



*Soccer Association for Youth, USA*

# **SAY Referee Training Syllabus**

## **LAWS: 1 - 4**



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Updated 8/2008

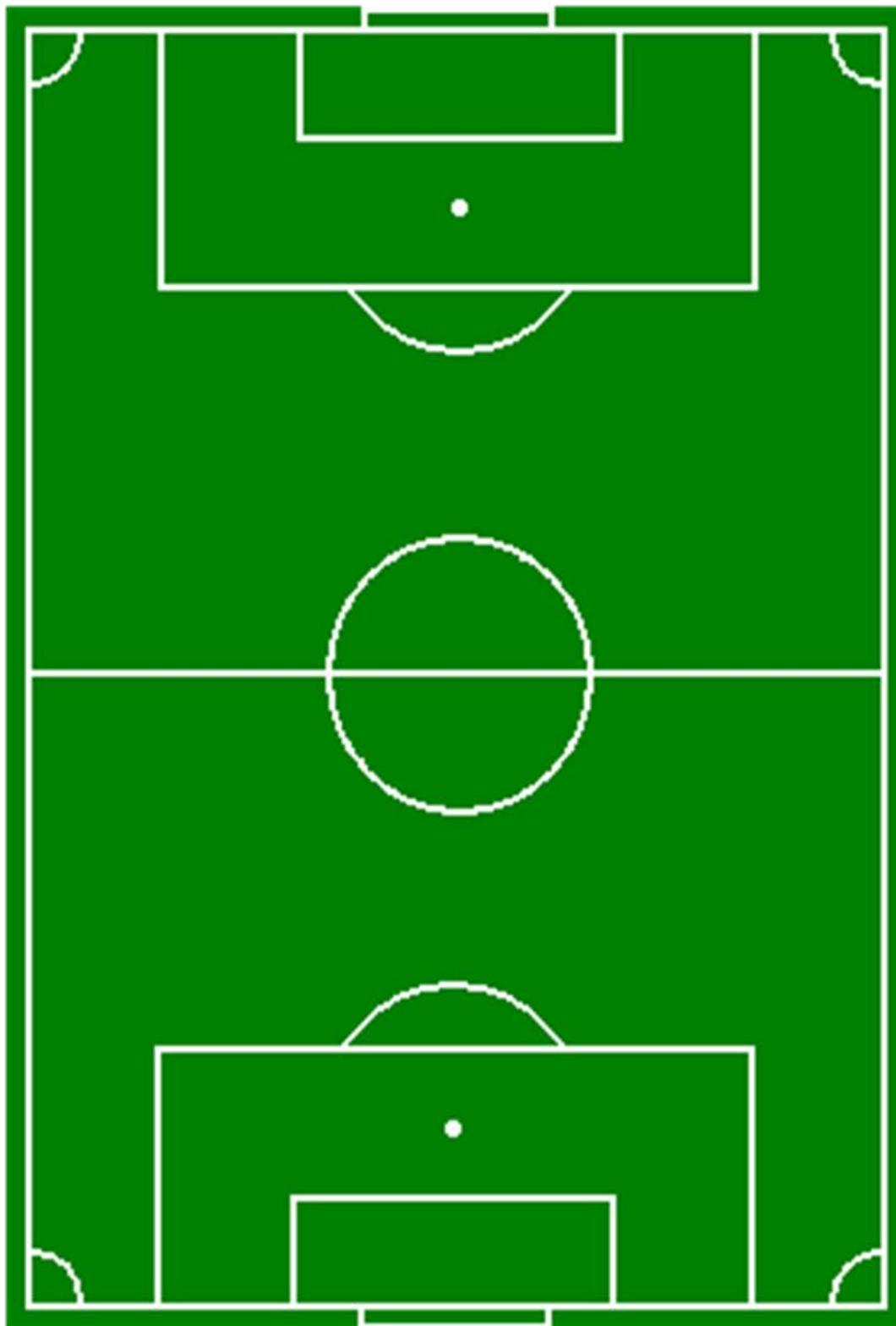
Written By: The SAY National Rules & Referees Committee  
Charles Keaney, Director of Officials

# **LAW 1:**

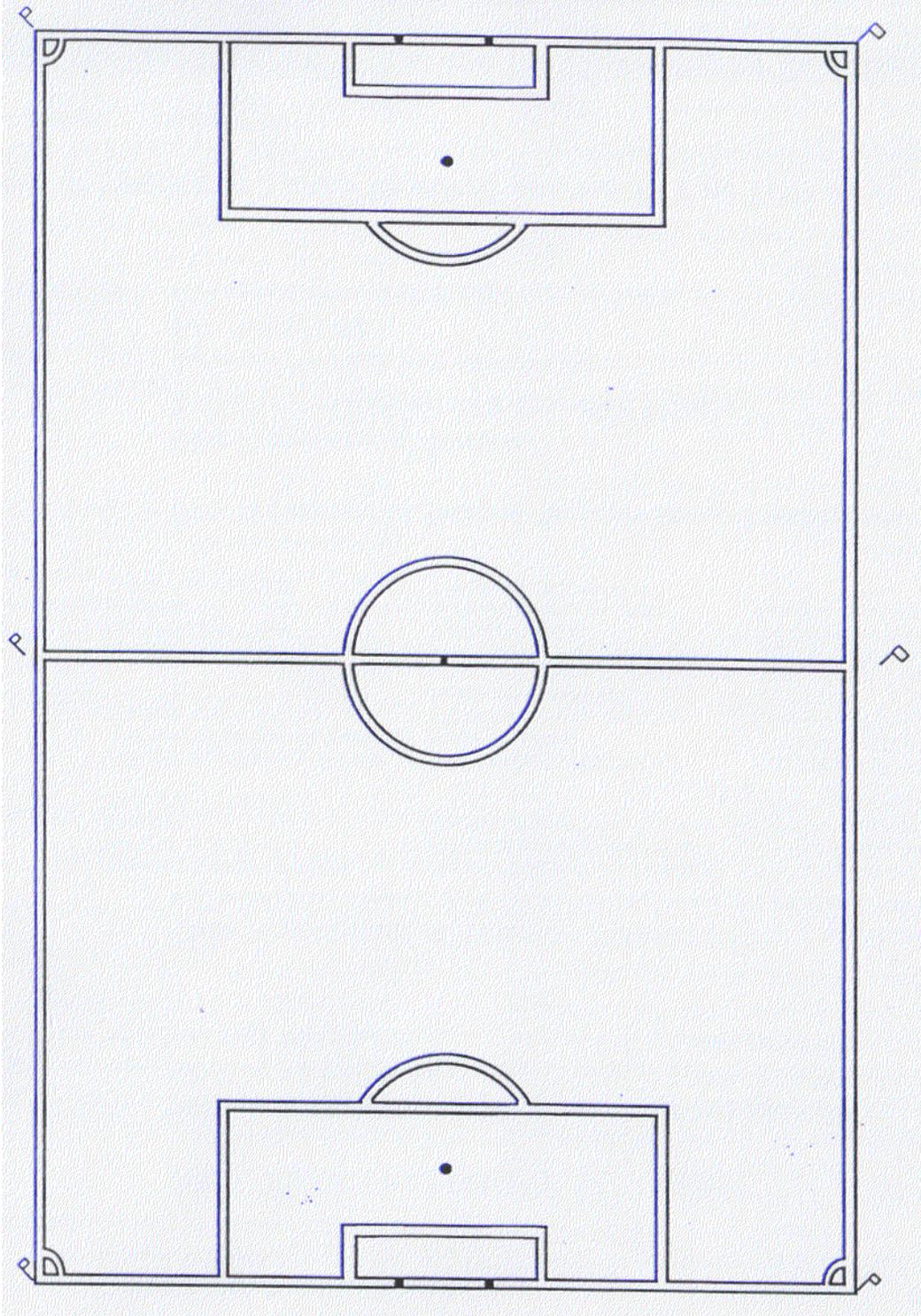
# **Field of Play**



# THE FIELD OF PLAY

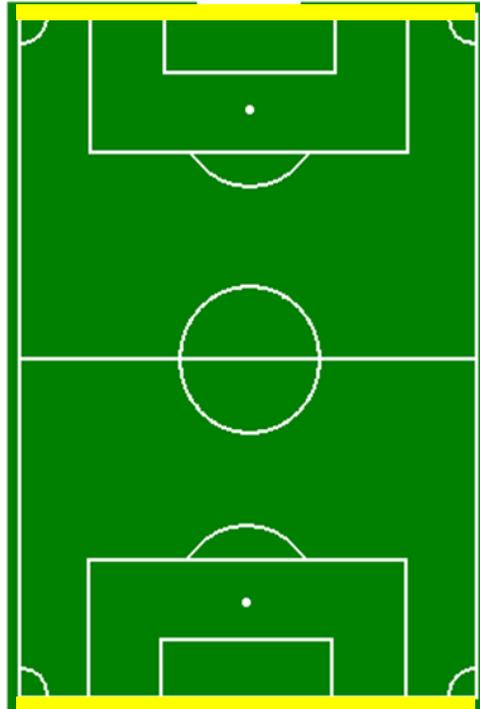


# THE FIELD OF PLAY





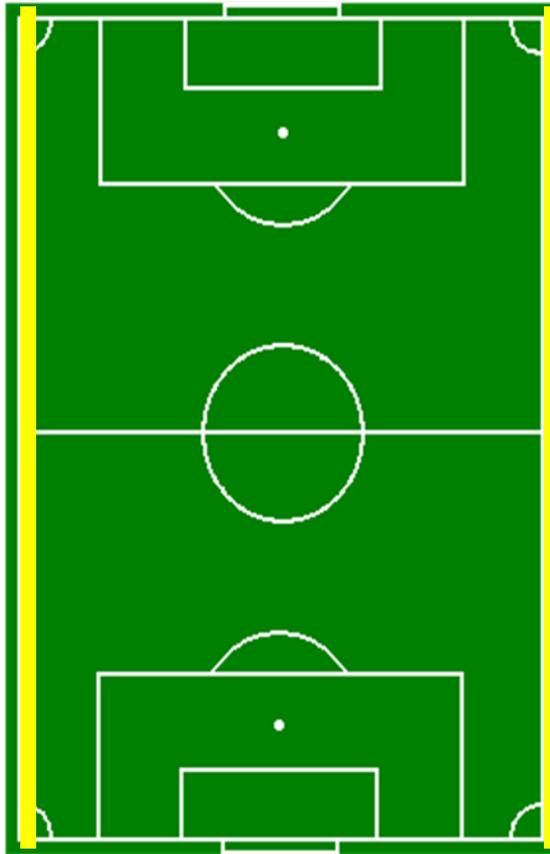
**FIELD MUST BE RECTANGULAR**  
**LENGTH & WIDTH CAN VARY**



**GOAL-LINE (END LINE BETWEEN CORNERS)**

**GOAL-KICKS**

**CORNER-KICKS**

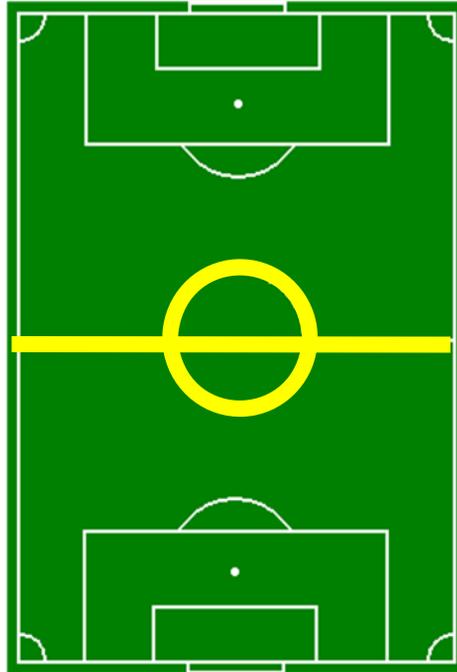


**TOUCH-LINE (SIDELINE)**

**THROW-INS**

**SUBSTITUTIONS**

# HALFWAY-LINE (MID-FIELD LINE)



## CENTER CIRCLE

10 YARDS RADIUS

**WINGS - 8 YARDS**

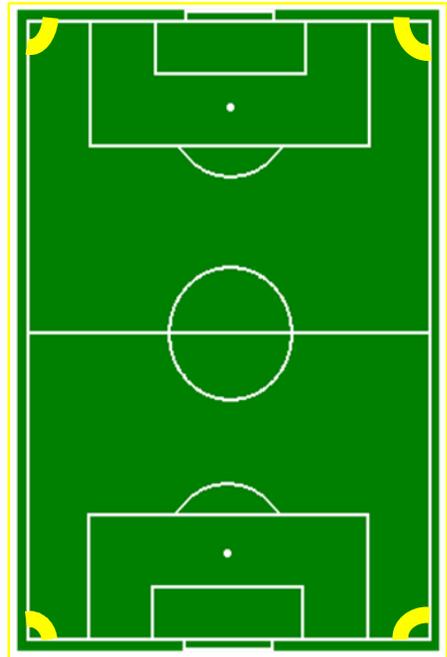
**PASSERS - 6 YARDS**

**KICK-OFF - DEFENDERS OUT**

# **CORNER-AREA**

**1 YD. RADIUS**

**CORNER-KICKS**



# **CORNER POSTS**

**MINIMUM 5 FT. HIGH**

**MINIMUM 1 IN. DIAMETER**

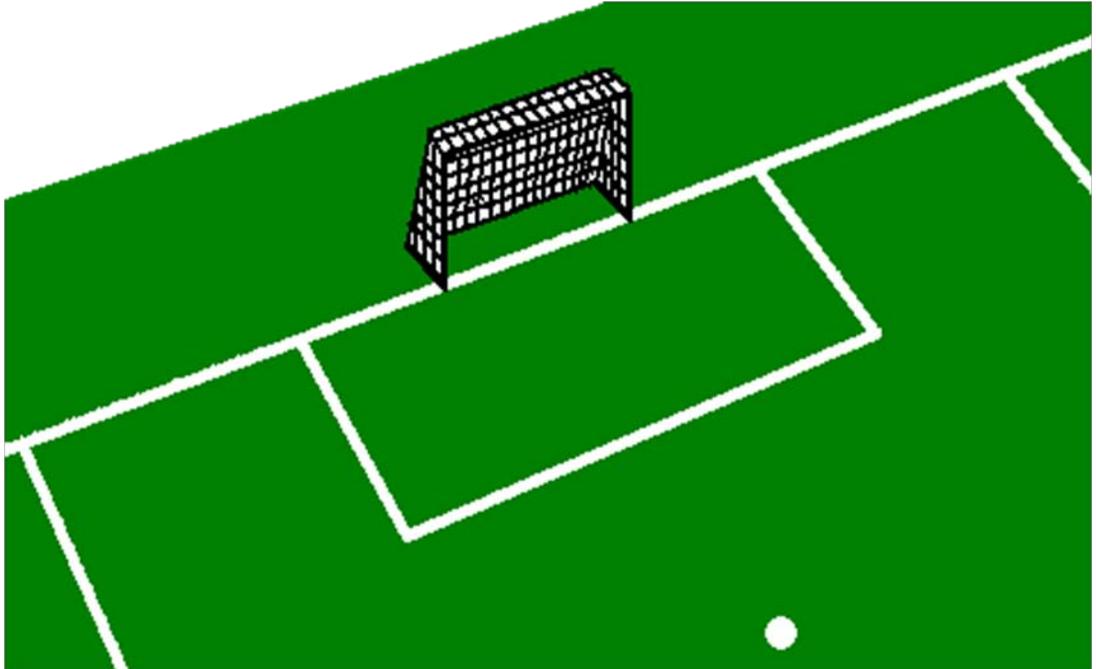
**NOT POINTED**



**UNSAFE**

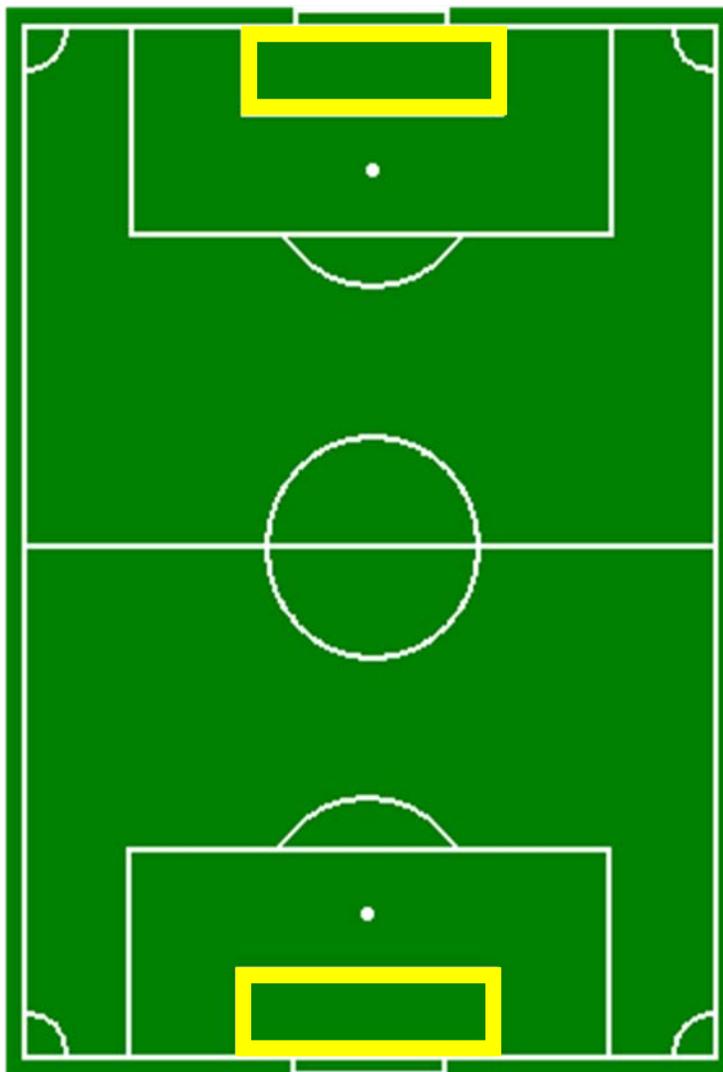
# GOAL

## SET ON THE GOAL-LINE



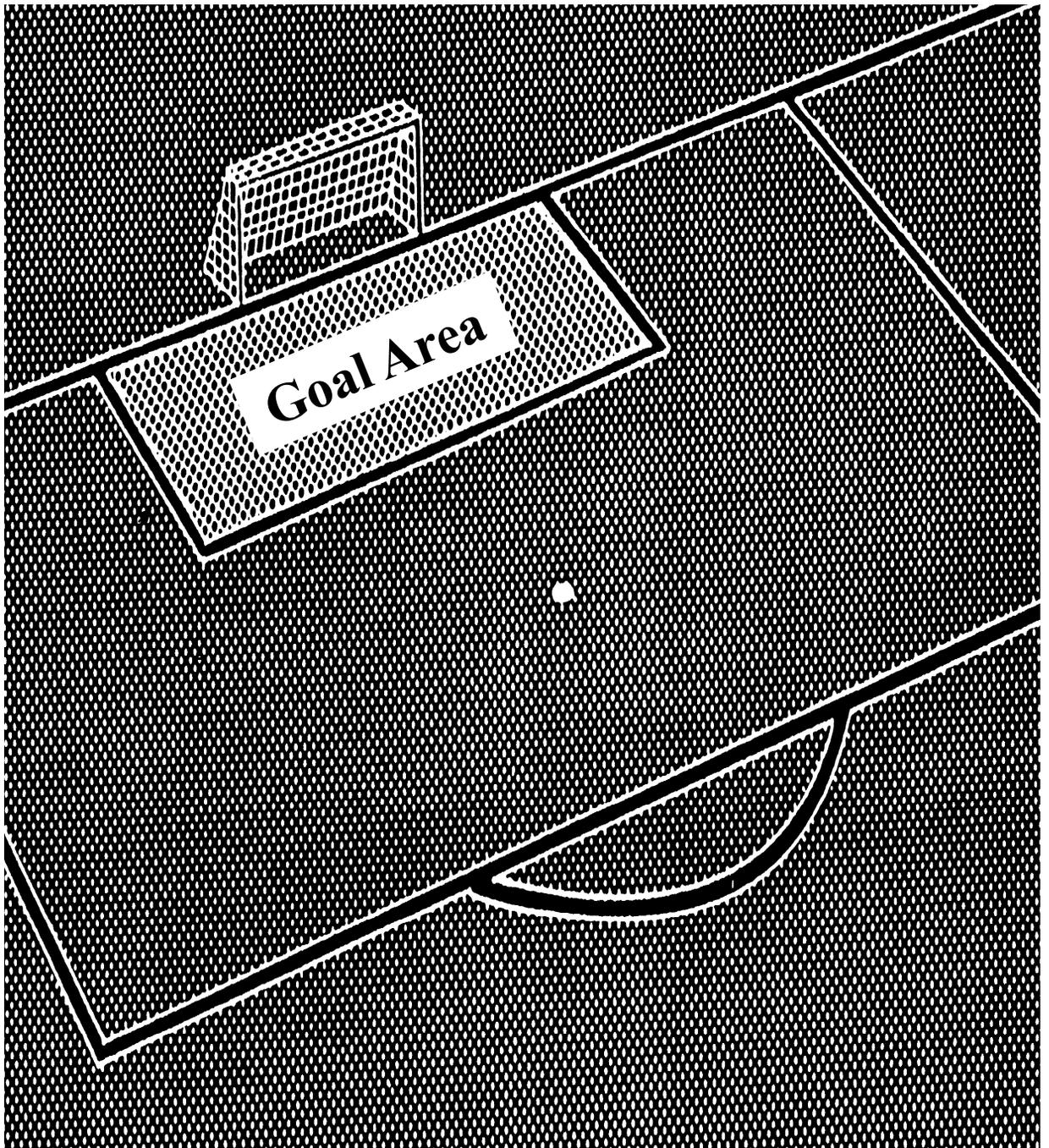
**MUST BE ANCHORED TO  
PREVENT FALLING OVER**

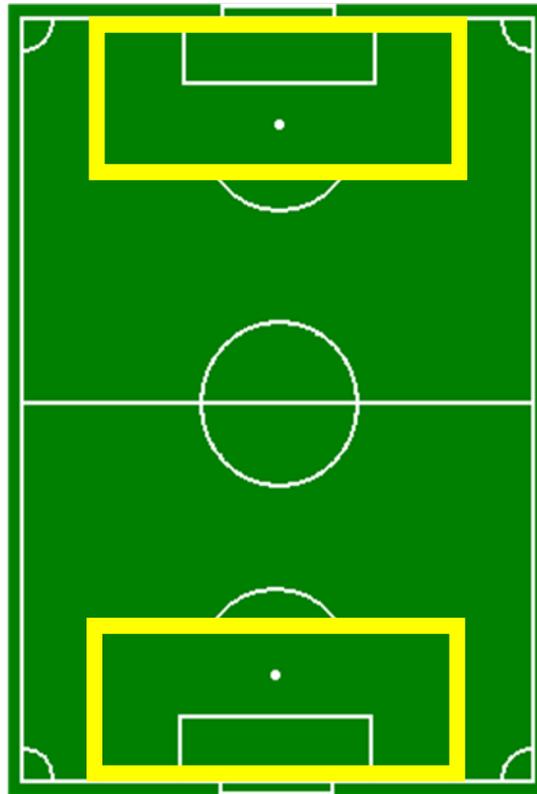
**NET SHOULD BE FASTENED  
TO GOAL**



**GOAL-AREA (6 YD. AREA)**

**GOAL-KICKS**





**PENALTY AREA (18 YD. AREA)**

**WINGS - 14 YD. AREA**

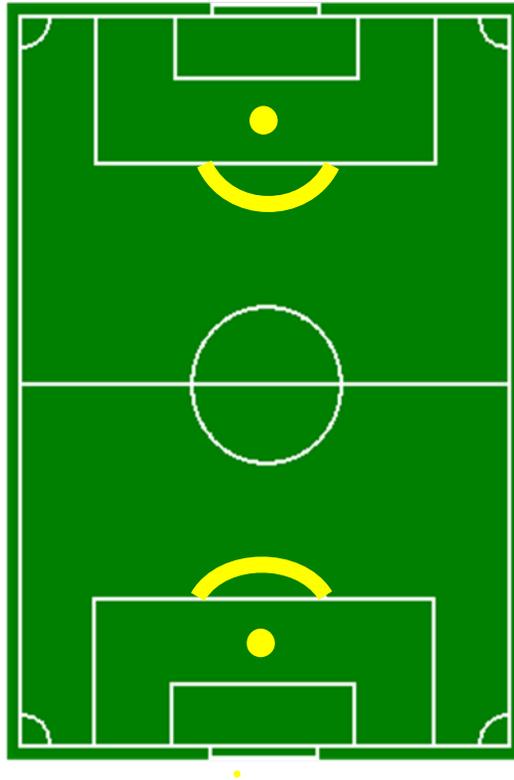
**NO PENALTY AREA FOR PASSERS**

**GOALKEEPER CAN HANDLE THE  
BALL**

**PENALTY-KICK**

# PENALTY SPOT

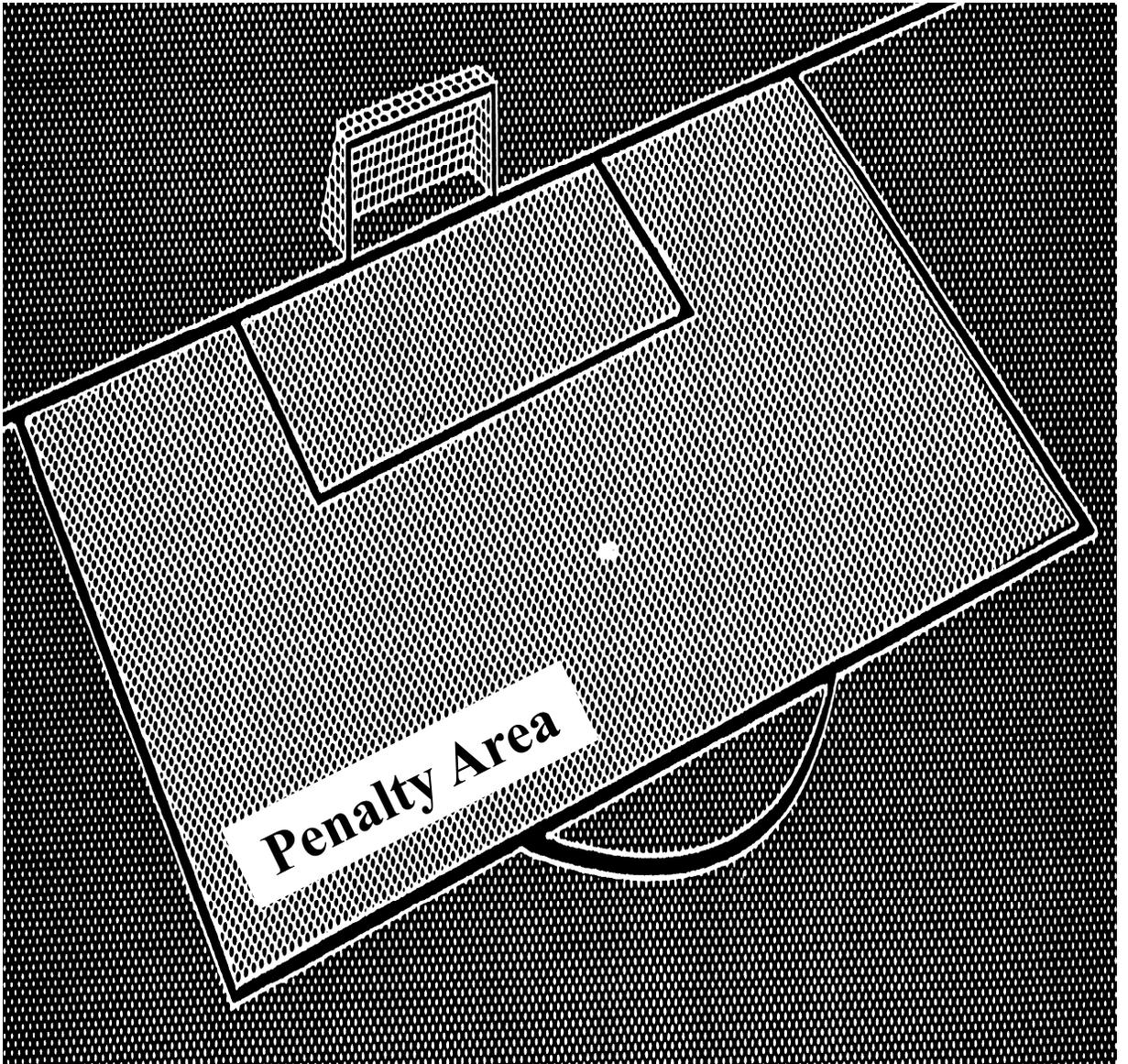
12 YD. FROM GOAL LINE  
**WINGS - 10 YDS.**



# PENALTY ARC

10 YDS. FROM PENALTY SPOT  
**WINGS - 8 YDS.**

NOT PART OF PENALTY-AREA



# **ALL LINES**

**ALWAYS PART OF THE AREA  
THEY BOUND**

**ARE IN PLAY**

**THE BALL MUST BE  
COMPLETELY OUT**

**GOAL-LINE MUST BE MARKED  
BETWEEN GOAL POSTS**

# **INSPECT FIELD**

**NOTHING DANGEROUS  
TO PLAYERS**

**CHECK FOR HOLES, RUTS,  
GLASS, ETC.**

**HOME TEAM RESPONSIBLE  
FOR FIELD**

# **LAW 2: The Ball**



# The Ball

**MUST BE SAFE**

**MUST BE SPHERICAL**

**NOT LOPSIDED**

**PROPERLY INFLATED**



# **Ball Rules**

**HOME TEAM SHOULD PROVIDE  
GAME BALL**

**REFEREE MUST APPROVE THE  
BALL**

**REFEREE MUST RETURN BALL  
AT END OF THE GAME**

# Ball Sizes

**PASSERS (Under 8)**

**- Size 3**



**WINGS (Under 10)**

**- Size 4**

**STRIKERS (Under 12)**



**KICKERS (Under 14)**

**- Size 5**

**MINORS (Under 16)**

**SENIORS (16 & Over)**



# Ball Sizes



# **LAW 3: Players & Substitutions**



# **EACH TEAM (11 v 11)**

**MAXIMUM 11 PLAYERS**

**MINIMUM 7 PLAYERS**

## **PLAYER**

**SOMEONE IN THE GAME**

## **GOALKEEPER**

**IS REQUIRED**

# SHORT-SIDED GAMES

## **EACH TEAM (10 v 10)**

**MAXIMUM 10 PLAYERS**

**MINIMUM 6 PLAYERS**

**GOALKEEPER IS MANDATORY**

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## **EACH TEAM (9 v 9)**

**MAXIMUM 9 PLAYERS**

**MINIMUM 6 PLAYERS**

**WITH OR WITHOUT GOALKEEPER**

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## **EACH TEAM (8 v 8)**

**MAXIMUM 8 PLAYERS**

**MINIMUM 5 PLAYERS**

**WITH OR WITHOUT GOALKEEPER**

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## **EACH TEAM (7 v 7)**

**MAXIMUM 7 PLAYERS**

**MINIMUM 5 PLAYERS**

**WITH OR WITHOUT GOALKEEPER**

# **SUBSTITUTIONS**

## **BOTH TEAMS**

**AT TAKING OF A GOAL KICK**

**AFTER A GOAL**

**BETWEEN PERIODS**

**EXTENDED TIME OUT  
(AS FOR AN INJURY)**

**WHEN A YELLOW OR RED CARD IS  
ISSUED**

# **SUBSTITUTIONS**

## **PRIOR TO A THROW-IN**

**TEAM IN POSSESSION OF THE  
BALL MAY SUBSTITUE**

**TEAM NOT IN POSSESSION OF  
THE BALL MAY ONLY  
SUBSTITUE IF OPPOSING TEAM  
IS SUBSTITUTING**

# **SUBSTITUTIONS**

**UNLIMITED NUMBER**

**ALLOWED ONLY WITH  
REFEREE'S PERMISSION**

**BECOMES A PLAYER WHEN  
ACKNOWLEDGED BY REFEREE**

**CLOCK DOES NOT STOP**

**EACH TEAM**

**MAY PLAY SHORT-HANDED**

**ADDING A PLAYER**

**IS NOT A "SUBSTITUTION"**

**MAY OCCUR ANY TIME WITH  
PERMISSION OF REFEREE**

# **GAME STOP DUE TO CAUTION**

**BOTH TEAMS MAY SUBSTITUTE  
(NOT MANDATORY)**

# **EJECTED PLAYER**

**MAY NOT BE REPLACED**

**TEAM MUST PLAY SHORT-  
HANDED REMAINDER OF  
GAME**

# **LAW 4:**

# **Player's Equipment**



# **REQUIRED**

**SHIRT  
SAME COLOR  
NUMBERED**

**SHORTS**

**SOCKS**

**SHOES**

**SHINGUARDS**

**SOCKS MUST BE WORN OVER  
SHINGUARDS**

**EACH TEAM**

**MUST WEAR DIFFERENT COLORS  
HOME TEAM MUST CHANGE**

**GOALKEEPERS**

**DIFFERENT COLORS THAN ALL  
OTHER PLAYERS**

**NOTHING DANGEROUS**

**TO SELF OR ANOTHER PLAYER  
REFEREE'S JUDGEMENT ONLY**

# **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT**

**NO UNNECESSARY ITEMS**

**NOTHING DANGEROUS**

**NO CLEATS WITH SHARP EDGES**

**NO JEWELRY**

**NO EARRINGS**

**NO CASTS (EXCEPT AIR CASTS)**

**NO SPLINTS**

**NO HELMETS OF HARD  
MATERIAL**

**NO FACE GUARDS**

# **LEGAL EQUIPMENT**

**EYEGLASSES (WITH OR  
WITHOUT STRAP)**

**CONTACT LENSES**

**SOFT HEADWEAR (KNIT CAPS)**

**SOFT GLOVES**

**SWEAT PANTS, WARM-UP SUITS**

## **GOALKEEPERS**

**SOFT SAFETY HELMET**

**SOFT-BILLED CAP**

**GLOVES**