

Name _____

Kickin' it on the Field: Soccer Basics for Beginners

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. A free kick is awarded for fouls and is taken from the spot of the foul. A penalty kick is awarded for serious fouls inside the penalty area and is taken from the penalty spot, 12 yards from the goal. Both are opportunities for a team to score without interference from defenders.
2. The offside rule in soccer prevents an attacking player from being nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second-to-last defender (usually the last outfield player) when the ball is played to them. This rule promotes fair play and prevents players from waiting near the goal to score easily.
3. Soccer is often called "the beautiful game" because of its fluidity, teamwork, and the skillful way players move the ball. The game's simplicity and universality also contribute to its beauty.
4. Defenders aim to prevent the opposing team from scoring, midfielders play both offense and defense, and forwards try to score goals. Defenders focus on stopping attacks, midfielders control the midfield, and forwards focus on creating scoring opportunities.

