

CMSA Policy for 7v7 Play & the Built Out Line

7v7 Player Development Philosophy

Coaches should have the age appropriate license

The training-to-game ratio should be 2-3 training sessions per week depending on the amount of games scheduled for that time period

Rosters should include between 12 and 14 players

Every player should play a minimum of 50% of the time in each game

7v7 Concussion Initiative

Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed

If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment

The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player

Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game

Deliberate heading is not allowed in 7v7 games

If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense

If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

In a controlled and individual environment (where heading is an isolated skill being taught away from any form of opposition or other aspects of the game), the use of lightweight balls (foam, balloon, etc.) would be acceptable for teaching heading technique

7v7 Standards of Play - Build Out Line

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting

When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play

Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed)

CMSA Policy for 7v7 Play & the Built Out Line

After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal

The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play

If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense

If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called

Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line

Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line

7v7 Build Out Line Practical Applications

Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line.

However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play.

Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate.

Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line.

7v7 Standards of Play (Modified Laws of the Game)

Law 1 – Field of Play

- 55-65 yards (length)
- 35-45 yards (width)
- Goals should be no larger than 6.5 feet (height) x 18.5 feet (width)
- A 6.5 feet (height) x 12 feet (width) goal is recommended based on the age and ability of the players
- Build out lines should be equidistant between the penalty area line and halfway line.

CMSA Policy for 7v7 Play & the Built Out Line

Law 2

- Size 4 Ball.

Law 3 – Players

- 7v7 (6 field players and 1 goalkeeper)
- Game may not start or continue if there are less than 5 players on a team
- Substitutions are unlimited and can occur at any stoppage

Law 5 – Referee

- Minimum certification as a U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Referee

Law 6 – Other Match Officials

- Used at the discretion of the competition

Law 7 – Duration of the Match

- 2 halves
- 25 minutes halves
- 10 minute halftime
- No added time

Additional Standard Laws of the Game for 7v7 play

Law 4 – Players' Equipment Law 13 – Free Kicks

Law 8 – Start and Restart of Play Law 14 – Penalty Kick

Law 9 – Ball In and Out of Play Law 15 – Throw-ins

Law 10 – Method of Scoring Law 16 – Goal Kick

Law 11 – Offside Law 17 – Corner kick

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct*

*With the exception of deliberate heading and punting