**Outdoor Soccer Rules**

**Villanova Intramurals**

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| Sport Type: | Season + Playoffs |  |
| Cost: | $40 per team |  |
| Location(s): | Villanova Stadium |  |

**GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME!**

**All decisions on forfeit times are at the sole discretion of the on-site Intramural supervisor.**

**Rules**

**Eligibility**

* A player can play on one (1) men’s or one (1) women’s team and one (1) all-gender team.
* Current Villanova men’s and women’s soccer players are ineligible to play in the same academic year.
* No more than two (2) club players per intramural team.

**The Team**

* Only eight (8) players are allowed on the field at one time. A team must have a minimum of 6 players to start a game.
* If your team does not have a set uniform, be sure all players bring a light and dark shirt. If needed pinnies are available. Goalies must wear a different colored shirt than their team color

**The Field**

* The field will be 80 yards long and 60 yards wide (same width as the varsity field – blue lines).
* The Penalty box will be 15 yards deep (10-yard line out to the 25-yard line on the football field), and 44 yards wide (approximately where the numbers are on the football field).
* The Goal box will be 5 yards deep and 20 yards wide (15-yard line).

**The Game**

* A coin toss will determine the team that chooses to either kickoff or side they want to defend.
* Two (2) 17- minute halves are played with a continuous clock. Half time will not exceed 5 minutes.
* The supervisor can stop the clock at any point in the game at their discretion on wide shot attempts for teams to recover the ball.
* In the last minute of the second half the clock will stop on all dead ball situations.

**Mercy Rule**

* Will be called at the official’s discretion.
* If a team is ahead by ten (10) or more goals at any time during the game.
* If a team is ahead by five (5) or more goals with 4 minutes remaining in the second half.

**Substitutions**

* Substitutions are allowed only on your team’s possession. A team must notify the official on all substitutions.

**Penalties/Fouls**

* There will be no offsides.
* All dead ball penalties will be direct kicks. There will be no indirect kicks in the league.
* A player shall not intentionally charge, tip, push or slide tackle an opponent. Such actions will result in a foul called by the official.
* **NO SLIDE TACKLING! Slide tackles will result in a yellow card (see “cautionable offenses”).**
  + A player is allowed to slide to save a ball from going out of bounds.
  + Slides will be left to the referee’s discretion whether or not an attempt to save the ball is a potentially dangerous play or not. If so, a foul will be called, and a free kick will be awarded to the opposing team.
  + A goalie may slide to save a ball if they are in their designated penalty area. If the goalie leaves the penalty area and slides, they will be treated as a field player and a foul will be called.
* Obstructions are not permitted and will be called a foul by the official.
  + An obstruction is the intentional act by a player, not in possession of the ball or not attempting to play the ball, of running between an opponent and the ball or using the body as an obstacle.
* Dangerous plays and handballs will be called fouls and will result in direct kicks.

**Penalties Inside the Goalie Box**

* Penalties committed inside the goalie box will result in a penalty kick, to be determined by the official.
* Goalkeeper violations inside the box will also result in penalty kicks for the opposing team.
  + The only exception to this rule is when a player kicks the ball to the goalie and the goalie picks up the ball illegally. This will result in a direct kick from the closest point outside the penalty box.

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| **Cautionable Offenses (yellow cards)**  A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following seven offenses: | **Sending-off Offenses (red cards)**  A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off if he/she commits any of the following seven offenses: |
| * Unsporting behavior. * Dissent by word or action. * Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game. * Delaying/interfering with the restart of play. * Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a direct kick (5 yards).   + Each team will receive a team warning for the first-time yards are blatantly ignored (within 2 yards prior to warning), after that the offending player will receive a yellow card for each additional violation. * Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee’s permission. * Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee’s permission. * Slide tackling   **A substitute or substituted player will also be cautioned if he commits any of the following offenses:**   * Unsporting behavior * Dissent by word or action * Delaying/interfering with the restart of play | * Serious foul play. * Violent conduct. * Spitting at an opponent or any other person. * Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area). * Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player’s goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick. * Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gesture towards a player or staff. * Receiving a second caution (yellow card) in the same match.   **The team will have to play down a person for the remainder of the game.** |

**A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field. If any player is sent off during the course of a match, that team will receive a sportsmanship rating of 2 or lower automatically.**

During playoffs, a red card could result in the individual or team expulsion from playoffs and is at the discretion of the Intramural Office.

**Out of Bounds**

* When the ball is out of play on a sideline, a throw-in will occur to resume play.
* Teams are to continue play unless directed to stop by the official’s whistle. Play the whistle.
* Teams will be responsible for retrieving their own ball when the ball rolls out of play.
* A foul throw will be called if the thrower has one foot in the air at the time of the throw. A foul throw will also be called if one of the thrower’s ENTIRE foot is over the touch line while throwing the ball.

**Drop Balls**

* A drop ball will be called when play is stopped due to an inadvertent whistle, when it is not clear who the ball last touched before going out of bounds, or if play is stopped by an outside agent.

**Goalkeeper Plays**

* A ball may be played back to the goalkeeper; however, the keeper may not pick the ball up with his/her hands if the ball has been kicked to them by one of their teammates. This will result in a direct kick from the closest point outside the penalty box.
* If a ball is headed or directed to the keepers by any part of the body other than the foot, the keepers may use their hands. Accidental deflects by the foot of a player to their own keeper qualifies the keeper to use their hands in preventing a goal.
* A goalie has 6 seconds to put the ball back in play after they handle the ball. If the goalie does not play the ball in the allotted 6 seconds, play is stopped, and a free kick is awarded to the opposing team at the nearest point at the edge of the penalty area.
* Goalies are allowed to slide/dive to save a ball but can never slide toward a player.
* Goalies are NOT allowed to punt the ball (aka drop kick) since the field is shorter than regulation. They may place the ball on the ground and proceed to kick it that way or throw it. Whether the ball is thrown or kicked by the goalie, the ball must come in contact with an object (ground or body) before going over mid-field. If the ball does not come in contact with an object, then the other team receives a direct kick at midfield.

**Penalty Kicks**

* A player fouled within the penalty area will be awarded a penalty kick.
* Penalty kicks will be taken 12 yards from the goal (22-yard line).
* Players must wait outside the penalty area until the kick is made.
* Goalies must stay positioned on the goal line until the kick is made.
* The player kicking must wait for the official whistle before kicking.

**Tie Games/Overtime**

* Regular season games may end in a tie.
* Post season games that are tied after regulation time will then go into one (1) five- minute overtime period of sudden death.
* A coin toss, or Rock, Paper, Scissor will determine possession at the beginning of overtime and who shoots first in the shoot-out.
* If the game is still tied after overtime, the game will be decided by penalty kicks. Teams will choose 5 players to take penalty kicks.
  + ONLY PLAYERS THAT WERE ON THE FIELD AT THE END OF REGULATION TIME ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE PENALTY KICKS.
  + The goalie can be anyone that was on the field at the end of regulation time.
* If at the end of the 5 penalty shots for each team the game is still tied, the teams will shoot one for one. This is a sudden death situation.
  + The initial chosen five players may not shoot again until each of the players on their team have taken a shot (if the match lasts that long).

**All-Gender Outdoor Soccer Rules**

**Players**

* Eight (8) players are allowed on the field at one time. A team must have a minimum of 6 players to start a game.
  + With 8 players on the field – maximum 4 men.
  + With 7 players on the field – maximum 4 men.
  + With 6 players on the field – maximum 3 men.

**Penalty Kicks**

* All-Gender Penalty Kicks cannot have two players of the same gender take consecutive penalty kicks.
* Any gender may kick first.
* Any gender may play in goal.