



# MWFRA NEWSLETTER

February/March 2018



## What to expect in 2018

The 2017 season was one to remember, with the introduction of some of the most extensive Law changes in recent years. Leading into the 2018 season, there are definitely less amendments than last year however it is still critical that all referees familiarise themselves with these changes.

The 2018 season will also see the introduction to a third batch of referee communication equipment, with the goal to introduce it to the U18/1s on Friday nights. We have also seen NSW State League Referees adopt the same communication systems last year.

Towards the end of last year, the Northern Beaches Football Council was developed in order to direct all

relevant football associations in the Northern Beaches towards a common goal. Ex-Registrar and Number Cruncher Craig McBurnie was selected to represent the MWFRA. The first council meeting focused on collecting the goals and visions of each association/body.

Trials for the FNSW Referee Academy for 2018 have finally come to an end with MWFRA referees Rebecca Mackie, Naomi Peterson and Jasmin Hill being selected for a second year in a row! MWFRA also had a new addition to the Academy with Ivica Covic claiming a spot on the panel. The MWFRA would like to wish these referees - as well as all members - the best of luck in the 2018 season!

### LAW CHANGES FOR 2017/2018

# IFAB<sup>®</sup>

There has been further refinement on the laws for the 2017/2018 season which includes clarifications and amendments (see page 3).

### REFEREE ACADEMY REVIEW



2017 was a great year for some of our younger members who were selected to part of the FNSW Referee Academy (see page 8).

### DRESS TO IMPRESS



It is important to dress correctly and appropriately in order to command respect amongst players, coaches and spectators (see page 8).

# Important dates

Referee Courses 2018			
Course	Venue	Date	Time
Level 4 Referee Course (Juniors)	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Sunday 18 February 2018	9:00 AM
Level 4 Referee Course (Juniors)	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Saturday 17 March 2018	9:00 AM
Level 4 Referee Course (Seniors)	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Sunday 18 March 2018	9:00 AM
Level Referee Course (Seniors)	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Saturday 24 March 2018	9:00 AM
Level 4 Revalidation Course	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Sunday 25 March 2018	9:30 AM
Level 3 Referee Course	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Sunday 15 April 2018	9:00 AM
Level 3 Assessor Course	Cromer Park Clubhouse	Sunday 8 April 2018	9:00 AM

Fitness Tests 2018			
Event	Venue	Date	Time
Fitness Test	Sydney Acadmy of Sport, Narrabeen	Monday 5 March 2018	6:15pm for 6:45pm test start
Fitness Test	Sydney Acadmy of Sport, Narrabeen	Tuesday 20 March 2018	6:15pm for 6:45pm test start
Fitness Test	Sydney Acadmy of Sport, Narrabeen	Wednesday 4 April 2018	6:15pm for 6:45pm test start

## Feedback

I wish to create a newsletter that all MWFRA members would enjoy reading, whether it be informative or funny. However, I need the help from the members as to what sort of content you would like to see and enjoy reading. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think might be worth exploring in future newsletters I would greatly appreciate if you could email [website@mwfra.org.au](mailto:website@mwfra.org.au).

## Story Submissions

In future newsletters, I am hoping to include a section dedicated to funny/interesting stories that members can read to either have a laugh, or to learn from uncommon events. If you have any interesting stories you would like to share please email [website@mwfra.org.au](mailto:website@mwfra.org.au) with your story and I will endeavour to publish it in the next monthly newsletter.

## Q&A

I would also like to include a section where members submit questions about laws that they are unfamiliar with that they would like some clarity on. This could be a law, or it could be a scenario which occurred in a match. In regards to scenarios, please ensure to be as descriptive as possible so that I/we can answer as best as possible. Please send all questions to [website@mwfra.org.au](mailto:website@mwfra.org.au)

# IFAB law changes & clarifications for 2017/2018

Despite the extensive and significant law changes that were made in 2016/2017, the International Football Association's Board (IFAB) have further amended the laws for the 2017/2018 season. These laws have already been implemented at the highest levels of Australian Football, including the A-League and W-League. Most of these amendments are more clarifications as well as some minor changes. One of the biggest changes is the introduction of temporary dismissals (or sin bins). However, we will cover this in another article. The following changes have been extracted from the online IFAB Laws of the Game and only changes relevant to MWFA competitions have been included:

## Law 3 - The Players

There is now clearer wording for the substitution procedure:

**A substitution is completed when a substitute enters the field of play; from that moment, the replaced player becomes a substituted player and the substitute becomes a player and can take any restart.**

This change simply clarifies when a substitute becomes a player. It also emphasises that the substitute must enter the field of play before taking any restart (throw-in, free kick, goal kick, corner kick etc.) A good example of why this has been clarified is when a substitution and throw-in occur at the same time on the touchline nearest to the technical area. Often the substitute replacing a player runs up the touch line to take the throw-in but does not actually enter the field of play until after the throw. This change now highlights the substitute must enter the field of play before taking a throw-in (or any other restart).

**A substitution made at half-time without informing the referee is not a cautionable offence.**

This is not really an issue at grassroots level because most of the matches are interchange. However, where there are substitutions (Men's PL 1st Grade) it is important to always ask the coaches before starting the second

half whether any substitutions have been made, as these must be recorded. Additionally, changing the goalkeeper at half-time without informing the referee is not a caution.

**A player who re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission (if it is required) and interferes is punished with a direct free kick. If the player does not interfere with play, then an indirect free kick must be awarded. In both cases, the referee must stop play, though not immediately if the player does not interfere with play or a match official, or if the advantage can be applied.**

Punishing the offending player with a direct free kick for interfering with play makes sense in the eyes of justice, as a direct free kick restores balance to the team that was originally disadvantaged. Furthermore, it is no longer necessary to require the offending player to leave the field of play after the caution (YC).

**A team which scores a goal with an extra person (player, substitute, substituted player, sent off player or team official) on the field is punished with a direct free kick (DFK) from the position where the extra person was located.**

This change makes the law consistent with the 2016/2017 changes which penalises a substitute/team official who enters the field of play without permission with a direct free kick.

## Law 4 - The Player's Equipment

**Goalkeeper's caps are not included in the list of restrictions on head covers.**

This change explains that the restrictions imposed on head covers (such as being a specific colour etc) do not apply to goalkeeper's caps.

Law 4 also clarifies that players are not permitted to wear/use any electronic or communication equipment, except electronic performance and tracking systems (EPTS). This won't apply to local competitions, as the probability of encountering a grassroots player [who purchased a thousand dollar, high-end 'tech' piece] is quite low. Additionally, technical staff may only use

communication equipment for safety/welfare issues. And all EPTS equipment must bear a minimum safety standard mark. This new wording makes it abundantly clear that players must not use or wear any form of electronic equipment or communication equipment such as a camera, microphone, earpiece etc. You have to wonder who the genius was that tried this out to get it put into the laws.

## **Law 5 - The Referee**

The IFAB have introduced an important statement that states decisions made by match officials must always be respected (even when they are incorrect), because the players read the laws.

**National FAs can now allow temporary dismissals (sin bins) for some/all cautions (YC) in grassroots football.**

This season, FNSW will be trialling the Temporary Dismissal (sin-bin) system on some of their competition matches. MWFRA and MWFA will be adopting the same guidelines as set out by FNSW to ensure a consistent approach. The sin bin will be trialled on Men's 18/1s matches as well as the MWFA Challenge Cup.

The guidelines are as follows:

- Any player (including the goalkeeper) who is cautioned for dissent (by word or action) towards a match official will be punished with a yellow card and a temporary dismissal period of 5 minutes for junior matches or 10 minutes for senior matches - U18 and above will apply
- The player must leave the field of play and stay seated within the technical area. The temporary dismissal period starts when the player leaves the field.
- The team can't interchange the player and must play with one (1) less player for the duration of the dismissal period
- The Referee or Club Official will be the timekeeper of the dismissal period. The Assistant Referees and 4th Official will also assist if applicable.
- Once the dismissal period is complete, the player is to stand near the half way line and wait for the Referee to call the player back onto the field. The Referee must wait for an appropriate time during the match (similar to an injured player returning to

the field) or at a stoppage. This may result in the dismissal period being slightly extended.

- If the player is shown a second yellow card in the match for any offence, including dissent towards a match official, the player will be shown a red card for a second caution in the same match and can't return or be replaced with an interchange player or substitute.
- If a team is reduced to 6 players or less the match must not resume.
- If the goalkeeper is cautioned for dissent towards a Match Official they may be replaced by an interchange player but the offending team must remove a current field player and play the temporary dismissal period with one (1) less player.

**A medical official guilty of a dismissible offence may stay/treat players if no other medical person is available for the team.**

I believe the reasoning behind this decision is that the players should not be disadvantaged as a consequence of the actions of another. All players should be entitled to that [magic] spray.

## **Law 7 - The Duration of the Match**

This change is short and sweet, and has already been implemented by the players for quite a while:

**Players are now allowed a short drink's break at half-time of extra time.**

Consideration of players' welfare is important and it is sensible to allow the players a quick drinks break. This break is not for coaching purposes and referees [particularly AR1 and the 4th Official where applicable] should monitor this carefully.

## **Law 8 - The Start & Restart of Play**

The following is a change which will be welcomed by many players:

**The kicker can now stand in the opponents' half at the kick-off.**

The kicker can now stand in the opponents' half at the kick-off. This is a change that brings great comfort because players never did this before! In all seriousness, the previous laws made passing backwards at kick-off



very difficult.

## **Law 10 - Determining the Outcome of A Match (new title)**

Kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM):

- Corrected wording for goalkeeper who is unable to continue – the previous law was that a goalkeeper who is injured was able to be replaced by a substitute. I believe it has now been clarified so that it captures a wider variety of reasons that a goalkeeper can be replaced by a substitute that was not originally captured by the term 'injury', such as illness.
- Excluded player may replace a goalkeeper even if team has used all its permitted substitutes – this encompasses IFAB's philosophy of fairness and balance.
- Kicker may not play the ball a second time – simple clarification that states the player only has one chance.
- A goalkeeper who offends and the penalty has to be retaken must be cautioned (YC)
- If the kicker offends the kick is forfeited (recorded as 'missed')
- If the goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time:
  - retake and two cautions (YCs) if no goal is scored
  - if a goal is scored the kicker is cautioned (YC) and kick recorded as 'missed'

## **Law 11 - Offside**

**An offside player can now be penalised if the ball rebounds/deflects off a match official.**

This explanation simply provides clarity to an uncommon situation, so that referees are better equipped to make the correct decision.

There is now clarification to the definition of 'save' which now includes the phrase 'attempts to stop'.

**A 'save' is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).**

This emphasises that a player should be guilty/not guilty of an offside offence based on the intent of an opponent to make a save, rather than based on whether that save was successful or not.

Offside guidance:

- A player in an offside position who impedes an opponent must be penalised
- A player in an offside position who is fouled before committing an offside offence – foul penalised.
- player in offside position who is fouled when already committing an offside offence – offside penalised.

## **Law 12 - Fouls & Misconduct**

There have been quite a few changes and clarifications in this law, which is one of the most important, yet difficult laws to enforce, mostly due to the limited time a referee has to make these decisions to with so much information running through their head.

**Verbal/gesture offences are punished with an indirect FK, regardless of whether there was a caution (YC) or sending-off (RC)**

Some have incorrectly interpreted the direct free kick for a 'offences against a match official' to include dissent etc. but it only applies to physical offences.

**If an advantage is played for a sending-off (RC) and the player commits another offence, that offence is penalised.**

It is important to note that IFAB have made it clear that on the second offence, no advantage should be applied. I believe this is for safety reasons.

**A player 'stopping a promising attack' (SPA) in the penalty area is not cautioned (YC) if the offence was an attempt to play the ball.**

IFAB has removed the law which cautions (YC) a player for stopping a promising attack when a penalty kick is awarded for an offence which was an attempt to play the ball so that it is consistent with a caution (YC), not a sending-off (RC) if the referee awards a penalty kick for a DOGSO offence which is an attempt to play the ball i.e. a DOGSO offence (resulting in a penalty kick) which is an attempt to play the ball should not be equivalent

to a SPA offence (also resulting in a penalty kick) which is an attempt to play the ball.

**'Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity' (DOGSO) offence in the penalty area which was an attempt to play the ball has been added to the list of cautions (YC).**

This cautionable offence (YC) has been added under the umbrella of 'unsporting behaviour'. In addition, a Caution (YC) must be given for goal celebrations which cause safety/security issues, or is provocative.

**If player moves diagonally to pass the last defender/goalkeeper this can still be a DOGSO.**

Previously, if a player moved diagonally (away from goal), it was not considered DOGSO. This is a pretty obvious change, as most of the time an attacking player who is one-on-one with the opposing goalkeeper often has to pass them by moving diagonally.

**Entering the field of play without permission (including when a player requires permission to return to the field from an injury) and stopping a goal or DOGSO is a sending-off (RC) offence, regardless of whether no other offence was committed.**

Play is restarted with a direct free kick if the DOGSO offence was outside the Penalty Area, and a penalty kick if the offence occurred inside the Penalty Area.

**An off-field offence by or against a player involving an opposing player, substitute, team official (or against a match official) is penalised by free kick (IDFK or DFK depending on the offence) on the boundary line if the ball is in play.**

Further clarity has been shed on offences occurring between players and non-players.

**A direct free kick is awarded for throwing or kicking ball/object onto the field to interfere with play/someone**

**A direct free kick is awarded on boundary line for throwing or kicking ball/object at someone off the field**

This law does not apply for offences between substitutes or team officials; it is only for an offence by or against one of the players.

In addition, the following clarifications surrounding objects being thrown have been made:

### **Law 13 - Free Kicks**

**Attacker in or entering the penalty area before a defensive FK has left the area cannot play or challenge for the ball until it has been touched by another player**

### **Law 14 - The Penalty Kick**

**The player taking the penalty kick must be clearly identified**

This is not new, but a simple clarification. Referees should clearly ask who is taking the penalty kick to avoid any confusion and potential problems that may arise from failure to identify the penalty kick taker.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken and completed at the end of each half of the match or extra time.

**When additional time is allowed, the penalty kick is completed when, after the kick has been taken, the ball stops moving, goes out of play, is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper, or the referee stops play for an offence by the kicker or the kicker's team. If a defending team player (including the goalkeeper) commits an offence and the penalty is missed/saved, the penalty is retaken**

If, after the penalty kick has been taken, the ball is touched by an outside agent as it moves forward:

the kick is retaken unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent the goalkeeper or a defending player playing the ball, in which case 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.

The above table summarises the remaining changes to Law 14 in red, as well as all the outcomes during a penalty kick.

## Law 16 - The Goal Kick

The attacker entering the penalty area cannot play or challenge for the ball until it is touched by another player. Otherwise the goal kick is retaken.

### Outcome of the Penalty Kick

Offence	Goal	No Goal
Encroachment by attacking	Penalty is retaken	Indirect free kick against attacking team
Encroachment by defending player	Goal	Penalty is retaken
Offence by goalkeeper	Goal	Penalty is retaken and caution for goalkeeper
Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick against attacking team	Indirect free kick against attacking team
Illegal feinting	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick against attacking team and caution for wrong kicker	Retaken and caution for kicker and goalkeeper
Goalkeeper and kicker at the same time	Indirect free kick against attacking team and caution for kicker	Retaken and caution for kicker and goalkeeper



Photo by Jeremy Denham



## FNSW referee academy 2017 review

Five MWFRA youngsters took the drive down the M2 to attend monthly Football NSW Referee Academy meetings in 2017. In what was an amazing coup for the MWFRA; Sam Kelly, Joshua Courts, Naomi Peterson, Bec Mackie and Jasmin Hill brushed shoulders with refereeing royalty whilst being coached and mentored by current Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League match officials and assessors.

The FNSW Referee Academy was established in 2015 to provide high performance training for identified elite referee talent, male and female aged between 15-19 to provide intensive training in specific areas, to assist and prepare the selected referees for success at FFA tournaments, such as, National Titles, and for referees to potentially be identified by FFA, as future Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League and National Youth League Referees, to be part of the National Talent Pool.

Our referee's excelled in the Academy and were provided many opportunities to develop their refereeing. Naomi, Bec and Jasmin were selected to show class their skills at the Girls National Titles, where Bec picked up referee of the U14 tournament! Sam attended the Boys National Titles in September. In addition, Sam, Naomi and Bec attended the Pacific School Games in Adelaide last December, representing FNSW and MWFRA.

Sam was awarded U18 referee of the year by NSW State League Football referees and took charge of the U18 NPL1 grand final, along with MWFRA member Ivica Covic as AR2. Naomi whistled the NSW Women's State League grand final, a fantastic achievement.



Sam Kelly (centre left) and Ivica Covic (far right) officiating the NPL1 U18s Grand Final with fellow State League referees.

And Joshua was an Assistant Referee on the U18 NPL3 grand final. MWFRA wishes to congratulate these members on an outstanding 2017 season representing our branch at a higher level. We look forward to what 2018 brings for our members.

## Dress to impress

People are often judged based on appearances, and being a referee is no exception. It is critical that referees look the part at all times while they are performing their duties. The most important way to look professional is by wearing the uniform properly. The jersey must be tucked into the correct shorts, and black socks should just be below the knees. Referees should wear predominately black boots as well. Some referees do not tuck their shirts in or do not roll up their socks. This does not look good and players and coaches will pick up on this. Dressing unprofessionally could be viewed as being disrespectful in itself. Players and coaches are more likely to accept your decisions or treat you with greater respect if you dress properly. Finally, where there is more than one referee, you should all be wearing the same coloured shirt.



From left to right: Jack Morales, Gerry Lenihan, Sebastien Brennan & Ethan Ryan at the Champion of Champions AL grand final 2016