



Laws of the Game Changes 2024

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Law 3 - The Players

Goal scored with an extra person on the field of play

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

- 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; play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position of the extra person
 - an outside agent who interfered with play unless a goal results as outlined above, play is restarted with a dropped ball

- the referee must allow the goal if the extra person was:
 - a player, substitute, substituted player, sent-off player or team official of the team that conceded the goal
 - an outside agent who did not interfere with play



Law 3 - The Players (cont)

Goal scored with an extra person on the field of play

Explanation:

Clarification that the referee should take action against an extra person on the field of play when a goal is scored **only if the person affected the play**, e.g. the Law does not expect the referee to penalise encroachment onto the field of play if it does not impact the play.



Law 7 - The Duration of the Match

Allowance for time lost

MWFA Competition Regulations hold that stoppage time is to be played in all games that have 45 minute halves (under 18s and above).

LOTG 7.3: Allowance is made by the referee in each half for all playing time lost in that half through:

- substitutions
- assessment and/or removal of injured players
- wasting time
- disciplinary sanctions
- medical stoppages permitted by competition rules e.g. 'drinks' breaks (which should not exceed one minute) and 'cooling' breaks (ninety seconds to three minutes)
- delays relating to VAR 'checks' and 'reviews'
- goal celebrations
- any other cause, including any significant delay to a restart (e.g. due to interference by an outside agent)



Law 7 - The Duration of the March (cont)

Allowance for time lost

Explanation:

Clarification that goal celebrations will be listed separately to emphasise that they often result in a significant amount of time being lost.



Law 11 - Offside

Offside Offence

A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a team-mate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by:

- interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team-mate or
- interfering with an opponent by:
 - preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or
 - challenging an opponent for the ball or
 - clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent or
 - making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball or
- gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when it has:
 - rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, match official or an opponent
 - been deliberately saved by any opponent



Law 11 - Offside (cont)

Offside Offence additional text

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately played the ball, including by deliberate handball, is not considered to have gained an advantage, unless it was a deliberate save by any opponent.

‘Deliberate play’ (excluding deliberate handball) is when a player has control of the ball with the possibility of:

- passing the ball to a team-mate;
- gaining possession of the ball; or
- clearing the ball (e.g. by kicking or heading it)

If the pass, attempt to gain possession or clearance by the player in control of the ball is inaccurate or unsuccessful, this does not negate the fact that the player ‘deliberately played’ the ball.



Law 11 - Offside (cont)

Offside Offence additional text

The following criteria should be used, as appropriate, as indicators that a player was in control of the ball and, as a result, can be considered to have ‘deliberately played’ the ball:

- The ball travelled from distance and the player had a clear view of it
- The ball was not moving quickly
- The direction of the ball was not unexpected
- The player had time to coordinate their body movement, i.e. it was not a case of instinctive stretching or jumping, or a movement that achieved limited contact/control
- A ball moving on the ground is easier to play than a ball in the air



Law 11 - Offside (cont)

Offside Offence additional text

Explanation:

The additional wording clarifies the guidelines for distinguishing between 'deliberate play' and 'deflection' based on the expectation that a player who is clearly in an offside position should not become onside on all occasions when an opponent moves and touches the ball.



Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

Disciplinary Action “challenge for the ball”

Cautions for unsporting behaviour

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, including if a player:

- (...)
- handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack
- commits any other offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack, except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball
- denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by committing an offence which was an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick



Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct (cont)

Disciplinary Action “challenge for the ball”

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

Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offence was an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball etc.), the offending player must be sent off.



Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct (cont)

Disciplinary Action “challenge for the ball”

Explanation:

It is not always clear whether an action was an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball (or both). The same principle should apply for challenging for the ball as attempting to play the ball. Where the referee awards a penalty for a DOGSO offence, the offending player is only sent off if the offence was committed without the possibility to play the ball.



Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

Disciplinary Action “team officials”

Where an offence is committed by someone from the technical area (substitute, substituted player, sent-off player or team official) and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

Clarification that the senior team official can be sanctioned only for an offence committed by an ‘unidentified offender’ who is in/from the technical area, i.e. this does not apply to an offence committed by an ‘unidentified player’.



Law 14 - The Penalty Kick

Procedure (esp Goalkeeper)

The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts until the ball is kicked. The goalkeeper must not behave in a way that unfairly distracts the kicker, e.g. delay the taking of the kick or touch the goalposts, crossbar or goal net.

Clarification that the goalkeeper must not behave in a manner that fails to show respect for the game and the opponent, i.e. by unfairly distracting the kicker.



Further law changes for your own perusal

<https://www.theifab.com/law-changes/latest/>

Law 6: The Other Match Officials

Reserve assistant referees to give the same assistance to the referee as the other 'on-field' match officials

Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match

Terminology change - 'kicks from the penalty mark' changed to 'penalties (penalty shoot-out) *and*

clarification that warnings and cautions for team officials, as well as for players, are **not** carried forward into penalties (penalty shoot-out)

VAR Protocol