



MWFRA

Change of Laws

Presentation

2025

Overview of 2025 Law Changes

Law 1. The Field of Play

- Clarification that the goal line technology (GLT) indication that a goal has been scored can be communicated via the referee's earpiece/headset

Law 3. The Players

- The use of additional permanent concussion substitutions is now available to competitions
- Each team must have a captain who wears an identifying armband

Law 4. The Players' Equipment

- Clarification that players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shinguards
- Clarification of the requirements for the captain's compulsory armband
- Reference to gloves to be included under 'Other equipment'
- Reference to tracksuit bottoms for goalkeepers to be removed from 'Compulsory equipment' and included under 'Other equipment'

Overview of 2025 Law Changes

Law 12. Fouls and Misconduct

- Clarification that non-deliberate handball offences for which penalties are awarded are to be sanctioned in the same way as fouls which are an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball

Law 14. The Penalty Kick

- Clarification that part of the ball must touch or overhang the centre of the penalty mark
- Encroachment by players will be penalised only if it has an impact (same philosophy as goalkeeper encroachment)

Law Changes 2025

Changes to Law 1. The Field of Play > 1.11 Goal line technology (GLT) –

Principles of GLT

Not relevant to Community Football

Changes to Law 3. The Players > 3.2 Number of substitutions

Additional permanent concussion substitutions

Not relevant to Community Football

Changes to Law 3. The Players > 3.10 Team captain

Each team **must** have a captain on the field of play who wears an identifying armband.

Not relevant to Community Football

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Changes to Law 4. The Players' Equipment > 4.2 Compulsory equipment

Shinguards – these must be made of a suitable material and be of an appropriate size to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks. Players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shinguards.

Clarification that players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shinguards. Having provided this information in the definition of 'shinguard' in the Glossary, it is now also included in the Laws text.

Changes to Law 4. The Players' Equipment > 4.2 Compulsory equipment & 4.4 Other equipment

Non-dangerous protective equipment, for example gloves, headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted, as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles. Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms.

Reference to gloves has been included under 'Other equipment' to reflect the fact that they are widely used, especially by goalkeepers. Reference to tracksuit bottoms for goalkeepers has been removed from 'Compulsory equipment' and included under 'Other equipment' to accurately reflect the fact that they are not compulsory.

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Changes to Law 12. Fouls and Misconduct > 12.3 Disciplinary action

Cautions for unsporting behaviour

- handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack, except where the referee awards a penalty kick for a non-deliberate handball offence
- denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick for a non-deliberate handball offence

Sending-off offences

A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a deliberate handball offence (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)
- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a non-deliberate handball offence outside their own penalty area

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Changes to Law 12. Fouls and Misconduct > 12.3 Disciplinary action

Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO)

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a deliberate handball offence, the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs (except a goalkeeper within their penalty area).

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing a non-deliberate handball offence and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned.

Non-deliberate handball offences are usually the result of a player attempting to play fairly, so when a penalty kick is awarded for such offences, the same philosophy should apply as for offences (fouls) which are an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball, i.e. DOGSO offences result in a yellow card and SPA offences result in no card. Deliberate handball remains a red-card offence when a penalty kick is awarded, as it is similar to holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.

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Changes to Law 14. The Penalty Kick > 14.1 Procedure

The ball must be stationary, ~~or~~ with part of the ball touching or overhanging the centre of the penalty mark, and the goalposts, crossbar and goal net must not be moving.

Changes to Law 14. The Penalty Kick > 14.2 Offences and sanctions

If, before the ball is in play, one of the following occurs:

- a team-mate of the player taking the penalty kick is penalised for encroachment only if:
 - the encroachment clearly impacted on the goalkeeper; or
 - the encroaching player plays the ball or challenges an opponent for the ball and then scores, attempts to score or creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- a team-mate of the goalkeeper is penalised for encroachment only if:
 - the encroachment clearly impacted on the kicker; or
 - the encroaching player plays the ball or challenges an opponent for the ball and this prevents the opponents from scoring, attempting to score or creating a goal-scoring opportunity

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Changes to Law 14. The Penalty Kick > 14.3 Summary

table

	Outcome of the penalty kick	
	Goal	No Goal
Encroachment by attacking player	Impact: penalty is retaken No impact: goal	Impact: indirect free kick No impact: no retake
Encroachment by defending player	Impact: goal No impact: goal	Impact: penalty is retaken No impact: no retake
Encroachment by attacking and defending player	Impact: penalty is retaken No impact: goal	Impact: penalty is retaken No impact: no retake
Offence by goalkeeper	Goal	Not saved: penalty is not retaken (unless kicker is clearly impacted) Saved: penalty is retaken and warning to goalkeeper; caution for any other offence(s)
Goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
'Illegal feinting'	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker