

## Laws of the game. 2016. Summary of the changes. Clarifications.

### Law 01 – The Field of Play

- Artificial and natural surfaces may not be combined on the field
- All commercial advertising on the ground must be at least 1m (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:
  - before submission of the team list can not be named on the team list in any capacity
  - after being named on the team list and before kick-off may be replaced by a named substitute, who can not be replaced; the number of substitutions the team can make is not reduced
  - after the kick-off can not be replaced
- 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
- The team captain has no special status or privileges, but has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of the team.

### Law 04 – The Players' Equipment

- A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.
- All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted.
- 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 (Half Time+Full Time)
- 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 Red Card + Yellow Card after entering the field at start of the match
- Player injured by Red Card/Yellow Card foul can be quickly assessed/ treated and stay on field

### Law 06 – The Other Match Officials (new title)

- More details about the duties of the assistants, AARs, fourth official

### Law 07 – The Duration of the Match

- More reasons for additional time (e.g. medical drinks breaks)

### 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

### 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 Free Kick 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

### Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

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

### • Handling the ball

Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm.

The following must be considered:

- the movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand)
- the distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball)
- the position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement
- touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard, etc.) is an infringement
- hitting the ball with a thrown object (boot, shinguard, etc.) is an infringement

### Law 13 – Free Kicks

- Difference between 'stopping' a Free Kick and 'intercepting' the ball after Free Kick taken

### Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

- Indirect Free Kick + YC if wrong player deliberately takes the penalty
- Indirect Free Kick if ball kicked backwards
- If 'illegal' feinting occurs it is always an indirect Free Kick (and Yellow Card)
- Goalkeeper Yellow Card if infringes and Penalty Kick 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 Goal Kick 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

### Law 17 – The Corner Kick

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