

RULE 16 – THE GOAL KICK

A goal kick is a method of restarting play.

A goal kick is awarded when the whole of the ball passes over the goal wall or touches the goal wall netting having last touched a player of the attacking team, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Rule 10.

A goal may be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team.

Procedure

- The ball is kicked from any point within the goal area by a player of the defending team
- Opponents remain outside the penalty area and at least 15 feet from the ball, until the ball is in play
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player
- The defending team has 5 seconds in which to put the ball into play, following a signal from the referee
- The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area

Infringements and Sanctions

If the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area from a goal kick:

- the kick is retaken

Goal 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

Goal 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 place where the infringement occurred (see Rule 13 – Position of Free Kick)

In the event of any other infringement of this rule:

- the kick is retaken