have been assigned through HARSOA and are members in good standing of the Maryland Independent Soccer Officials Association.

**Eligibility and Team Composition**

1. Players must be 18 years of age by February 23, 2024 for the Co-Rec Division and by March 15, 2024 for the Men's and Women's Open Divisions. In the Over 30 divisions players must turn 30 years of age by February 24, 2024. Players in the Teen Divisions must meet birth year eligibility, with the exception of high school players born September 1, 2005 and after being eligible to play in 2006 age division. All players in all divisions MUST have proof of age upon request.
2. Rosters are limited to 18 players including coaches.  
**Coaches and players MUST be listed on roster, not to exceed 18**  
Only rostered players and rostered coaches may be in the bench area.
3. Ejected players or coaches may not be in the bench area and may be asked to leave the facility if deemed necessary by tournament staff.
4. Players may only play for one team per division. If a player appears on two rosters in the same division they will be a legal player for the team that plays first. They will not be permitted to switch teams once the game has started.
5. A **complete** final roster is due at check-in 15 minutes prior to playing. Any player that is not on the final roster is considered an illegal player.

**Game Fundamentals**

1. Games are six players a side (including the keeper)  
**\*Exceptions: Games played in the East Gym will play five players a side (including the keeper).**  
**\*Exceptions: Co -Rec Division Games played in the East Gym will play six players a side (including the keeper).**
2. Teams must have a minimum of **four** players to start the game. **Adult Co-Rec division must have 2 female players on the playing field at all times including penalty times and overtimes.**
3. The game has two, 17-minute halves.
4. Halftime is up to three minutes in duration.
5. Each team has one, 30-second timeout per game which can only be called when the team has possession and the ball is out of bounds, a dead ball situation, after a goal scored, or when the ball is in your goalkeeper's possession. Also, the restart after the goalkeeper has called a time out is a free kick inside the goal area and not from the goalkeeper's hands. Each team receives one 30-second timeout during overtime and timeouts do not carry over from the game.
6. During pool play, games ending in a tie score will be recorded as a tie.

**7. Game time is forfeit time. Teams MUST be available and ready to play 15 minutes prior to scheduled game start times!**

8. Forfeits: A forfeit can be determined at any time. Forfeits will be called for illegal players and age eligibility requirements. Forfeits will be scored as (10-0).

9. If at any time after the first half a team leads by 10 goals, the game is over. (Mercy Rule)

### **Equipment**

1. Ocean City Recreation and Parks shall provide all game and warm-up balls.

2. Absolutely no jewelry is permitted. Medic-Alert tags are not jewelry if properly covered.

3. Each player must wear a matching color jersey with a number on the back of the jersey.

4. The goalkeeper's jersey must be different from that of the rest of his/her team and the opponents.

**5. All players must wear shin guards.**

6. Any braces and/or casts must be properly padded as to not endanger any player. The game referees shall approve these prior to each contest.

### **Playing Rules (Based on US Indoor Soccer Association rules)**

1. Any ball that leaves the playing area, hits the netting above the dasher walls, strikes the ceiling, contacts the divider curtain is out of bounds. Play will be restarted with a free kick or goalkeeper distribution as appropriate.

2. **Goalkeeper distribution** is a restart method in which the goalkeeper may throw or punt the ball. It is used when an attacking player last touches a ball before it goes out of bounds between the corner marks.

3. All **restarts after a foul** are direct and **do not** require a referee's whistle, but may be used as directed by the referee.

4. For all **out of bounds restarts** there shall be **2 whistles**, one to stop play and one to start play. This is a guaranteed substitution. **In the last 2 minutes of the second half and in the last 2 minutes of overtime there are no guaranteed substitutions. Substitutions may be made "on the fly" at any time.**

5. There is no offside.

6. **Slide tackling** is illegal. Goalkeepers may slide, within their own penalty area, in order to protect the goal. (*slide tackling is defined as a defensive move to dispossess the ball from an attacking player*)

7. Any ball striking or flying over the gym partition (curtain) is out of bounds. In the East gym if the ball strikes or flies over the partition the ball is placed on the yellow middle infield line for re-starts.

8. Kickoffs in the East Gym will occur from the top of the goal box and in the West Gym kickoffs will be from mid court. Teams must be on their own side of the field during kick offs.

9. Running full speed into the dasher walls and/or breaking ceiling insulation can both be cited as "damage to the facility" and penalty time may be assessed.

10. Goalkeeper possession is relative to the position of the ball, not the person.
11. For all restarts a minimum of 10 feet of space, in all directions, must be given by the defense.
12. The goalkeeper must play the ball within 5 seconds of gaining control with his/her hands.
13. The goalkeeper may not handle a ball that is kicked back by a teammate.
14. The only time a penalty kick is awarded after a foul is committed in the penalty box is when a card is issued for the infraction.
15. Any player who is found to be bleeding must be removed from the game until the bleeding is appropriately bandaged. If the uniform is saturated with blood the uniform must be changed prior to the player returning to the game.
16. The referees have the authority to rule on any point not covered by these rules or the US Indoor Soccer Youth and Amateur Rule Book.

### **Fouls and Misconduct**

1. Any penalty of two minutes (**unless otherwise noted in these rules**) shall be served by the offender and will terminate if the opposing team should score. A penalty of five minutes shall be served entirely regardless of the number of times the opponent scores.
2. When a card is given there will be a minimum number of players imposed on the playing fields. Penalty time rules will still be in effect, but there will be a minimum amount of players on the field. In the East and West Gyms the minimum number of players during regulation play will be three field players and the goalie. During overtime periods the minimum number of players in the east Gym will be two field players and a goalie.
3. When two opponents receive cards for simultaneous fouls, both players will serve non-releasable penalty time and both teams will play down a player but not below the allowed minimum number of players on the field.
4. The referees will only be using **Blue and Red cards** for fouls and misconduct. **Blue** cards will carry a penalty of two minutes. **Red** cards will carry a penalty of five minutes that are non-releasable. **A player who receives three blue cards in the same game will be shown a RED card. Ejection from the game shall occur and the participant will be ejected from playing in the next scheduled game.**
5. Dissent against the referee will result in a **non-releasable** two minute (blue card) penalty. The team will play down a player regardless of an opponent score. Foul and abusive language directed against an opponent, player, staff member or the referee will result in a RED card (send off ejection penalty). The team will play a player down a full 5 minutes regardless of an opponent score.
6. A field player shall serve penalty time charged to the goalkeeper unless the referee rules the foul to be flagrant in nature or dissent against the referee. In those cases the goalkeeper shall serve his his/her penalty time.
7. **Unsportsmanlike conduct from the coach/bench** shall result in a **non-releasable** two minute penalty. The team will play down a player regardless of an opponent score.
8. An ejection (red card) results in the offender being ineligible to participate in the current game and **at least one** subsequent game. A member of the offender's team shall serve a 5-minute non-releasable penalty. Following the 5-minute power play the team will be back to full strength.

The offender's team does not play down for the entire contest (except when the ejection occurs with less than 5 minutes remaining in the contest).

9. Any player or coach who is ejected will be suspended from the contest they are currently playing and the next scheduled game, at a minimum. The tournament directors will make a ruling on the exact penalties after discussions with the game referees, scorekeepers, and team personnel.
10. Any player or coach that receives a **red card during or following an elimination game** may be subject to disciplinary action in any future tournaments in which they choose to participate.
11. Penalty time begins once play resumes after penalty was issued.
12. Tournament directors, referees and facility staff may eject team members, coaches, and spectators from the facility for any reason they deem necessary to provide safety and maintain control of the event.
13. Any team or person who is ejected from our tournament indefinitely will be reported to The Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Sports Alliance. For more information contact [www.marpsa.com](http://www.marpsa.com)

### **Playoff Information**

1. Playoff brackets will be single elimination and updated as soon as the staff has all relevant information.
2. **Teams MUST be available and ready to play 15 minutes prior to scheduled game start times!**
3. Games that end in a tie will have a five-minute sudden death overtime period with each team playing a man down. A coin toss will determine kick-off and direction of play. All other game rules still apply. If score remains tied after this 5 minute period, we will have a 3 minute overtime period. Each team will play with 2 field players and 1 goalie (3v3)  
We will continue with the 3 minute overtime periods and each team with 2 field players and 1 goalie (3v3) until a winner is determined.
4. Teams will be seeded in the playoffs by pool play record. The following tiebreakers will be used when necessary.
  1. Head to Head competition.
  2. Fewest Goals allowed.
  3. Plus/minus goal ratio
  4. Coin Flip

