

# International Football Association Board (IFAB) Main Changes to the Laws of the Game 2019/2020

**Link to official IFAB multimedia presentation on Main Changes to the Laws of the Game:**

<http://theifab.com/presentation-of-ifab-log-2019-20/>

- **Law 3: The Players**
  - A player being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary lines, unless otherwise directed by the referee.
  - Ex. A player being substituted by the corner flag exits by corner flag, while new player enters at midfield.
  - Video Examples:  
<https://vimeo.com/351057229>\*
  
- **Law 5: The Referee**
  - Team officials guilty of misconduct can be shown a YC/ RC: if an offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC.
  - Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351058296>
  - If a penalty kick is awarded, the team's penalty taker can receive assessment or treatment and then stay on the field and take the kick.
  - Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351059216>
  
- **Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play**
  - The team that wins the toss may choose to take the kick-off or which goal to attack.
  - Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351061336>
  - Dropped ball- ball dropped for goalkeeper (if play is topped in the penalty area) or for one player of the team that last touched the ball as location last touched; all other players (of both teams) must be at least 4m (4 yards) away.
  - Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351061732>
  
- **Law 9: The Ball In and Out of Play**
  - Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee and goes into goal, possession changes or an attacking move starts.
  - Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351061835>
  
- **Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match**
  - Goalkeeper can not score by throwing the ball into the opponent's goal.  
Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351062115>
  
- **Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct**

- Handling the ball: It is an offense if a player:
  - Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm
  - Gains possession/ control of the ball after it has touched their hand and then
    - Scores in the opponent's goal
    - Creates a goal-scoring opportunity
    - Scores in the opponent's goal directly from their hand/arm even if accidental.
  - An offence if a player touches the ball with their hand/arm when
    - Their hand/arm made their body bigger
    - The hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level
  - Not an offence if:
    - Directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
    - If the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body bigger
    - When a player falls and the hand is between body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically from the body
  - If after a throw- or deliberate pass from team-mate the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper then can handle the ball
  - Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a free kick and creates a goal-scoring opportunity.
  - The Yellow card for an "illegal" goal celebration remains if the goal is disallowed.
  - All verbal offences are punished with an indirect free kick.
- Video Examples:
  - <https://vimeo.com/351063618>
  - <https://vimeo.com/351065698>
- **Law 13: Free Kicks**
  - For defending team free kicks in their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves, the ball does not have to leave the penalty area.
  - Video Example:
    - <https://vimeo.com/351066126>
  - When there is a defensive wall of at least 3 players, all attacking team players must be at least 1 meter from the wall. Indirect Field Kick if they encroach.
  - Video Example:
    - <https://vimeo.com/351066411>
- **Law 14: The Penalty Kick**
  - Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty is taken.
  - When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on or in line with the goal line.
  - Video Example:
    - <https://vimeo.com/351067372>
- **Law 15: The Throw In**
  - Opponents must be at least 2 meters from the point of throw in on the touchline, even if the thrower is back from the line.

- Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351069931>
- **Law 16: The Goal Kick**
  - At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves. It does not have to leave the penalty area. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
  - Video Example:  
<https://vimeo.com/351070409>

\*Thank you to the Colorado Soccer Association for providing video examples.