



Soccer is simple and complex

Like many sports, soccer is both simple and complex. It is played on a rectangular field which is divided into two halves. The most important lines on the playing-area are those which mark the penalty-area (shaded in the diagram). The object of the game is to score more goals than the opponents do. A goal is scored when the ball is kicked or headed into the goal, i.e. between the goalposts and under the crossbar at the end of the field.

ball directly from a goal-kick, a throw-in or a corner-kick; also, if a player standing in an off-side position is not interfering with play, he is not penalized. In deciding whether or not a player is off-side, the important thing is to note where he was when the ball was previously played, not where he is when he gets the ball.

If the ball goes over the goal-line and was last touched

by an attacker, play is restarted by the defenders taking a goal-kick. If it was last touched by a defender, play resumes with a corner-kick taken by the attacking team. A goal may be scored direct from a corner-kick. If the ball goes out over the side-line, a throw-in is taken. The player throwing the ball must throw it over his head with both hands and must keep some part of each foot in contact with the ground while doing so.

The game is played between two teams of eleven players. One player of each team wears a different jersey from the others. He is the goal-keeper. Within his own penalty-area the goal-keeper may catch, punch or otherwise handle the ball. No one else is allowed intentionally to handle the ball. If he nevertheless does so, a direct free kick (i.e. one from which a goal may be scored directly) is awarded to the other team. No offense occurs if the ball accidentally hits a hand or arm.

Although players frequently come into contact with each other by chance in a goal-mouth scramble or when attempting to head the ball, the only legal form of body contact in soccer is the shoulder-to-shoulder charge and even this must not be carried out in a violent or dangerous manner. Elbowing, pushing, holding, tripping, jumping at an opponent and body-checking are not permitted. If they do occur (and are spotted by an official) a direct free kick will be awarded to the team whose player has been fouled. However, the referee has discretionary power to let play proceed if, in his opinion, the team in possession of the ball despite the foul would lose an advantage through a stoppage of play.

An indirect free kick (i.e. one from which a goal cannot be scored directly) is awarded for certain other offences, for example shouting, deliberate obstruction, or if the goal-keeper takes too many steps while holding the ball. The referee will raise one arm to show that a free kick is an indirect one.

Free kicks are taken at the place where the foul occurred, except that if a foul punishable by a direct free kick has been committed by the defending team within its own penalty area, the kick is taken from a spot 12 yards in front of the goal and is called a penalty kick. Only the kicker and the goal-keeper may then be within the penalty area and the latter must stand on his goal-line.

During any restart of play (except for a drop ball), the player taking a kick or throw-in may not play the ball a second time, unless the ball has been played by another player.

A player is off-side if he is nearer his opponents' goal-line than the ball at any moment the ball is played unless he is in his own half of the field, or two of his opponents are nearer to their goal-line than he is, or the ball has last been played by an opponent. However, a player is not off-side if he receives the



Soccer Talk with Alex Tough

This has been another busy week as we continue the run down to opening day. The pee wee boys division is short of one coach to look after John Wicken's team. At the moment Colin Wilde is helping John with the boys. Ted Savage has agreed to act as commissioner as well as coach his own team. I am working on the schedule and these should soon be ready.

STARVATION POINT
The last of the registration are almost completed. Our total numbers are not yet available. One thing is certain, youth and senior players and teams are up on last year. Flag football and rugby are also on the increase this year. This places a more severe strain on resources than in the past. It is becoming an essential priority that our field facilities be given urgent treatment. We large field users will have to share out more field time. Soccer has already reduced match time and number of games during the season and saturation point is now here.

Recreation director Tom Shepard and I looked over Cedarvale last week prior to

taking in the Blizzard-Cosmos game at Exhibition Stadium. The field is in worse shape than two years ago. Bare patches, surface rocks, huge holes left when removing the winter fence will all be a danger to players.

The referee clinic over the past two Sundays was very well attended. Elaine Bertrand has done a super job in organizing the clinic. It will be a few weeks before the official exam results are published. Clinic instructor Terry Bell was very pleased at the interest and standard of entrants.

Elaine is looking to organize the referee schedule for opening day - 24th May and for the season. Please give her a call at 877-8353 with your available time - do not wait for her call. Firstly, she is extremely busy and may have tried to contact you. Secondly she has over 170 house league games and more than 50 competitive teams to schedule.

Stu Robbins conducted the coaches clinic on Saturday morning to a small and very keen group. We had a good two and a half hour work out with skill instruction on how to run

a practise. I am sure we all received some benefit from the session.

MINOR PEEWEES
My young ladies lost 3-0 to the minor pee wees of John Young and Bill Brazz last Tuesday. The girls were out-classed in skills, running and

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positional play for most of the game. However they improved as the game went on, with Cathy Dokson, Pam Kent and Lisa Allen playing particularly well.

For the boys Brinley Hole was a tireless worker, with Tommy Stefan and Paul Basha showing good form. And who was that tiny left winger?

BLIZZARD BYELINE
Two games this week. The loss to Cosmos in the dying minutes of the Thursday game was unfortunate. Blizzard had contained the New Yorkers more skillful players for most of the game. Giorgio Chinaglia escaped Francesco Morini's clutches only in the last five minutes, which was enough time to clinch a 3-1 win. On Sunday the lads were

back on the winning trail with a deserving victory over Tulsa Roughnecks (well named all that) by 3-0.

Jimmy Bone, the player of the game, made a welcome return, revitalizing the Blizzard players with a hard work-

ing display. He made his presence felt in the first minute with a shot on the run which was saved.

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Rabid animals are a hazard this spring.

Rabies, which is spread by infected animals, is a serious problem in Ontario. This spring it is of special concern in built up areas where wild animals... particularly skunks...are infecting pets and children who come in contact with them.

Children should be warned to avoid wild animals, especially if they appear sick or friendly because these usually are signs that they are rabid.

Pets should be regularly vaccinated and kept indoors at night. You can also help to control rabies by reporting any pets or wild animals which seem to be acting strangely to your local police, humane society or health unit.

Do not touch dead animals and contact your doctor or health unit immediately if your child or pet comes in contact with wild animals. Do not handle your pet with bare hands immediately after it has fought with a rabid animal. Seek advice from a veterinarian.

If you would like to know more about rabies write for a free copy of our pamphlet. **ANIMALS, RABIES AND YOU** from the Ontario Health Resource Centre, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S2.

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