



Spring 2026 Field Guide

Soccer...we really like it!

*updated 2/3/26

SAFETY FIRST

- Keep matches under control; avoid injuries and fights
- Questions or issues? Contact Dustin or Alissa. **If any kind of violence or severe injury occurs, contact Alissa immediately.**

Alissa 512-994-6126

Dustin 210-884-6505

ABUSIVE AND DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIORS—physical, verbal, psychological—defined as any language and/or action used that is intended to insult, degrade, threaten, frighten, harm or harass any participant (players, referees, spectator, etc) of an ACSA activity will not be tolerated by our community including but not limited to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, ageism, xenophobia, etc. *These behaviours will result in a red card and immediate removal from the facility AT MINIMUM.*

At the beginning of each match, captains and players must check in with the referee with their ONLINE Ateamo player cards from the phone and captains pay their \$50 ref fees.

MATCH REPORTS MUST include final score, full names and primary team for any cards given with infraction details, and any serious injuries. Send to refreports@ACSAsoccer.org at the end of each match day.

PLAYERS MUST BE CURRENTLY REGISTERED WITH AUSTIN COMMUNITY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

They prove this by showing their ACTIVE player card from Ateamo.com on their phone (not a screenshot). To access their online player card, they need to login into Ateamo.com and click on “Online Card” on the home page (under “My Registrations” box on the right). Captains can also show their ONLINE photo roster. Guest players only need to be shared on match reports if they receive infractions.



PAGE 59 FROM IFAB “LAWS OF THE GAME”

“Decisions will be made to the best of the referee's ability according to the [laws] and the ‘spirit of the game’ and will be based on the opinion of the referee, who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the [laws]. The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. The decisions of the referee, and all other match officials, must always be respected.”

ACSA COMPLIES WITH IFAB LAWS OF THE GAME WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

PLAYERS: The ten (10) field players may consist of more than five (5) women, but no more than five (5) men (**there is NO exception to this**). The goalie may be male or female and DOES NOT COUNT towards field player allocations. Gender fluid and non-binary players self-select their field identity with their captains. Any questions should be addressed privately and respectfully with captains. We honour and respect all consistently lived gender identities. There is no guest player limit – all player MUST be current ACSA players.

REQUIRED MINIMUM TO START is 6 field players and 1 goalie—at least 1 of the field players must be always female-identifying. At match time, teams must start if they have the minimum required.

MATCHES: Match clock starts at scheduled match time and are 90min with two 45min halves and max 5min halftime. Water breaks may be given if both captains agree and should not exceed 1-2 min while game clock runs.

If a team does not have the required minimum to start by 15 min after scheduled time, they forfeit and pay full ref fees (\$100). All matches must end at least 10 minutes before the next match time. If necessary, reduce halftime and shorten both halves equally to end on time (unless there is no match following).

SUBBING is open/unlimited, but can happen ONLY during goal kicks (both teams can sub), throw-ins on possession (if possession team subs, both teams can sub), kick-off (both teams can sub), for injury (both teams can sub), and returning from water breaks or halftime (both teams can sub). *NO SUBBING on corners and free kicks.*

SCORING: Goals are 1 point. No player may score more than 3 goals a match.

NO SLIDE TACKLES BY FIELD PLAYERS: A sliding/slide tackle is a tackle in which a player deliberately leaves their feet to slide along the ground and take the ball from the opposing player. Slide tackles result in a direct free kick. Goalies may slide tackle as long as they are FIRST AND ONLY PLAYING THE BALL, not the player.

A player may slide as long as there are no other players nearby. e.g. keeping a ball in play. A referee may stop play for sliding if they feel the slide was too close to other players or created a dangerous situation – a sliding play that is within 5ft of another player.

- “A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits a direct free kick offence inside their penalty area or off the field as part of play,” (IFAB Law 14, Introduction).
- Players MAY be cautioned (yellow card) for a 1st offense (“commits in a reckless manner a direct free kick offence”), but WILL be cautioned for any “persistent offenses,” (2nd+, IFAB Law 12.4).
- ACSA considers playing the ball while on the ground a dangerous play which is given an indirect free kick (IFAB Law 12.2).

JEWELRY: Best practice is for players to leave jewelry at home. If this is not possible, they should remove dangling or bulky items that could get caught or cause injury to others.