

# Selected IFAB Law Changes 2019-20

BASED ON: <http://www.theifab.com>

## 1. The coin toss (Law 8)

- Team winning the toss now chooses to:
  - Take the kick-off OR
  - Choose the goal to attack

## 2. Disciplinary action against team officials (Law 12)

- Team officials (e.g. coaches) may be:
  - Warned
  - Cautioned & shown the yellow card
  - Sent off & shown the red card

## 3. Dropped ball (Law 8)

- Drop the ball to a SINGLE player in all cases
- IF when play was stopped, the ball was INSIDE the penalty area or was LAST TOUCHED in the penalty area:
  - Drop the ball to the goalkeeper
- OTHERWISE, drop the ball:
  - TO ONE PLAYER of the team that last touched the ball
  - AT THE POINT of the last touch by a player, outside agent, or match official
- IN ALL CASES, ALL OTHER PLAYERS (from both teams) must be at least 4.5 yards away

## 4. Ball hits a match official (Law 9)

- Drop the ball if the ball touches a match official, stays on the field, and
  - Goes into the goal OR
  - Team possession changes OR
  - A promising attack starts

## 5. Handling the ball (“handball offence”) (Law 12)

- It is an offence if a player:
  - Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm (no change here)
  - Gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then
    - Scores in the opponents’ goal
    - Creates a goal-scoring opportunity
  - Scores in the opponents’ goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

## 6. Goalkeeper handling changes (Laws 10 and 12)

- Restart if the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents’ goal: goal kick (Law 10)
- If the goalkeeper clearly kicks or attempts to kick the ball from a throw-in or deliberate kick from a teammate but the ‘clearance’ fails, the goalkeeper then can handle the ball (Law 12)

## 7. No attackers in the wall (Law 13)

- IF three (or more) defenders form a wall for the taking of a free kick
- THEN all attackers must be at least 1 yd from the wall until the ball is in play
- RESTART FOR OFFENCE: Indirect free kick for the defending team

## 8. Penalty kick modifications (Law 14)

- The goalkeeper must keep ONE FOOT on or above the line until the ball is kicked
- The penalty kick taker, if assessed quickly for injury, does not have to leave & can take the kick (Law 5)

## 9. Defensive free kicks within a team’s own penalty area & goal kicks (Laws 13 and 16)

- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- The ball does NOT have to leave the penalty area to be in play
- Opponents STILL MUST remain outside the penalty area UNTIL the ball is in play