

2001 Law Changes



United States Soccer Federation

Amendments

Modifications

Subject to the agreement of the national associations concerned and provided the principles of these Laws are maintained, the Laws may be modified in their application for players of under 16 years of age, for women footballers, for veteran footballers (over 35 years) and for players with disabilities.

Law 3 – The Number of Players

Decision 2

A **team official** may convey tactical instructions to the players during the match *and must return to his position after doing so.* **All team officials** must remain within the confines of the technical area, where such an area is provided, and they must behave in a responsible manner.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Editorial Change

Indirect Free kick

Delete bullet point 5 (• **Wastes time**)

Decision 3

Delete final paragraph

The goalkeeper is considered to be guilty of time wasting if he holds the ball in his hands or arms for more than 5-6 seconds.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Disciplinary Sanctions

New text

Only a player or substitute or substituted player may be shown the red or yellow card.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Sending-Off Offences

To be added after Sending-Off Offence No. 7

A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Delete Decision 1

A penalty kick is awarded if, while the ball is in play, the goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, strikes or attempts to strike an opponent by throwing the ball at him.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Why?

... the location for any foul or misconduct involving a thrown object is not where the action begins but where the object strikes or would have struck, if this location is on the field of play

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

USSF Advice to Referees:

... the location for any foul or misconduct involving a thrown object is not where the action begins but where the object strikes or would have struck, if this location is on the field of play.

Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match

New Section:

The Golden Goal and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match

The Golden Goal

Procedures

- During the period of extra time played at the end of normal playing time, the team which scores the first goal is declared the winner.
- If no goals are scored the match is decided by kicks from the penalty mark.

Information, Instructions and Directives

The International FA Board wishes to remind referees of several important matters. The following sections relay information regarding:

- Holding and Pulling
- Treatment of Injured Players
- Advertising
- Celebration of a Goal
- Players Wearing Spectacles
- Artificial Surfaces

Holding and Pulling

The IFAB noted concern at the amount of holding and pulling.

It noted that not all instances are unsporting behavior.

It regrets that referees were not applying the Laws fully for blatant holding and pulling.

There is now a Mandatory instruction:

Holding and Pulling

Referees are instructed that, in the case of blatant holding and pulling, the offence must be sanctioned by a direct free kick, or a penalty kick if the offence is committed inside the penalty area, and the player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior.

Treatment of Injured Players

The IFAB is of the opinion that referees should allow injured players to return to the field as soon as possible.

For injuries, and after treatment for bleeding injuries, the referee *may be assisted by the fourth official* and the player may return while play continues (not only at a stoppage).

Treatment of Injured Players

The IFAB also noted loss of playing time to deal with player injuries.

It stresses that safety is always the primary concern.

***However,* the full amount of time lost must be added.**

Advertising

The IFAB noted advertising and club logos were still appearing on nets and corner flags.

This is not permitted.

Celebration of a Goal

The Board recognized that the celebration of a goal was an important and emotional part of football and relaxed the earlier statement ... that any player removing their jersey when celebrating a goal should be cautioned.

Celebration of a Goal

Players will no longer be cautioned if they remove their shirt but they will be cautioned for unsporting behavior if their celebrations are provocative and intended to incite or ridicule opponents or opposing spectators. Players guilty of excessive time wasting while celebrating a goal will also be cautioned.

Players Wearing Spectacles

Sympathy was expressed for players, especially young players, who need to wear spectacles. It was accepted that new technology had made sports spectacles much safer, both for the player himself and for other players.

Players Wearing Spectacles

While the referee has the final decision on the safety of players' equipment, the Board expects that they will take full account of modern technology and the improved safety features of spectacle design when making their decision.

Artificial Surfaces

The Board took note of major developments in artificial playing surfaces and FIFA's quality standards in this regard.

Artificial surfaces are already permitted in 2002 World Cup qualifying matches.

Timing

- amendments to the Laws take effect from 1st July 2001
- instructions and directives from the Board take immediate effect.

Experiment Ending

The experiment involving the "two referee" system of control (two referees with whistles paired with two assistant referees) is ended and will not be adopted.

Experiment Continuing

The "ten yard advancement" experiment will be continued for another year, with the additional requirement that advancement will cease at the penalty area line.