



Differences between 9v9 to 11v11 Games

| A single line in the left-hand margin indicates amendments.

The purpose of this document is to explain the differences between the Laws of the Game in the 9v9 to 11v11 game. This is **not** a full replacement for the Laws of the Game, but rather a supplement for Referees. For any aspect of the law not covered by this document, please refer to the current edition of the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Law 1: The Field of Play

Field Markings:

The field and goal dimensions as outlined below shall be considered as desirable guidelines. Failure to conform to the recommended field and goal dimensions shall not be the subject of protest. It is understood and agreed that clubs / teams may be unable to provide the desired fields, equipment, etc. Flexibility is understood and allowed.

Dimensions:

The field of play must be rectangular. The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line. Recommended field dimensions are as follows:

Length	Width
60 m – 75 m	42 m – 55 m

The Goal Area:

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, 4.5 metres from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 4 metres and are joined by a line parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the goal area.

The Penalty Area:

Two lines are drawn at right angles to the goal line, 13 metres from the inside of each goal post. These lines extend into the field of play for a distance of 13 metres and are joined by a line parallel with the goal line. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area.

Within each penalty area a penalty mark is made 9 metres from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

Penalty Arc

An *optional* arc of a circle with radius 9.15 meters from each penalty mark is drawn outside the penalty area.

Goals:

The distance between the posts is 5.48m (18ft) and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is 1.82m (6ft).



Law 2: The Ball

Size 4 balls or 5 light balls can be used.

Specifications of a ball “size 5 light”:

Weight	Circumference
350-370g	68-70cm

Law 3: Number of Players

The minimum, maximum number of players and roster size for a 9v9 game shall be:

Minimum number of players	Maximum number of players	Maximum Roster Size
6	9	16

Substitutions:

Unlimited substitutions may be made throughout the game. All substitutions are only allowed at the discretion of the Referee and the Referee shall be advised of all substitutions.

The rules of the competition must state in which stoppages (e.g. goal kick, corner kick, throw-in) substitutions are allowed.

Law 7: Duration of the Match

Periods of play

The length of each half is 35 minutes. The half time interval must not exceed 10 minutes.

Law 16: Goal Kick

Procedure

- All opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until the ball:
 - is touched by a player of the team taking the goal kick **OR**,
 - leaves the field of play **OR**,
 - goes over the retreat line. (If the goalkeeper chooses to play the ball across the retreat line prior to the retreat of opposing players)
- The ball is in play once it leaves the penalty area.

Retreat Line

The retreat line will come into play when the ball has gone out for a goal kick or when the goalkeeper has the ball in his/her arms. The retreat line shall be marked at the 1/3 rds of the field. The use of field markers outside the field of play to indicate the retreat line is recommended.

The ball is in play once it leaves the penalty area. All opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until the ball:

- Is touched by a player of the team releasing the ball **OR**,
- Leaves the field of play **OR**,
- Goes over the retreat line. (If the goalkeeper chooses to play the ball across the retreat line prior to the opposition crossing the retreat line)