

FIDA 2023 Umpiring



Minimum Number of Players Required to start a match;

A Grade	15
A Reserve	10
B Grade	12
C Grade	10

FIDA Special Rules

Centre Ball Ups

A Player may not take full possession of the ball at a ball up. The ball must go to another Player or touch the ground before the Player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball.

ii. Field Ball Ups

As with the centre ball ups, a Player may not take full possession of the ball at a ball up. The ball must go to another Player or touch the ground before the Player winning the knockout can take possession of the ball.

iii. Out of Bounds

Should the ball go out of bounds, the Umpire will award a free kick against the Team who kicked the ball immediately before it crossed the boundary line. The free kick shall be taken at the point where the ball crossed the boundary line. If the Umpire is unable to determine which Team kicked the ball last, the Umpire will bring the ball in Five (5) metres in from the boundary line and throw the ball up. For the last touch by hand, the Umpire will bring the ball in Five (5) metres in from the boundary line and throw the ball up.

iv. Marking

A mark is to be paid to a Player who marks the ball from a kick, provided that the kick has travelled at least Ten (10) metres and has not been touched in transit.

v. Bouncing the Ball

A Player in possession may bounce the ball a maximum of Two (2) times and then must make a genuine attempt to dispose either by hand or by foot.

For the purposes of this law, a Player shall be deemed to be in possession of the football during the period when the Player handballs the football to themselves and regains possession without the football touching the ground or another Player. Similarly, for the purposes of this law, a Player shall be deemed to be in possession of the football during the period when the Player completes a solo (the Gaelic skill where the Player kicks the ball to themselves).

vi. 15 Metre Penalty

In all Conferences, a 15-metre penalty may be applied in addition to a free kick, at the Umpire's discretion.

MERCY RULE (SPIRIT OF THE GAME)

All conferences are to play the Mercy Rule.

This means that, at any time in the match, should a Team reach a lead equal to or greater than the set margin (refer to below for conference margins), the Mercy Rule is activated.

In practice, this means that, when the set Mercy Rule margin has been reached, if the Team leading the Match scores a point, the trailing Team will take the kick out from the defensive edge (back) of the centre square. If the Team leading the Match scores a goal, the trailing Team will take possession of the ball in the offensive edge (front) of the centre square, not requiring a ball up to restart play.

Note: If the trailing Team brings the margin back under the set margin, the Mercy Rule is deactivated, and rules will revert to normal.

Metropolitan Conference

- 40-point margin in **A Grade**
- 35-point margin in **B Grade**
- 30-point margin in **A Reserves & C Grades**

Western & Northern & Central Country Conferences

- 30-point margin

Note: Where a Coach does not, in the Umpire's opinion, take reasonable steps to minimise winning margins more than the Mercy Rule, the Umpire shall report the Coach to the FIDA Management for "bringing the game into disrepute."

Starting Positions

When the Mercy Rule comes into effect during a game, the Team leading the Match shall have not more than one third of their Players inside their defensive 50-meter arc, not more than one third of their Players inside or adjacent to the centre square, and not more than one third of their Players in their forward 50-meter arc. (See diagram 2, right). At least one Player from each Team shall be positioned within both Goal Squares. The Team trailing in the Match shall not have any restrictions on their Starting Positions.

NON-TACKLE PLAYERS

Definition of a non-tackle player: a player within the FIDA competition who cannot be tackled during a game by another player due to a physical or medical condition. The non-tackle player is also **not** allowed to tackle a player during a game.

The non-tackle player may also have a non-playing approved carer to support the player on the field. The carer **must not** coach during the game.

