



Manly Warringah Football Referees Association

Laws of the Game Changes 2020

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Law Change

Dropped Ball - Laws 8 and 9

Change

- If play is stopped inside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for the goalkeeper
- If play is stopped outside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the point of the last touch
- In all cases, all the other players (of both teams) must be at least 4m away
- If the ball touches the referee (or another match official) and goes into the goal, team possession changes or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded

Explanation

- No more contested drop ball, instead the ball will be given to the team last in possession, unless the ball is inside the penalty area where it will be given to the goalkeeper
- If the ball hits the referee and an advantage is gained it will now be a drop ball



Law Change

Free Kicks - Law 13

Change

- When there is a 'wall' of three or more defenders, the attackers are not allowed within 1m of the wall; an attacker less than 1m from the 'wall' when the kick is taken will be penalised with an indirect free kick
- When the defending team takes a free kick in their own penalty area, the ball is in play once the kick is taken; it does not have to leave the penalty area before it can be

Explanation

- Attackers will no longer be allowed to stand within 1m of a wall of three or more defenders



Law Change

Goal Kick - Law 16

Change

- The ball is in play once the kick is taken; it can be played before leaving the penalty area

Explanation

- The ball no longer has to leave the penalty area to be in play. Opponents must still remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play



Law Change

Handball-Law 12

Change

- Deliberate handball remains an offence
- The following 'handball' situations, even if accidental, will be a free kick:
 - the ball goes into the goal after touching an attacking player's hand/arm
 - a player gains control/possession of the ball after it has touches their hand/arm and then scores, or creates a goal-scoring opportunity
 - the ball touches a player's hand/arm which has made their body unnaturally bigger
 - the ball touches a player's hand/arm when it is above their shoulder (unless the player has deliberately played the ball which then touches their hand/arm)



Offence if ball makes contact =
hand/arm making body bigger

No offence if ball
makes contact = hand/
arm supporting body



Law Change

Kick-off- Law 8

Change

- The team that wins the toss can now choose to take the kick-off or which goal to attack (previously they only had the choice of which goal to attack)

Explanation

- Recent Law changes have made the kick-off more dynamic (e.g. a goal can be scored directly from the kick-off) so captains winning the toss often ask to take the kick-off



Law Change

Penalty Kick- Law 14

Change

- The team's penalty taker can have (quick) treatment/assessment and then take the kick
- The goalkeeper must not be touching the goalposts/crossbar/nets; they must not be moving
- The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on/in line with the goal line when the kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line

Explanation

- The penalty kick is not to be taken if the goalkeeper is touching the goalposts, crossbar or net, or if they are moving e.g. the goalkeeper has kicked/shaken them
- Goalkeepers now only need to have one foot on the goal line when the kick is taken



Law Change Substitutes - Law 3

Change

- A player who is being substituted must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly/ immediately at the halfway line or a different point because of safety, injury etc.)

Explanation

- Substitutes must now leave the field at the nearest point to avoid time wasting. They must go immediately to the technical area after leaving the field



Law Change Team Officials - Laws 5 & 12

Change

- A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a YC (caution) or RC (sending off); if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach who is in the technical area at the time will receive the YC/RC

Explanation

- Team officials can now be shown a Yellow Card or Red Card