

Outdoor Soccer 7 And Beach Soccer Rules and Format

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Soccer seven rules

The Pitch Beach Football 7 rules are based on the rules defined by FIFA and the International F.A. Board will apply to seven-a-side games, except in the following cases:

The field of play

- The field of play shall be rectangular and shall measure a maximum of 65m. x 45m., unless the field of play is determined as half the size of an 11-a-side pitch.
- There shall be a goalkeeping area of 9m. x 20m.
- There shall be a penalty spot 7m. from the goal line.
- There shall be a centre spot.
- There shall be two goals of maximum size 5m. x 2m. each.

The ball

- The match ball shall be size 4.

The number of players

- There are no maximum number of players in a team, but only 7 can be on the field of play at any given time. (6 outfield players and 1 goalkeeper)
- Players can be substituted at any point in the game.
- Players who have been substituted can be reintroduced to the game at a later stage. (rolling substitutes)

Duration of the game

- The game shall last a maximum of 30 minutes each way with a minimum of 15 minutes each way.
- There shall be a halftime interval of minimum duration 2 minutes.

Offside

- There will be no offside in play.

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Pass backs to the goalkeeper

- a) The pass back law will not apply.

Infringements and foul play

- a) All free kicks awarded for infringements or foul play shall be direct, unless occurring in the opposing goalkeeping area, in which case a penalty kick shall be awarded.
- b) Opposition players must be at least 6 metres from the ball at all free kicks, goal kicks and corner kicks.
- c) Penalty kicks shall be taken from the marked penalty spot.

Starting and restarting the game

- a) The game shall be started with a centre ball.
- b) The game shall be restarted with a centre ball after a goal is scored.
- c) The game shall be restarted with a throw-in, goal kick or corner kick (as appropriate) if the ball goes out of play behind or at the side of the field of play.

Goalkeepers

Goalkeepers may kick or throw out the ball as preferred but they are not allowed to kick or throw the ball into their opponents' half of the field.

For an infringement of this regulation the game will be restarted by an indirect free kick to the opponents on the halfway line.

Equipment

- a) All players must wear shin pads.
- b) Metal studs are not allowed.
- c) Glasses may be worn provided they have safety frames and lenses.

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Beach Soccer Rules

Two ten-minute periods

Beach soccer matches are divided into two periods with a net length of ten minutes each, divided by one three-minute break. By net length, we mean that the clock stops whenever there is a goal, an infraction or when the match officials think a team is wasting time. If the ball is in play, the referee will not end a period until a move has run its course.

No draws allowed

A beach soccer match can be won or lost, but never drawn. Should the scores be level, the rules stipulate that a three-minute extra-time period should be played, with the winning team awarded two points as opposed to three for a victory within regulation time. If the sides can still not be separated, a penalty shootout will take place, with each team shooting three penalties kicks. If that is not enough, the golden goal rule applies, with the winning team awarded one point. Unlike a shootout in 11-a-side, in beach soccer the shootout is sudden death from the start, with the winning team awarded two points as opposed to three for a victory within regulation time. The losing team earn no points.

Unlimited substitutions

Every team begins each match with five players out on the sand – one goalkeeper and four outfield players – as well as seven substitutes, though there is no limit to the number of changes that can be made. All substitutions, including goalkeepers, can be made while play is still going on, for which reason there is a designated area for this to take place. The unlimited nature of changes makes this a key strategic factor during matches.

Disciplinary sanctions

A player who is sent off, be it for two bookings or a straight red, can be replaced by a substitute after a two-minute penalty, just as in futsal. Nevertheless, the substitute could come into play before those two minutes are up if the opposing team scores with their numerical advantage. There is no pre-set number of fouls that individual players must not exceed.

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Goalkeeping peculiarities

Goalkeepers can move freely around their penalty area with the ball in their hands and, unlike other footballing disciplines, this area is marked out by a horizontal line across the whole pitch. Like any other player, keepers have four seconds to get the ball into play, which they can only do so by using their hands. However, they cannot score this way or by kicking the ball out on the volley, an offence that would be penalized by a free-kick. It is also important to note that the ball cannot be returned to a goalkeeper by a team-mate unless at least one opponent has touched it first. Breaking this rule results in a free-kick to the opposing team.

Free-kicks: direct only

Every infraction of the rules is sanctioned with a direct free-kick, with no wall permitted! The kick is taken from the spot where the foul was committed, except in the cases of penalty kicks (taken from the penalty spot) or time-wasting, passing the ball back to the goalkeeper or the keeper kicking the ball into play, with the free-kick taken from the halfway line in the latter three cases. What's more, in the case of foul play, the kick must be taken by the player who was fouled – unless injury prevents this. The player has four seconds to play the ball after the referee's whistle, or the free-kick will be awarded for the opposite team.

In case of doubt

Unlike the 11-a-side game but similarly to futsal, goals cannot be scored directly from kick-off and there is no offside. And, in another intriguing feature of this sport, throw-ins can be taken with either hands or feet.

Important Note:

The team members that play on the first day should be the same on the second day.

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Qualification

The pitch beach tournament will have one round at pitch and one round at beach.

The sum of the results of both days will determinate the winners of the football tournament.

Table scoring

Win – 3 points		Draw – 1 point		Lose – 0 points
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If there is a tie, it is broken through the direct confrontation result.

Meals

No food is allowed inside the football field.

The organization will provide water onsite just to prevent dehydration and hypoglycemia but feel free to bring your own, especially if you have special dietary restrictions.

Lunch for registered team members and supporters, will be available on Friday and Saturday after the games according to the manifested dietary restrictions.

Dinners and welcome cocktail will be served as mentioned on the tournament program on the 3 days of event.

Media

This tournament will have some photographers who will publish photos and videos in a public website. In case you don't wish to see images of you displayed please advise the organizing committee beforehand.

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Conduct

All participants and teams are reminded that the competition is played in a public area and will be attended by members of the public including vulnerable adults and children. All participants are expected to behave appropriately. Any instance of any participant being seen to be bringing the game into disrepute will be subject to sanction by the Tournament Committee. This can include being refused entry to the tournament and/or removal from the tournament. No refund available in this stance.

Further questions

All omissions to these rules shall be decided by the Football Tournament Coordinator – João Miguel and Nuno Gomes.

Contact Details:

João Miguel – 00351 963 200 534
Nuno Gomes – 00351 939 996 027

lisbonfoxes@bjwhf.org

