IM FOOTBALL
REFEREE
GUIDELINES

Be Ware- Manager

TIME:

- Forfeit time is 15 minutes after game time.
- The game shall consist of two 30 minute halves. The first 28 minutes of the half will be running time. At two minutes remaining, there will be an official’s time-out for the 2-minute warning for A and B leagues only. The rest of the half will be stopped time. C and co-ed leagues will be entirely running time.
- During the final two minutes of a half, the clock should stop for incomplete passes, time-outs, the player with the ball going out of bounds, change of possession, score, or a penalty.
- There should be a five minute half-time in between halves.
- Each team is allowed two time-outs per half.
- The play clock is 25 seconds. The play clock should start AFTER THE REF HAS SET THE BALL.
- Coin Toss - Winning team picks either side or ball. The other team will get the other choice. For the second half, both ball and side will be switched.

KICKING:

- No outside kicks or quick kicks.
- No rush by the defense is allowed on any kicks.
- Defensive linemen are not allowed to raise their arms to block the kick.

DEFENSE:

- BIG RULE CHANGE: For A and B league, we are going to play two-hand touch this year. C and co-ed will remain one hand touch.
- Linemen are not allowed to line up farther than 1 yard outside the last offensive lineman.
- No three point or four point stances.
- If a defender is lined up less than three yards back from the neutral zone, he can only blitz from a stationary start. Players lined up farther back than three yards may be moving, as long as they don’t get within three yards of the neutral zone before the snap.
- No bumping of the receiver by the defensive back is allowed (and vice versa).

OFFENSE:

- Once the ball hits the ground it is dead.
- Five men only can be on the line of scrimmage.
- The center and one lineman on each side are ineligible to be receivers.
- Screen blocking: Except in the offensive backfield, screen blocking is the only form of blocking allowed. There is no contact in screen blocking, and the blocker must be far enough away from the defender so that the defender is able to avoid contact by stopping and changing directions.
- Limited Contact Blocking is allowed only in the offensive backfield. Blockers must keep their hands in front of their bodies between their shoulders. Contact area is limited from waist to shoulder on the defender. No swinging motion of the arms is allowed.
- Receivers: One foot must touch in-bounds for a catch to be legal.
- After a touchdown, the offense has the choice of going for 1 or 2 points. For all others - scoring from the 3 yard line gives 1 point, scoring from the five yard line gives you 2 points. The defense is awarded 2 points for returning a conversion attempt.

**PENALTIES:**
- Offside: 5 yards. If it is on the offense the play is dead. If it is on the defense, the play continues, and the offense had the choice of taking the result of the down of the penalty and a repeat of the down.
- Illegal Motion: 5 yards. No offensive player is allowed to move forward before the snap. Lateral motion is allowed.
- Illegal Formation: 5 yards. Offense lining up with too few or too many on the line of scrimmage.
- Offensive Holding: 10 yards.
- Defensive Holding: 5 yards and automatic first down.
- Defensive Pass Interference: 10 yards, automatic first down. Happens when the defensive player illegally interferes with the receiver trying to catch the pass. It is only called on catchable balls. Illegal interference is contact of any kind before the ball reaches the receiver.
- Offensive Pass Interference: 10 yards. Similar to defensive pass interference, except the receiver illegally interferes with the defender.
- Delay of game: 5 yards.
- Illegal forward pass: 5 yards and loss of down. Done when the person throwing the pass is beyond the line of scrimmage.
- Breaking any of the free kick rules: 5 yards.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct: 10 yards.
- Unnecessary roughness: 15 yards.

**A few notes:**
1. Fields: Field B is the first field on the left after you pass the tennis bubble (coming from the turf). Field 4 is the last field on the left walking from the bubble. The Baseball field is right beside Field B, and will be used when baseball season is over.

2. Rescheduling Games: **DO NOT DO IT ON YOUR OWN.** If you need to change the time for a game, talk to me.

3. Getting in touch with me - 494-8677. E-mail - spectre@mit.edu
   B-League - top eight teams.

5. This year there will be field managers who will hand out equipment and score cards to each set of refs and will occasionally referee based on need.

6. Have a great season!