

GOALKEEPER INFRACTIONS

Goalkeepers are subject to the same regulations as other players except for their special status allowing them to deliberately handle the ball within their own penalty area. They are to wear colors that will distinguish them from other players and the referees. Goalkeeper gloves are also permitted to be worn. The following restrictions and infractions apply specifically to goalkeepers.

EXTENDED POSSESSION

The goalkeeper is only allowed to retain possession of the ball (controlling the ball with the hands) for no more than six seconds. The referee should not count aloud, and should be willing to advise the young goalkeeper of this rule before calling this foul. Discretion is advised in strictly applying this rule, especially with younger goalkeepers.

DOUBLE POSSESSION

The goalkeeper is not allowed to handle the ball once they have intentionally released it from their possession (before being touched by another player or leaving the field of play). Remember that deliberately bouncing the ball does not constitute a release of possession.

OWN TEAM PASSES

The goalkeeper is not allowed to handle the ball when it is deliberately kicked to them or thrown in to them from a teammate. The restart for the above listed possession fouls is an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point of the infraction (if it occurs within the goal area, the ball is placed on the six yard line closest to the point of infraction). Again, when dealing with young players, a reminder of this key regulation can be helpful.

DELIBERATE HANDLING

No player (including the goalkeeper) is allowed to deliberately handle the ball outside the penalty area. This includes the case where a goalkeeper is throwing the ball and the motion carries the hand contacting the ball beyond the area. The restart for deliberate handling (by any player) is a direct free kick from the point of the infraction. It is incorrect to award an indirect free kick when the goalkeeper deliberately handles the ball outside their penalty area.

UNAUTHORIZED GOALKEEPER CHANGE

A field player can change position (and associated goalkeeper equipment) with the goalkeeper while play is stopped and the referee is notified. Players not following these requirements while changing goalkeepers are each to be cautioned at the next stoppage (play is not stopped to penalize this specific infraction). Since AYSO mandates the use of multiple goalkeepers, a misconduct should not be assessed for Goalkeeper changes made between halves.

PENALTY KICKS

The goalkeeper is to face forward and stay on the goal line between the goalposts (they may move sideways on the line) until the ball is kicked forward. If the goalkeeper violates one of these requirements, the kick is retaken unless the ball enters the goal (and a goal is awarded).