

# The Laws Of The Game

2016-2017



THE FAIR GAME  
SINCE 1888

# Major Rewrite of the Laws for 2016

- IFAB is the International Football Association Board
- IFAB has authored the Laws of the Game since 1886
- What has been called “FIFA LOTG” is now “IFAB LOTG”
- David Elleray, former FIFA and EPL referee and current IFAB member, led a task force to rewrite the Laws to be more easily understood
- Some Laws and guidance were changed
- The old “second section” of the Law book, “Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees”, as well as other sections (e.g. kicks from the mark), were incorporated into each Law as appropriate

# Law Changes

- Some changes only affect the highest levels of play
- Others affect youth soccer, e.g. AYSO – these are the ones we’ll be reviewing
- We won’t be covering, “It used to be this way...”
  - If you know how it used to be, you’ll understand the change
  - If you don’t know how it used to be, you’ll be learning how it is now
- We’ve been following US Soccer’s last version of Advice to Referees
  - USSF won’t be publishing ATR any longer
  - Some of the changes we’ll discuss are “overrides” of ATR guidance
  - Other changes simply codify “How we’ve always done it”

# Note

This presentation was authored and reviewed by the members of the former AYSO National Referee Commission

## Law 1: The Field of Play

- The “corner arc” is now the “corner area”
- That’s it for Law 1

## Law 2: The Ball

- No changes

# Law 3: The Players

- New title
- Extra persons on the field interfering with play
  - If the referee stops play because a player, substitute, substituted player, sent-off player, or team official interferes with play...
  - The restart is now a direct free kick or penalty kick
- Goal scored with extra persons on the field
  - Against opponents: goal disallowed, play restarted with GK, CK, or DB
  - Own goal: allow

# Law 4: The Players' Equipment

- Players can now continue playing if a shinguard is lost accidentally
  - But must replace it as soon as possible and definitely at the next stoppage
- Players who leave the field to correct equipment
  - May now be checked by the AR or 4<sup>th</sup> official
  - May now reenter during play with the referee's permission
- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - Goalkeeper caps (soft brim) are now explicitly allowed

## Law 5: The Referee

- Players injured due to a contact offense for which the opponent is cautioned or sent off no longer need to leave the field to be treated
- The advantage signal may now be given with one arm
- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - Now actually mentions "The Spirit of the Game", which is in the hands of the referee to protect
  - The referee may now not change a decision after signaling the end of a half (or extra time) and leaving the field



# Law 5: The Referee

- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - “Punishing the more serious offense” when multiple offenses occur at the same time now must include considering:
    - The sanction
    - The restart
    - The physical severity of the offense
    - The tactical impact

## Law 6: The Other Match Officials

- New title
- Now describes responsibilities for ARs, additional ARs, reserve ARs, and fourth officials

## Law 7: The Duration of the Match

- No changes other than specific permission to stop the match for drink breaks

## Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play

- Kickoffs now may go in any direction
- Kickoffs now may not result in an own goal
- Dropped balls, once in play, must now touch at least two players before a goal can be scored
- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - The ball is in play for a kickoff when "kicked and clearly moves"

# Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play

- Now explicitly states that the referee may not decide who may contest for a dropped ball
  - Problematic for referees if play is stopped while the keeper has possession
  - “Fair play” and “spirit of the game” should allow us to continue doing the right thing, though
- How we’ve always done it, but now it’s in the Laws:
  - “The Start and Restart of Play” finally admits that there are restarts other than the kickoff and the dropped ball
  - It also finally explicitly states that an infringement committed while the ball is not in play cannot change the restart

# Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match

- New title
- Kicks from the mark guidance is now in Law 10
- Referee must now toss a coin to determine the goal to be used for kicks from the mark
  - Unless there are “other considerations” (e.g. safety, ground conditions)
  - A referee could conceivably still allow the goalkeepers to pick the goal based on “other considerations” such as the sun’s position
- The “reduce to equate” rule now applies both before and during kicks from the mark
- Kicks from the mark continue if a team is reduced to less than seven players

# Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match

- An injured goalkeeper can now be replaced by a player who was “reduced to equate”
- How we’ve always done it, but now it’s in the Laws:
  - Now explicitly states that teams need not indicate the order in which players will take kicks
  - Now gives guidance as to when a kick has been completed
    - When the ball stops moving
    - When the ball goes out of play
    - When the referee stops play for an infringement
  - If an eligible player leaves the field and doesn’t return in time to kick, that player’s turn to kick will be forfeited

# Law 11: Offside

- The IFK for an offside infraction is now taken where the player became involved in active play, even if in his own half of the field
- The “gaining an advantage by being in an offside position” clause now includes not just playing a rebound but also interfering with an opponent after a rebound
- A defender who leaves the field for tactical reasons is considered to be on the goal line or touchline for offside purposes, but only until the defending team has played the ball toward the halfway line and out of their penalty area
  - This keeps that player from keeping all opponents onside until play stops
- If an attacking player off the field and inside the goal commits an offside offense or a Law 12 offense, the restart is now an IFK or DFK

# Law 11: Offside

- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - The player's position, not the offense, is judged when a teammate plays/touches the ball
  - The halfway line is explicitly excluded from determining whether a player is in the opponents' half of the field
    - If a foot, head, or body part is on or over the line but not across, it is not in the opponents' half of the field
  - Hands and arms, which cannot play the ball, are now explicitly called out as not being capable of placing a player in offside position



# Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

- DOGSO for an offense punishable by a free kick: if a penalty kick is awarded, just caution the offender unless:
  - The offense was holding, pulling, or pushing (there's no DFK foul called "pulling", so ostensibly this is a special case of "holding")
  - There was no attempt or ability to play the ball
  - The offense was a send-off offense in and of itself (e.g. SFP, VC)
- Now only 6 cautionable offenses due to consolidation
  - "Entering, re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission"
  - So much for "PUDDLED"... although it can still be used as long as students remember to combine "enter" and "leave" on an exam

# Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - There are now 11 DFK fouls: "impedes an opponent with contact"
  - DFK foul "tackles an opponent" is now "tackles or challenges an opponent"
    - Accounts for challenges with other body parts, e.g. the knee
  - IFK foul "impedes an opponent" is now "impedes an opponent without contact"
  - Violent conduct includes the attempt to use excessive force or brutality

# Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct (Restarts)

- Offense committed by a player on the field against:
  - An opponent: IFK, DFK, or PK as appropriate
  - A teammate, substitute, substituted player, team official, or match official: DFK or PK
  - Any other person: DB
- Offense committed by a player off the field:
  - Player was already off the field: DB where the ball was
  - Player left the field in order to commit the offense: IFK where the ball was
  - Player left the field in the normal course of play, and offense committed against another player: IFK or DFK on the boundary line, or PK if that spot is within the offender's penalty area and a DFK foul was committed

## Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct (Restarts)

- Offense committed by a substitute, substituted player, sent-off player, or team official on the field: DFK or PK
  - This guidance is actually from Law 3

# Fouls and Misconduct Committed by Players

Where	Offense	Against	Restart
On field	Foul and/or misconduct	Opponent	IFK/DFK at point of offense, or PK
On field	Misconduct	Teammate, sub, ref, AR, coach	DFK at point of offense, or PK
On field	Misconduct	Outside agent	DB where ball was
Off field in normal course of play	Foul and/or misconduct	Any player	IFK/DFK on boundary line, or PK
Off field in order to commit	Foul and/or misconduct	Anyone	IFK where ball was
Already off field	Misconduct	Anyone	DB where ball was

# Misconduct Committed by Others

Where	Offense	By	Restart
On field	Enters field illegally	Substitute, substituted player	IFK where ball was
On field	Enters field illegally	Team official, sent off player, outside agent	DB where ball was
On field	Interferes with play	Sub, team official, or sent-off player	DFK at point of offense, or PK
On field	Interferes with play	Outside agent	DB where ball was
Off field	Misconduct	Non-player	DB where ball was

# Law 13: Free Kicks

- How we've always supposed to have been doing it, but didn't always, and now it's in the Laws:
  - The ball is in play when it is "kicked and clearly moves"
  - Maybe this will finally stop the "tap" IFK first-touch?

# Law 14: The Penalty Kick

- If players from both teams commit infringements, the penalty kick is retaken – unless one player commits a more serious offense
  - “Feinting after completing run-up” is the only listed offense
  - Others are left to ITOOTR
- “Mandatory” cautions
  - Goalkeeper infringes Law 14
  - “Wrong kicker” takes kick



# Law 14: The Penalty Kick

- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - The ball must be stationary before being kicked
  - The ball is in play when it is "kicked and clearly moves" forward
  - It must move forward, but backheeling it forward is permitted
  - A penalty kick is over when the ball stops moving or goes out of play, or the referee stops play for an infringement

# Penalty Kick Infractions

Offense	By	If Goal Scored	If No Goal Scored
Encroachment	Attackers	Retake	IFK
Encroachment	Defenders	Goal	Retake
Encroachment or other offense	Both	Retake*	Retake*
Any	Goalkeeper	Goal	Retake, caution goalkeeper
Ball kicked backwards	Kicker	IFK	IFK
Illegal feinting	Kicker	IFK, caution kicker	IFK, caution kicker
Wrong kicker	Kicker	IFK, caution wrong kicker	IFK, caution wrong kicker

\* Typically retake, but if the referee believes that one offense is more serious, punish the more serious offense

# Law 15: The Throw-In

- Opponent moves closer than 2 yards from thrower: caution for USB (not distance)
  - If the throw-in has already been taken, award an IFK
- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - Throw-ins are to be delivered with both hands
  - Distracting a thrower: caution for USB

## Law 16: The Goal Kick

- An opponent who was in the penalty area when the goal kick was taken now may not be the first to play the ball, and may not challenge for it (i.e. may not attempt to be the first to play it)
- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - The ball must be stationary before being kicked
  - The restart for an "own goal" from a goal kick is a corner kick

# Law 17: The Corner Kick

- How we've always done it, but now it's in the Laws:
  - The ball must be stationary
  - In play when "kicked and clearly moves"
  - Kicking the ball directly into own goal results in a CK for the opponents

# Law 18

- No changes 😊

# Questions?

