

# Outline Summary of Law Changes

Herewith a simple outline of the main changes /clarifications from p111-114 of official rulebook.

**Green: Clarifications on rather commonplace rules.**

**Blue: Interesting rule changes that are less significant or used in extreme circumstances.**

**Yellow: Significant rule changes that have a large impact on the game.**

## Law 01 – The Field of Play

- Artificial and natural surfaces may not be combined on the field
- Competitions may determine field size for their competitions (within Law)
- All commercial advertising on the ground must be at least 1m (1yd) from boundary lines
- Logos/emblems of FAs, competitions etc... allowed on corner flags (no advertising)

## Law 02 – The Ball None

### Law 03 – The Players (new title)

- A match may not start/continue if a team has fewer than 7 players
- **Substitutes may take a restart but must first step onto the field**
- Clarifies situation when a player is sent off before/after kick-off
- **Direct FK (or penalty) if a substitute/team official interferes with play**
- **If something/someone (other than a player) touches a ball as it goes into the goal the referee can award the goal if the touch had no impact on the defenders**
- If a goal is scored with an extra person on the field and referee has restarted play the goal stands and match continues

### Law 04 – The Players' Equipment

- Any tape or other material on/covering socks must be same color as the sock
- **Player losing footwear/shinguard accidentally can play on until next stoppage**
- Undershorts must be color of shorts or hem; team must all wear same color
- Electronic communication with substitutes is forbidden
- Player can return during play after changing/correcting equipment, once equipment has been checked (by referee, fourth official or AR) and referee signals

### Law 05 – The Referee

- Decision cannot be changed if play restarted or referee has left the field (HT+FT)
- If several offences occur at the same time the most serious is punished
- Referee can send a player off from pre-match pitch inspection onwards
- Referee can only use RC + YC after entering the field at start of the match
- **Player injured by RC/YC foul can be quickly assessed/ treated and stay on field**

- The equipment a referee can or may be allowed to use
- Diagrams of referee signals included (from Guidelines section)
- New Advantage Signal – Center Referee may use one arm to signal advantage

#### Law 06 – The Other Match Officials (new title)

- More details about the duties of the assistants, AARs, fourth official
- Diagrams of assistant referee signals included (from Guidelines section)

#### Law 07 – The Duration of the Match

- More reasons for additional time (e.g. medical drinks breaks)

#### Law 08 – The Start and Restart of Play

- All restarts included (previously only kick-off and dropped ball)
- Ball must **clearly move** to be in play for all kicked restarts
- Ball can be kicked in any direction at kick-off (previously had to go forward)
- Referee cannot ‘manufacture’ outcome of a dropped ball

#### Law 09 – The Ball in and out of Play

- If a ball rebounds off a match official it is in play unless it has wholly passed over a boundary line

#### Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match (new title) Kicks from the penalty mark:

- Referee will toss a coin to choose the goal for Kicks from the Penalty Mark (unless weather, safety, etc.)
- Player temporarily off the field (e.g. injured) at final whistle can take part
- Both teams must have same number of players before and during the kicks
- Clear statement of when a kick is over
- Kicks not delayed if player leaves the field; if not back in time kick is forfeited

#### Law 11 – Offside

- Halfway line ‘neutral’ for offside; player must be in opponents’ half
- Players’ arms not considered when judging offside position (including goalkeeper)
- Offside FK always taken where offence occurs (even in own half)
- Defender off the field only ‘active’ until defending team clear ball or play stops
- As above for attacker returning; before that re-entry point is the offside position

#### Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

- Foul with contact is a direct FK
- Adding Direct Free Kick Fouls – Bad challenges and impeding opponent with contact
- Advantage for a RC – indirect FK if offender then gets involved in play
- RC for DOGSO – RC for a player who unsuccessfully tries to stop a goal with hand

- Change of wording for handball so that not every handball is a YC
- Some DOGSO offences in the penalty area are punished with a YC unless it is a deliberate handball, pulling, pushing, holding, the offender is incapable or not trying to play the ball, or the foul would be punished with a red card anywhere on the field, such as serious foul play and violent conduct.
- Attempted violent conduct is a RC, even if no contact
- Striking on head/face when not challenging an opponent is a RC (unless negligible)
- Offence against substitutes, team officials, match officials etc. is now a direct FK
- Foul off the field penalized with a direct FK on boundary line (penalty in own penalty area)

#### Law 13 – Free Kicks

- Difference between ‘stopping’ a FK and ‘intercepting’ the ball after FK taken (Used in determining what is Delaying a Restart)

#### Law 14 –The Penalty Kick

- Indirect FK + YC if wrong player deliberately takes the penalty
- Indirect FK if ball kicked backwards
- If ‘illegal’ feinting (after completing run-up) occurs it is always an indirect FK (and YC)
- Goalkeeper YC if infringes and PK is retaken

#### Law 15 – The Throw-in

- New wording makes it clear that ball must be thrown with both hands

#### Law 16 – The Goal Kick

- If GK kicked into own goal it is a corner kick to opponents
- An opponent in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken cannot play the ball first

#### Law 17 – The Corner Kick

- If CK kicked into own goal it is a corner kick to opponents

For a more descriptive version of the rules, look at the following link (The law changes are underlined and highlighted to distinguish them from the other rules.):

[http://www.fifa.com/mm/Document/FootballDevelopment/Refereeing/02/79/92/44/Laws.of.the.Game.2016.2017\\_Neutral.pdf](http://www.fifa.com/mm/Document/FootballDevelopment/Refereeing/02/79/92/44/Laws.of.the.Game.2016.2017_Neutral.pdf)