

IFAB®

# Laws of the Game





**The IFAB changes in the Laws of the Game will not come into effect in Ohio South (both youth and adult) until the beginning of the calendar year, i.e. **January 1, 2017.****

The IFAB revisions are intended to make things clearer for players, officials and fans.

Many of the alterations are designed just to simply make the language used much clearer.

IFAB's ultimate aim is to provide a more consistent interpretation across the world by making it much clearer as to what should happen in certain situations. The expectation is that controversy and confusion will be reduced.



**The 2016/17 Laws of the Game has been completely redesigned by IFAB.  
(57 Changes/Revisions/Clarifications in the Laws)**

## **A More Simplified Structure**

- The Laws and their Interpretations have been combined
- All information for each Law is in the same place and not in two different parts of the Law book.

## **Language and Phraseology**

- The vocabulary has been reduced
- Unnecessary words and repetitions have been removed
- Contradictions have been resolved



## Law Changes Explained

- New Text compared with Old Text

## Glossary

- Football Bodies
- **Football Terms**
- Referee Terms

## Practical Guidelines for Match Officials

- Positioning, Movement and Teamwork
- Body Language, Communication and Whistle
- Other Advice ... Includes Offside Diagrams



	<b><u>New Title</u></b>	<b><u>Old Title</u></b>
<b>Law 3</b>	<b>The Players</b>	<b>The Number of Players</b>
<b>Law 6</b>	<b>The Other Match Officials</b>	<b>The Assistant Referees</b>
<b>Law 10</b>	<b>Determining the Outcome of a Match</b>	<b>The Method of Scoring</b>



**Law 2 is the only Law  
where no changes or  
clarifications were made.**



**The following Laws have changes or clarifications that are insignificant with regard to effecting match play:**

**Law 1**

**Law 4**

**Law 6**

**Law 9**

**Law 17**



## Clarification – No Law Change

If, after a goal is scored and play has **restarted**, the referee realizes an extra person (i.e. a team member or an outside agent) was on the field-of-play when the goal was scored, the goal still stands and **can not** be taken away.

*Clarification simply re-emphasizes the fact that a decision can not be changed after the referee has allowed play to be restarted.*



## Clarification – Subtle Law Change

**Anyone not named on the team list as a player, substitute or team official is deemed to be an **outside agent**.**

*Previously a sent-off player was considered to be an “outside agent” - now a sent-off player is treated just like a substitute.*



## Major Law Change

If a **team official, substitute, substituted or sent-off player** interferes with play, causing the game to be stopped, it will now result in a direct free-kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK) restart.

*Previously the restart was an indirect free-kick (IFK), if a substitute or substituted player merely just entered the field-of-play without permission*

*... and ...*

*If a team official or a sent-off player entered the field-of-play without permission the restart was a dropped ball.*



## Major Law Change

If a **substitute or team official** interferes with play in which the ball is going into the goal, a goal is to be awarded if:

- 1) the ball enters the goal (even if contact is made with the ball) ... and ...
- 2) the interference does not prevent a defending player from being able to play the ball.

*Previously, if any team **member** interfered with play, the referee stopped play immediately and restarted with an **IFK**.*

*The ball was dead at the time of the interference and a goal could never allowed even if it ended up in the goal.*



## Major Law Change

### NOTE:

- *If the outside interference **attempt** to stop the goal is **unsuccessful**, (i.e. the ball enters the goal) the referee **can** apply the advantage principle and award the goal.*
- *If the outside interference **attempt** to stop the goal is **successful**, the referee **can not** apply the advantage principle and award the goal, because the ball never entered the goal itself.*
- *If the referee stops play due to an outside interference, play shall be restarted with the appropriate restart (i.e. a DFK, PK, or dropped ball).*



## Clarification – Law Change

The referee may not change a decision if play has restarted or the referee has **signaled the end of the period and left the field-of-play** or terminated the match.

*Decision can not be changed even if information comes to light e.g. during the half-time interval.*

*If the referee is still on the field-of-play, then the last decision made could be changed.*



## Clarification – Law Change

**When more than one offense occurs at the same time the referee is to punish the more serious offense **in terms of sanction, restart, physical severity or tactical impact.****

*Previously, the restart was based on whether the more serious offense was committed by the same player (or players on the same team) or opposing players. Now the restart is based solely on the more seriousness of the offense regardless of which team .*



## Clarification – Law Change

**... punish the more serious offense in terms of sanction, restart, physical severity or tactical impact.**

*This Law change more clearly defines the criteria for deciding the more serious offense. Examples are:*

- *red card vs. yellow card*
- *DFK vs. IFK*
- *PK vs. DFK*
- *tripping vs. handling*
- *tactical handling vs. careless pushing*



## Major Law Change

If an **outside agent** interferes with play in which the ball is going into the goal, a goal is to be awarded if:

- 1) the ball enters the goal (even if contact is made with the ball) ... and ...
- 2) the interference does not prevent a defending player from being able to play the ball.

*Previously, if an **outside agent** interfered with play, the referee stopped play immediately and restarted with a **dropped ball**.*

*The ball was dead at the time of the interference and a goal could never be allowed even if it ended up in the goal.*

*In accordance with Laws 3 and 5, a goal may be awarded if the ball enters the goal no matter who or what commits the outside interference.*



## Addition – Law Change

An injured player may not be treated on the field except when ... the injury is a result of a physical offense for which the opponent is **cautioned or sent-off**, and as long as the treatment is completed quickly.

*It was determined to be unfair to mandate that the injured player leave the field due to a **serious foul** and thus giving the offending team a numerical advantage.*



## Addition – No Law Change

In addition to the current traditional “two-armed” signal used for an advantage, a similar “**one-arm**” signal is now permitted.

*Since it is not always easy for referees to run with both arms extended, the use of a single arm signal was determined to be an acceptable addition.*



## Addition – Law Change

**Time taken for drinks breaks can now officially be added on at the end of a game.**

*The Laws now **officially** recognize and **allow** for matches to be interrupted for the taking of drinks during extreme weather conditions.*



## Major Law Change

On a kick-off the ball is in play when it is **kicked** and **clearly** moves.

*The ball no longer has to move forward at a kick-off, it just has to be kicked in **any direction** and move for the game to start.*

For all kick restarts the ball must **“clearly move”** to be in play.



## Clarification – Law Interpretation Change

A goal can not be awarded if a dropped ball enters the goal without the ball **touching at least two players**.

*Previously the language stated that a goal could not be awarded if the dropped ball was kicked **directly** into the goal.*

*The interpretation was that **two touches** of the ball by **any player** including the player who first touched the ball (i.e. a ‘double touch’ situation) was all that was to be required before a goal could be awarded.*



## Significant Law Change

**Law 10 now includes the procedures for Kicks from the Penalty Mark (KFPM), which were moved from “The Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match” section of the Laws.**

*These procedures are only used when a winner in a match is required per the rules of the competition.*



## Significant Law Change

Deciding which end a penalty shootout should take place is to be done by a **coin-toss** by the referee, subject to condition of the pitch, or safety concerns.

*In accordance with the Laws this is no longer the referee's choice.*

*However, for most youth games the choice of ends should take into account any safety issues that may override using a coin toss.*

*A second coin toss will then be taken with the winner deciding whether to take the first or second kick.*



## Major Law Change

A team with more players than the other team at the end of the match and **before or during** the kicks must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents.

The team shall choose any of its eligible players to be excluded, but the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player to be excluded.

*Previously, a team **did not reduce** to equate **during** the taking of the kicks.*

*This Law change is intended to stop teams who have had a player sent-off from benefiting by having their better penalty takers available sooner.*



## Clarifications – No Law Changes

- Hands and arms are **not** to be included when judging offside position.
- A player is in an offside position if **any part** of the head, body or feet is **beyond** the half-line and in the opponent's half of the field.
- A player's **offside position** is judged when the ball is played or touched by a team-mate.
- The offside offense of gaining an advantage includes the act of playing the ball or **interfering with an opponent.**



## Major Law Change

If an offside offense occurs, an IFK is awarded where the offense occurred, i.e. **where the player was determined to have become involved in active play**, e.g. where the player touches the ball or interferes with an opponent.

This includes if the offense occurs in the player's own half of the field.

*Previously the location of where the offense occurred was defined as where the player was **at the time a team-mate played the ball.***

*It was always in the opponent's half of the field.*



## Major Law Change

An attacking player remains inside the goal as the ball enters, a goal must be awarded unless the player commits:

- an **offside offense** ... or ...
- a **Law 12 offense**

In which case play is restarted with an **IFK or DFK**

*Previously a goal was disallowed if the attacking player distracted an opponent and then play was restarted with a **dropped ball**.*

*New wording eliminates the “distraction” of an opposing player as a reason to disallow a goal.*



## Additions – Law Changes

A DFK is awarded if a player tackles or challenges an opponent in a careless, reckless or using excessive force manner.

A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

*A tackle implies a challenge only with the foot, but some **challenges** can be made with other parts of the body (e.g. elbows, arms, knees, etc.)*



## Clarifications – Law Changes

A player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior, if the player **handles** the ball:

- to interfere with or stop a **promising attack**
- In an **unsuccessful attempt** to prevent a goal

*This clarification specifically defines the instances when a caution should be administered for a handling foul.*

*Previously, Law 12 stated that a caution for handling “**to prevent an opponent gaining possession**” was to be given. This caused some referees to caution for every handball and is the reason that this language has been eliminated.*



## Major Law Change

When a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own **penalty area** which denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) **AND** the referee awards a **penalty kick**, the offending player is **cautioned**, unless:

- the offense is holding, pulling or pushing
- the offense is one which is punishable by a red card
- the offending player does not attempt to play the ball
- the offending player has no possibility of making a challenge to play the ball



## Major Law Change

*Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity in the penalty area is no longer a straight red card.*

*The change for DOGSO offenses committed by a defender in the penalty area, which results in a the **penalty kick**, effectively restores the goal-scoring opportunity.*

*Thus, the punishment is **less severe** (i.e. a caution) than when the same offense is committed outside the penalty area (i.e. send-off).*



## Major Law Change

When a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a deliberate **handball** offense, **wherever the offense occurs**, the player is sent-off.

*This clarification specifically denotes that there is **no exception** for a send-off of a player for a handball offense if committed within the penalty area, as is the case when there is a genuine attempt to play or challenge for the ball.*

*Also note that FIFA / USSF now recognizes the use of the term "**handball**" when describing a handling offense.*



## Major Law Change

A **DFK (or PK)** is awarded if the ball is in play and a player commits an offense on the field-of-play against:

- a team-mate
- a substitute
- a substituted player
- a team official (either team)
- a **match official (referee or AR)**

*Previously an offense by a player against another match participant resulted in an **IFK or dropped ball** restart.*

*Now a **DFK (or PK)** restart is to be administered for committing an offense against any other participant.*



## Major Law Change

If a player leaves the field-of-play as part of play and commits an offense against another player, play is restarted with a **free kick (IFK or DFK)** on the touchline or the goal line nearest where the offense occurred.

*This is a repeat of the changes made in Laws 13 and 14 regarding an off the field-of-play offense by a player as part of play.*

*A DFK offense by a defender, which occurs off the field, outside the goal line and within the width of the offender's penalty area, would result in a PK restart.*



## Major Law Change

A penalty kick is awarded if a **DFK offense occurs off the field** as part of play within the confines of the offender's penalty area.

*This is a repeat of the changes made in Laws 12 and 13 regarding a DFK offense by a defender off the field as part of play and within the width of the penalty area.*



## Major Law Change

If at the taking of the penalty kick one of the following infringements occurs, play will be restarted with an **indirect free kick (IFK)** regardless of whether or not a goal is scored:

- a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick
- the penalty kick is kicked backwards
- feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up (feinting in the run-up is permitted).

*This change emphasizes that the standard re-take / goal / indirect free kick decision does not apply to these specific situations.*



## Major Law Change

A referee must also **caution** the player taking the kick when:

- a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick
- feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up

*These situations are considered to be **deliberate** acts of unsporting behavior and must be punished accordingly, and again whether a goal is scored or not.*



## Major Law Change

If the goalkeeper commits an infringement and the ball does not enter the goal, the penalty kick is retaken and the goalkeeper is **cautioned**.

*The situation when a goalkeeper comes off the line too early is also considered to be a **deliberate** act of unsporting behavior and is to be punished accordingly, but only if it causes a retake of the penalty kick.*



## Major Law Change

If at the taking of the penalty kick a player from both teams infringes the penalty kick is retaken **unless a player commits a more serious offense (e.g. illegal feinting).**

*In effect , an infringement that warrants a caution would typically be considered as the more serious offense and that the restart should be in accordance with that infringement.*



## Clarification – No Significant Law Change

**Opposing players who try to impede a throw-in will be cautioned, if they are moving closer than 2-yds. from where the throw-in is to be taken.**

*Clarifies that not respecting the 2-yd. distance is considered unfairly distracting or impeding the thrower.*

*A caution should only be given if a player fails to heed an official's instruction to move away.*



## Clarification – No Significant Law Change

If an opponent, who is in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken, **touches or challenges** for the ball before it has touched another player, the goal kick is **retaken**.

*This additional 'special case' language clarifies that an opponent cannot gain an advantage from not having left the penalty area at the taking of the kick.*

*The goal kick is retaken even though the ball has left the penalty area and into play.*



## Clarification – No Law Change

If the ball enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents if the ball left the penalty area (i.e. meaning into the field-of-play).

*Law 16 still states that if the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area (and into the field-of-play) the goal kick must be retaken.*

*This addition deals with 'once in a lifetime' situation where an 'own goal' is scored directly from a goal kick in which the ball must first have left the penalty area into the field-of-play and then back into the goal. This effectively can only occur in a strong wind.*



## Contains definitions of words or phrases:

- which need clarification or
- which need explanation beyond detail in the Laws and/or
- which are not always easily translated into other languages

## Significant Definitions:

- **Played** – action by a player which makes contact with the ball
- **Save** – an action by a player to stop the ball when it is going into or very close to the goal ...
- **Intentional** – a deliberate action (not an accident)



## Significant Definitions:

- **Playing Distance** - distance to the ball which allows a player to touch the ball the ball by extending their foot/leg or jumping ....  
**Distance depends on physical size of the player.**
- **Charge** – physical challenge against an opponent usually using the shoulder or upper arm (which is kept close to the body).
- **Tackle** – a challenge for the ball with the foot (on the ground or in the air).
- **Intercept** – to prevent the ball reaching its intended destination.



## Significant Definitions:

- **Outside Agent** – any person who is not a match official or on the team list (players, substitutes and team officials). **An extra ball, other objects or animals are not included in this definition, but nonetheless they are “outside agents”.**
- **Team Official** – any non-player listed on the official team list e.g. coach, physiotherapist (trainer), doctor ... (see *technical staff*)
- **Technical Staff** – official non-playing team members listed on the official team list e.g. coach, physiotherapist (trainer), doctor ... (see *team official*)
- **Other Match Officials** – Assistant Referees (AR), Fourth Official, Additional Assistant Referees (AAR), Reserve Assistant Referee