

IFAB®

THE
INTERNATIONAL
FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION
BOARD



THEIFAB.COM
SINCE 1886

Laws of
the Game

2016/17

WE ARE NOT APPLYING ANY LAW CHANGES UNTIL ANNOUNCE BY CAL SOUTH

- PLEASE EMPHASIZE AND REPEAT AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY
 - WE ARE NOT IMPLEMENTING ANY LAW CHANGES YET
 - WE NEED TO START RE-LEARNING ALL THE CHANGES MADE
 - THE ONLY LAW THAT WAS NOT CHANGED IS LAW 2
 - YOUR 2015-2016 LAW BOOK WILL BE OBSOLETE IN A FEW MONTHS
 - WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK FROM NOW ON UNTIL WE LEARN ALL THE CHANGES AND READ THE BOOK ENTIRELY OVER AND OVER...
- THE BOOK HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL REFEREE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS FOR MEMBER DISTRIBUTION
- IT WILL BE POSTED IN CAL SOUTH WHEN CAL SOUTH SRC GET THE GO AHEAD THAT WE CAN IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES
- ALL LEAGUES MUST BE NOTIFY OF THE LAW CHANGES

DRASTIC CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- AGAIN, FROM MAY UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR ALL TRAINING WILL BE FOCUS ON READING THE BOOK AND REVIEWING THE CHANGES
- WE NEED TO REPROGRAM OUR MINDS AND REALIZED THAT THE LAWS OF THE GAME HAVE CHANGED
- 2017 WILL ALSO START WITH THE LAW CHANGES
- QUESTIONS ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME HAVE A DIFFERENT ANSWER NOW – THIS WILL BE REVIEWED TOO
- ALL REFERENCES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME NEED TO BE UPDATED
- YOUR BEST REFERENCE ON ANY QUESTIONS ON THE LAWS OF THE GAME IS THE 2016 BOOK OR CAL SOUTH SRC

WHAT'S COVER IN THIS PRESENTATION

- A SUMMARY OF ALL THE LAW CHANGES
- A BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND EXPLANATION OF THE LAWS CHANGES
- PLEASE START READING THE 2016 BOOK AND RELEARN THE LAWS OF THE GAME

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Law
changes
2016/17

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Law
01

- Artificial and natural surfaces may not be combined on the field
- Competitions may determine field size for their competitions (within Law)
- All commercial advertising on the ground must be at least 1 m (1 yd) from boundary lines
- Logos/emblems of FAs, competitions etc... allowed on corner flags (no advertising)

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Law
02

NONE

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Law
03

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

- 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

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Law
04

- Any tape or other material on/covering socks must be same color as the sock
- Player losing footwear/shinguard accidentally can play on until next stoppage
- Undershorts must be color of shorts or hem; team must all wear same color
- 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

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Law
05

- Decision can not be changed if play restarted or referee has left the field (HT+FT)
- 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 RC + YC after entering the field at start of the match
- Player injured by RC/YC foul can be quickly assessed/ treated and stay on field
- The equipment a referee can or may be allowed to use
- Diagrams of referee signals included (from Guidelines section)

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Law
06

Law 06 – The Other Match Officials (new title)

- More details about the duties of the assistants, AARs, fourth official
- Diagrams of assistant referee signals included (from Guidelines section)

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Law
07

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

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Law
08

- 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

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Law
09

•If a ball rebounds off a match official it is in play unless it has wholly passed over a boundary line

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Law
10

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

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Law

11

- Halfway line 'neutral' for offside; player must be in opponents' half
- Players' arms not considered when judging offside position (including goalkeeper)
- Offside FK 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

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Law
12

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

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Law
13

.Difference between 'stopping' a FK and
'intercepting' the ball after FK taken

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Law

14

- Indirect FK + YC if wrong player deliberately takes the penalty
- Indirect FK if ball kicked backwards
- If 'illegal' feinting occurs it is always an indirect FK (and YC)
- Goalkeeper YC if infringes and PK is retaken

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Law
15

- New wording makes it clear that ball must be thrown with both hands

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Law
16

- If GK 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

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Law
17

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

Details of all Law changes

The following are the main changes to the Laws of the Game which are not related to English/phraseology. For each change the old wording (where appropriate) and the new/changed wording are given followed by an explanation for the change.

The text shown in the 'old text' boxes may be the exact previous text or a more general outline of the meaning of the previous text.

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Law
01

Law 01 – The Field of Play

01.1 Artificial and natural surfaces may not be combined

Old text

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to competition rules.

New text

The field of play must be a wholly natural or, if competition rules permit, a wholly artificial playing surface, except where competition rules permit an integrated combination of artificial and natural materials (hybrid system).

Explanation

Clarifies that for safety reasons mixing natural and artificial surfaces is not permitted on the field of play. A different surface is permitted on the surrounding areas e.g. artificial turf for the assistant referees' patrol area. An integrated mix of natural and artificial material is permitted.

2. Competitions may determine length of boundary lines (within Law 1 parameters)

Additional text

Competitions may determine the length of the goal line and touchline within the above dimensions.

Explanation

Clarifies that competitions have the authority to determine the length of the touchlines and goal lines for their matches within the dimensions of Law 1.

3. The technical area

Explanation

Technical area information moved from end of Laws section

4. Goal Line Technology (GLT)

Explanation

Goal Line Technology (GLT) moved from Law 10

01.5 Commercial advertising on the ground

Old text	New text
<p>No form of commercial advertising, whether real or virtual, is permitted on the field of play, on the ground within the area enclosed by the goal nets or the technical area, or within 1 m (1 yd) of the touchline from the time the teams enter the field of play...</p>	<p>No form of commercial advertising, whether real or virtual, is permitted on the field of play, on the ground within the area enclosed by the goal nets or the technical area, or on the ground within 1 m (1 yd) of the <u>boundary</u> lines from the time the teams enter the field of play ...</p>

Explanation

Clarifies that restrictions on commercial advertising on the ground relate to the area behind the goal lines as well as the touchlines.

01.6 Logos and emblems on corner flags

Old text

The reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, member associations, leagues, clubs or other bodies is forbidden on the field of play, the goal nets and the areas they enclose, the goals, the flagposts and their flags during playing time.

New text

The reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, national football associations, competitions, clubs or other bodies is forbidden on the field of play, the goal nets and the areas they enclose, the goals, and the flagposts during playing time. They are permitted on the flags on the flagposts.

Explanation

- **National football associations** replaces **member associations**
- **competitions** replaces **leagues** as cup competitions are not covered by the current wording.
- These logos are already widely used and allowing them on the flags is consistent with Law 2 which permits them on the ball.

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Law
03

Law 03 – The Players

03.1 Title change

Old title	New title
The Number of Players	<u>The Players</u>

Explanation

New title reflects that the content includes reference to substitutes etc.

03.2 Minimum number of players

Old text

A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than seven players. (..) although a match may not START if either team consists of fewer than seven players, the minimum number of players in a team required for a match to CONTINUE is left to the discretion of member associations.

However, it is the opinion of the International F.A. Board that a match should not continue if there are fewer than seven players in either team.

New text

A match may not start or continue if either team has fewer than seven players.

Explanation

The IFAB recommendation of the minimum number of players for a match to continue becomes Law. This is consistent with the minimum to start the match.

03.3 Restarts by substitutes

Old text

A substitute who has not completed the substitution procedure by entering the field of play cannot restart play by taking a throw-in or corner kick.

New text

Substitutes can take any restart provided they first enter the field of play.

Explanation

Clarifies that a substitute who steps onto the field of play can then take any restart, including a corner kick or throw-in; some wrongly interpreted the 'old' wording as requiring play to be restarted before a substitute can take a restart.

03.4 Named substitute starts instead of named player	
Old text	New text
<p>If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named player at the start of the match and the referee is not informed of this change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the referee allows the named substitute to continue the match(...)	<p>If a named substitute starts the match instead of a named player and the referee is not informed of this change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the referee allows the named substitute to continue the match(...)

Explanation

Clarifies that if a named player is 'replaced' by a substitute before the match, the player can be a substitute on arrival. More logical that this takes effect when the match kicks off rather than when the substitute enters the field.

03.5 Extra persons on the field of play – status of sent off player

Old text	New text
Anyone not indicated on the team list as a player, substitute or team official is deemed to be an outside agent, as is a player who has been sent off.	<u>Anyone not named on the team list as a player, substitute or team official is deemed to be an outside agent.</u>

Explanation

It is more logical to treat a sent off player like a substitute so that a player who returns to the field (having been sent off) is penalised with a free kick.

03.5 Extra persons on the field of play – status of sent off player

Old text	New text
Anyone not indicated on the team list as a player, substitute or team official is deemed to be an outside agent, as is a player who has been sent off.	<u>Anyone not named on the team list as a player, substitute or team official is deemed to be an outside agent.</u>

Explanation

It is more logical to treat a sent off player like a substitute so that a player who returns to the field (having been sent off) is penalised with a free kick.

03.6 Infringements by substitutes and team officials

Old text

If a substitute or substituted player enters the field of play without the referee's permission:

- if the referee has stopped play, it is restarted with an indirect free kick (..).

New text

If play is stopped and the interference was by:

- a team official, substitute, substituted or sent off player, play restarts with a direct free kick or penalty kick

If a team official enters the field of play:

- if the referee stops the match, he must restart play with a dropped ball(...).

Explanation

There is a growing problem of substitutes/team officials entering the field to interfere with play or an opponent, e.g. stopping a goal. This is clearly 'unfair' and a direct free kick (or penalty kick if in own penalty area) is more appropriate.

03.7 Player who is sent off before or after kick-off

Additional text

A player who is sent 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)
- after the kick-off can not be replaced

Explanation

Clarifies whether a sent off player can be replaced.

03.8 Impact of substitute/team official/outside agent touching a ball which is going into the goal

Old text	New text
<p>In the situations outlined in 3.6 above the referee must stop play if the 'intruder' interferes with play or touches the ball</p> <p>If an outside agent enters the field of play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•the referee must stop play (although not immediately if the outside agent does not interfere with play)	<p><u>If a ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent a defending player playing the ball, the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the ball enters the opponents' goal.</u></p>

Explanation for 3.8

This ‘**fair play**’ change means the referee can apply the advantage principle so that if the attempt to stop a goal is unsuccessful the referee can award the goal (See 3.9)

03.9 Goal scored with an extra person on the field of play

Old text

If, after a goal is scored, the referee realises, before play restarts, that there was an extra person on the field of play when the goal was scored:

- the referee must disallow the goal if:
 - > the extra person was an outside agent and he interfered with play
 - > the extra person was a player, substitute, substituted player or team official associated with the team that scored the goal

New text

If, after a goal is scored, the referee realises, before play restarts, that there was an extra person(s) on the field of play when the goal was scored:

- the referee must disallow the goal if the extra person was:
 - > a player, substitute, substituted player, sent off player or team official of the team that scored the goal
 - > an outside agent who interfered with play unless a goal results as outlined above in 'extra persons on the field of play'.

Play is restarted with a goal kick or a corner kick.

If, after a goal is scored and play has restarted, the referee realises an extra person was on the field of play when the goal was scored, the goal can not be

disallowed. If the extra person is still on the field the referee must:

- stop play
- have the extra person removed
- restart with a dropped ball or indirect free kick as appropriate

The referee must report the incident to the appropriate authorities.

Explanation

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- Incorporates principle outlined in 3.8 (above)
- Clarifies how to restart if a goal is scored when there is an extra person on the field and play has not restarted.
- Clarifies that if a goal was scored when there was an extra person on the field and play has restarted the referee has to allow the game to continue; the referee can not disallow the goal or 'nullify' the period between the goal and the discovery of the extra person.

03.10 Reference to team captain (from Law 12)

Additional text

The team captain has no special status or privileges but has a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of the team.

Explanation

More logical to have this statement in Law 3 rather than Law 12.

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Law
04

Law 04 – The Players' Equipment

04.1 Tape /material on /covering socks

Old text

The compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following (...)

- stockings – if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as that part of the sock it is applied to

New text

- socks – tape or any material applied or worn externally must be the same colour as that part of the sock it is applied to or covers

Explanation

Clarifies that non-tape material must be the same colour as the sock it covers as some players wear ankle socks (or similar) which are a different colour to the sock.