**DROP BALL & GOAL KICK QUESTIONS**

Jim Thomson, District 9 Soccer Rules Interpreter, presented a training session on the changes this year to the Drop Ball restart and the Goal Kick. During and after the presentation several questions were raised regarding these changes and other rule changes this year. Answers to those questions are below. If you would like to view the training session it can be found at: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ti90zi1TF4JH2LsOwSx74xvxT4pyWM6Z](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ti90zi1TF4JH2LsOwSx74xvxT4pyWM6Z)

- **If a player receives a drop ball from the referee and decides to dribble the ball towards the opponents goal, shoots and scores what happens?**
  - **ANSWER:** The goal would not count and the restart would be a goal kick. If a drop ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with a goal kick if it enters the opponent’s goal or a corner kick if it enters the team’s own goal (Rule 9.2.6).

- **Can a player other than the Goalkeeper receive a drop ball in the team’s own Penalty Area?**
  - **ANSWER:** No, only the Goalkeeper can receive the drop ball in the team’s own Penalty Area. (Rule 9.2.3).

- **What options does the Goalkeeper have when receiving a drop ball in their Penalty Area?**
  - Can they pick the ball up with their hands?
    - **ANSWER:** Yes, once the ball hits the ground it is in play and the goalkeeper can pick it up
  - Can they dribble the ball?
    - **ANSWER:** Yes, once the ball hits the ground it is in play and the goalkeeper can dribble the ball
  - Can they pick the ball up then put it down to dribble?
    - **ANSWER:** Yes, but at this point they may not pick the ball back up again once they put it down to dribble. If they do it’s a double touch resulting in an INDFK for the opposing team at the spot of the double touch
  - Can they dribble the ball outside the penalty area?
    - **ANSWER:** Yes and the goalkeeper is now considered a field player and loses their goalkeeper privileges
DROP BALL & GOAL KICK QUESTIONS CONTINUED

- During the normal course of play when a foul is called the sequence is usually whistle, direction, foul signal. But what happens if while moving through that progression on an indirect free kick the team puts the ball back in play and the ball enters the goal before the referee can raise their hand to indicate the kick is indirect?
  - ANSWER: In that case the kick shall be retaken. A good mechanic to avoid that situation would be to raise the hand above the head while blowing the whistle especially if near the opponents goal and then signal direction and the type of foul. With this rule change the signal indicating an INDFK is most critical to avoid a re-kick if the ball enters the goal directly.

- There’s been a great deal of discussion regarding the following scenario and restart. What is the restart when a defender takes a Goal Kick and the kick hits the referee. Can the kicker touch the ball?
  - ANSWER: No as this is a double touch. Rules 13-3-2, and 3 along with Rule 16 -1-3 and 4 in my opinion dictate the interpretation that if a goal kick is taken by a defender and the ball hits the referee, the defender is no longer free to play the ball since if properly taken the kicker may not play the ball until it has been touched or played by another player. If taken properly once the ball is kicked and moved it now becomes a live ball. New rule 9-1-1b now outlines the restart if the ball hits the referee and one of 3 results occur A. a team starts a promising attack. B. the ball goes directly into the goal, C. possession changes.

So in this scenario when a Goal Kick is taken and the ball hits the referee and the ball goes to a teammate or opponent and it results in a promising attack the restart would be a drop ball to the defender goalkeeper, if the ball goes directly into the goal the restart is a drop ball to the defender goalkeeper, if possession changes the restart would be a drop ball to the defending goalkeeper since the last touch was by the defending team in the penalty area. However, if the goal kick is taken, the ball hits the referee and none of these three things occur the ball remains live. The rules clearly state that on all free kicks and goal kicks once properly taken the kicker may not play the ball until it has been played or touched by another player. So if the 3 conditions in 9-1-1b do not occur the kicker may not play the ball again without a touch by another player thus resulting in a double touch with the restart being an INDFK for the opposing team at the spot of the touch unless inside the goal area.
DROP BALL & GOAL KICK QUESTIONS CONTINUED

- During the taking of a Goal Kick players opposing the kicker shall remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play. What if a team wants to initiate a quick restart on the Goal Kick before the opposing players have left the penalty area?
  - **ANSWER:** The kicking team has the right to put the ball back in play before the opposing players have left the penalty area, no different than any other free kick on the field should the kicking team want a quick restart. However, the opposing players may not interfere in the taking of the kick. If the opposing players do not interfere and once the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves, the opposing players may now play the ball even though they may not have left the penalty area.

- What happens if at the taking of a Goal Kick the Goalkeeper kicks the ball to a teammate who heads or chests the ball back to the Goalkeeper so that the Goalkeeper can use their hands?
  - **ANSWER:** Jim mentioned that in leagues governed by FIFA the restart would be a re-take of the goal kick. If the Goalkeeper were to repeat this conduct, a yellow card would be given to the Goalkeeper. We need to remember that FIFA is writing rules for the professional and international level, not the high school level. In the high school game this scenario is not directly covered. Referencing the note under Rule 12.7.4 players cannot use trickery to circumvent the prohibition on them kicking the ball or throwing the ball to their Goalkeeper. While remembering that the rule was put into place to prevent time-wasting, we need to judge if the player is clearly trying to use trickery to get the ball into the Goalkeeper’s hands or was the use of the head or chest a normal course of play. In the absence of a clear prohibition in the high school rules, it is my opinion that if the referee determines it was an intentional form of trickery an INDFK could be awarded. If it is determined to be during the normal course of play and not an attempt to get around the rule a re kick would be in order.