

Outline summary of Law changes

Herewith a simple outline of the main changes/clarifications.

Law 01 – The Field of Play

- Artificial and natural surfaces may not be combined on the field
- Competitions may determine field size for their competitions (within Law)
- All commercial advertising on the ground must be at least 1 m (1yd) from boundary lines
- Logos/emblems of FAs, competitions etc... allowed on corner flags (no advertising)

Law 02 – The Ball

None

Law 03 – The Players (new title)

- A match may not start/continue if a team has fewer than 7 players
- Substitutes may take a restart but must first step onto the field
- Clarifies situation when a player is sent off before/after kick-off
- Direct FK (or penalty) if a substitute/team official interferes with play
- If something/someone (other than a player) touches a ball as it goes into the goal the referee can award the goal if the touch had no impact on the defenders
- If a goal is scored with an extra person on the field and referee has restarted play the goal stands and match continues

If a player is sent off before play has comenced then someone can take their place in the starting 11

cannot reverse descisions after play has restarted, ref can before restart

Law 04 – The Players' Equipment

- Any tape or other material on/covering socks must be same colour as the sock
- Player losing footwear/shinguard accidentally can play on until next stoppage
- Undershorts must be colour of shorts or hem; team must all wear same colour
- Electronic communication with substitutes is forbidden
- Player can return during play after changing/correcting equipment, once equipment has been checked (by referee, fourth official or AR) and referee signals

Law 05 – The Referee

- Decision can not be changed if play restarted or referee has left the field (HT+FT)
- If several offences occur at the same time the most serious is punished
- Referee can send a player off from pre-match pitch inspection onwards
- Referee can only use RC + YC after entering the field at start of the match
- Player injured by RC/YC foul can be quickly assessed/ treated and stay on field
- The equipment a referee can or may be allowed to use
- Diagrams of referee signals included (from Guidelines section)

Law 06 – The Other Match Officials (new title)

- More details about the duties of the assistants, AARs, fourth official
- Diagrams of assistant referee signals included (from Guidelines section)

Law 07 – The Duration of the Match

- More reasons for additional time (e.g. medical drinks breaks) Heat protocol? Wacfa ruling??

Law 08 – The Start and Restart of Play

- All restarts included (previously only kick-off and dropped ball)
- Ball must clearly move to be in play for all kicked restarts
- Ball can be kicked in any direction at kick-off (previously had to go forward)
- Referee can not 'manufacture' outcome of a dropped ball

can't tell players to kick it back to the opposing goalkeeper to restart (eg after injury). Good to teach kids the spirit of the game and tell them to do it anyway, ref now cannot tell them what to do

Law 09 – The Ball in and out of Play

- If a ball rebounds off a match official it is in play unless it has wholly passed over a boundary line

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match (new title)

Kicks from the penalty mark:

- Referee will toss a coin to choose the goal (unless weather, safety, etc.)
- **Player temporarily off the field** (e.g. injured) at final whistle can take part
- **Both teams must have same number of players before and during the kicks**
- Clear statement of when a kick is over
- Kicks not delayed if player leaves the field; if not back in time kick is forfeited

Law 11 – Offside

- Halfway line ‘neutral’ for offside; player must be in opponents’ half
- **Players’ arms not considered when judging offside position** (including goalkeeper)
- **Offside FK always taken where offence occurs** (even in own half)
- Defender off the field only ‘active’ until defending team clear ball or play stops
- As above for attacker returning; before that re-entry point is the offside position

so only where they become involved in play

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

- **Foul with contact is a direct FK**
- Advantage for a RC – indirect FK if offender then gets involved in play
- Change of wording for handball so that not every handball is a YC
- Some DOGSO offences in the penalty area are punished with a YC
- **Attempted violent conduct is a RC, even if no contact**
- Striking on head/face when not challenging an opponent is a RC (unless negligible)
- Offence against substitutes, team officials, match officials etc. is now a direct FK
- Foul off the field penalised with a direct FK on boundary line (penalty in own penalty area)

don't worry about this too much, it is now clearer to refs which punishment fits which crime

**** “getting the ball” has no impact on free kick or not, a foul is a foul regardless of outcome****

Law 13 – Free Kicks

- Difference between ‘stopping’ a FK and ‘intercepting’ the ball after FK taken

Law 14 –The Penalty Kick

- Indirect FK + YC if wrong player deliberately takes the penalty
- Indirect FK if ball kicked backwards
- **If ‘illegal’ feinting occurs it is always an indirect FK (and YC) just kick it**
- Goalkeeper YC if infringes and PK is retaken

Law 15 – The Throw-in

- New wording makes it clear that ball must be thrown with both hands

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

- **If GK kicked into own goal it is a corner kick to opponents**
- An opponent in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken can not play the ball first **must leave area before considered ‘in play’**

Law 17 – The Corner Kick

- If CK kicked into own goal it is a corner kick to opponents