

Some differences between ICE SOCCER™ and field soccer (futbol).

1. The most obvious difference is the **playing surface**. Ice is smooth and slippery; turf is often uneven (pock-marked) but tractionable. (Ice is, and turf can be, hard.)
2. Because of the differences in footing between the two playing surfaces, **aerobic kicking** that often characterizes field soccer is not usually possible or advantageous (nor is it permitted) in ICE SOCCER.
3. Likewise, due to footing differences, **slide tackling** which is allowed in many field soccer leagues (but barred in others due to the frequency of resultant injuries) is not permitted in ICE SOCCER.
4. The use of the oblong, weighted and fiber-filled **Boot'r™** in ICE SOCCER instead of a round, light, air-filled ball as in field soccer is another major difference between the two sports. It is the Boot'r that allows the legitimate (sustainable and controllable play) sport of ICE SOCCER to exist.
5. With a light, air-filled ball (allowing long and high kicks), **heading** is a basic and integral part of field soccer. In ICE SOCCER players may occasionally be able to lift the Boot'r above head-level. But with no real playing advantage to heading a multi-pound Boot'r and the likelihood of head/neck injury when attempted, heading is not permitted in ICE SOCCER.
6. **Surface markings** also differ. Field soccer plays on its own dedicated surface. Competitive ICE SOCCER plays on ice-hockey rinks and thus uses the markings of hockey for position-related rules.
7. **Offside** in field soccer depends if an offensive player advances downfield ahead of the ball or advances beyond the “second last defender.” In ICE SOCCER, offside is a player “zoning-offside,” unrelated to the position of the Boot'r or “second last defender.” ICE SOCCER offside can be called against either the offensive or defensive team, if one of the backs on either team enters inside the defensive team's blue line to either assist or break-up play inside that blue line.
8. At this point in the evolution of the sport, ICE SOCCER uses two road/traffic cones, 10 feet apart, to demark each goal. **Scoring** can be at any height the Boot'r passes between these cones. In contrast, field soccer has a 24 x 8 foot net supported by posts or a frame. The soccer ball must enter the net to count as a score.
9. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Goal dimensions
 - b. Players per side
 - c. Protective gear
 - d. Penalties and other rules
 - e. Other
10. Finally, **age of the sport** – some form of field soccer has been around as far back as 2500 BC.; regulated play under FIFA dates back to 1904. ICE SOCCER was only introduced to the public in June 2005. But ICE SOCCER promises to gain widespread popularity as more people learn about it, experience the fun of playing (at many intensity levels), and organize competitive league play.