

RULE 13 – FREE KICKS

Types of Free Kick

All free kicks are direct.

The Free Kick

Ball Enters the Goal

- if a free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded
- if a free kick is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

Procedure

For all free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player.

The kicker has 5 seconds to put the ball into play, and the referee indicates visually and verbally the 5 second count.

Position of Free Kick

Free Kick Inside the Penalty Area

Free kick to the defending team:

- all opponents must be at least 15 feet from the ball
- all opponents remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play
- the ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area
- a free kick awarded in the penalty area may be taken from any point inside that area

Free kick to the attacking team for technical offences by the defending team:

- ball is placed at the top of the penalty arc farthest from the penalty area
- all opponents must be at least 15 feet from the ball
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

Free kick outside the Penalty Area

- all opponents are at least 15 feet from the ball until it is in play, unless they are on their own goal line between the goalposts
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- the free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred or from the position of the ball when the infringement occurred (according to the infringement)

Infringements and Sanctions

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance:

- the kick is retaken

If, when a free kick is taken by the defending team from inside its own penalty area, the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area:

- the kick is retaken

Free kick taken by a player other than the goalkeeper

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched another player:

- a free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Rule 13 – Position of Free Kick)

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:

- A free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Rule 13 – Position of Free Kick)
- A penalty kick is awarded if the infringement occurred inside the kicker's penalty area

Free kick taken by the goalkeeper

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball again (except with his hands), before it has touched another player:

- a free kick is awarded to the opposing team, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Rule 13 – Position of Free Kick)

If, after the ball is in play, the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball before it has touched another player:

- a free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred outside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Rule 13 –Position of Free Kick)
- a free kick is awarded to the opposing team if the infringement occurred inside the goalkeeper's penalty area, the kick to be taken from the top of the penalty arc (see Rule 13 – Position of Free Kick)