

# Influential Law changes (that change the SFL Game)

## Law 3 – The Players

- Changing the goalkeeper or substituting a player at half-time without informing referee is not a caution (YC) offence.
- A player who enters the field of play without the referee's permission (if it is required) and interferes is punished with a direct free kick (FK).
- A team that scores a goal with an extra person on the field is punished with a direct FK.

## Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

- Goalkeeper caps are not included in the list of restrictions on head covers.
- Players are not permitted to wear/use any electric communication equipment, except electronic performance and tracking systems/EPTS); technical staff may only use communication equipment for safety/welfare issues.
- All EPTS equipment must bear a minimum safety standard mark.

## Law 5 – The Referee

- Important statement that decisions made by match officials must always be respected.

## Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

- A short drink break is permitted at half-time of extra time.

## Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

- Kicker can stand in opponents' half at the kick-off (before the kicker had to remain in his own half).

## Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

- Extra time must be two equal periods maximum 15 minutes each.

### Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- The kicker may not play the ball a second time.
- When the goalkeeper offends and the penalty has to be retaken, the goalkeeper 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:
  - If no goal is scored, **both the goalkeeper and the kicker are cautioned (YC)** and the penalty is retaken.
  - If a goal is scored, **the kicker is cautioned (YC)** and kick recorded as ‘missed’.

## Law 11 – Offside

- An offside player can be penalized if the ball rebounds/deflects off a match official.

### Offside guidance

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

## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

- Verbal offences are punished with an indirect FK.
- If an advantage is played for a sending-off (RC) and the player commits another offence, that offence is penalized.
- A player ‘stopping a promising attack’ in the penalty area is not cautioned (YC) if the offence was an attempt to play the ball.
- A player is cautioned (YC) for goal celebrations which causes safety/security issue.
- If someone enters the field of play without permission and stops a goal or DOGSO, he/she is sent-off (RC).
- An off-field offence committed by/against a player involving an opposing player/substitute/team official (or against a match official) is penalized by a FK on the boundary line if the ball is in play.

### DOGSO

- If the player attempts to play the ball, then he/she is only cautioned. However, in all other circumstances, the player must be sent off.
- When a player denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender’s goal by an offence punishable by a free kick (even diagonally), the offender is sent-off.

## Law 13 – Free Kicks

- An 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 kicker must be clearly identified.
- If the goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time:
  - If no goal is scored, **both the goalkeeper and the kicker are cautioned (YC)** and the penalty is retaken.
  - If a goal is scored, **the kicker is cautioned (YC)** and the kick is recorded as ‘missed and an indirect free kick is rewarded.
- A goal can be awarded, after outside interference, if the ball was going in the goal and the interference does not prevent the goalkeeper and a defender.

## Law 16 – The Goal Kick

- An attacker entering the penalty area cannot play or challenge the ball until it is touched by another player, otherwise the goal kick will be retaken. (This clarifies the action to be taken if a player enters the penalty area before the ball is in play)