



2019/20 IFAB Law Changes

Law 1) No Changes

Law 2) No Changes

Law 3)

Change A) A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee.

Law 4)

Change A) Undershirts can be multi-colored/patterned if exactly the same as the sleeves of the main shirt.

Law 5)

Change A) Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted, but in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident.

Change B) If the referee leaves the field for a VAR review or to call players back onto the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed.

Change C) 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

Change D) 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.

Law 6) No Changes

Law 7)

Change A) Clarification of the difference between 'cooling' and 'drinks' breaks.

Law 8)

Change A) The team that wins the toss may choose to take the kick off.

Change B) Dropped ball – ball dropped goalkeeper (if play is stopped in penalty area) or for one player of team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch; all players (of both teams) must be at least 4m (4.5 yds) away.

Law 9)

Change A) Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee (or other match official) and goes into the goal, possession changes or an attacking move starts.

Law 10)

Change A) Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal

Law 11) No Changes

Law 12)

Change A) Handball text re-written for greater clarity/consistency with clear guidelines for when 'non-deliberate' handball should (and should not) be penalized.

Change B) Confirmation that an 'illegal' handball offence by a goal keeper in their own penalty area is not sanctioned with a YC/RC.



Change C) If, after a throw-in or deliberate pass from a team-mate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball.

Change D) Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a goal-scoring opportunity.

Change E) The YC for an 'illegal' goal celebration remains even if the goal is disallowed.

Change F) List of the warning/YC/RC offences for team officials

Change G) All verbal offences are punishable with an IFK

Change H) Kicking an object is punished in the same way as throwing an object.

Law 13)

Change A) Once an IFK has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IFK signal if it is clear that goal cannot be scored directly. (e.g. from most offside IFK)

Change B) For defending team free kicks in their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.

Change C) When there is a defensive 'wall' of at least 3 players, all attacking team must be at least 1m from the 'wall'; IFK if the encroach.

Law 14)

Change A) Goalpost, crossbar, and nets must not be moving when the penalty kick is taken and the goalkeeper must not be touching them.

Change B) Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line.

Change C) If an offence occurs after the referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken but the kick is not taken, it must then be taken after any YC/RC is issued.

Law 15)

Change A) Opponents must be at least 2m from the point on the touchline where the throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line.

Law 16)

Change A) At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.

Law 17) No Changes