

# IFAB / FIFA Laws of the Game 2019-2020

*Excerpted verbatim text of changes to the Laws of the Game.*

## **Law 05 – The Referee**

### **Powers and duties**

*The referee:*

*...takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and warns or shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.*

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

### **Dropped ball**

*Procedure*

- *The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in their penalty area if, when play was stopped:*
  - *the ball was in the penalty area or*
  - *the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area*
- *In all other cases, the referee drops the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched a player, an outside agent or, as outlined in Law 9.1, a match official*
- *All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 4 m (4.5 yds) from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play when it touches the ground.*

## **Law 09 – The Ball In and Out of Play**

### **Ball out of play**

The ball is out of play when:

- *it has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air*
- *play has been stopped by the referee*
- *it touches a match official, remains on the field of play and:*
  - *a team starts a promising attack or*
  - *the ball goes directly into the goal or*
  - *the team in possession of the ball changes*

In all these cases, play is restarted with a dropped ball.

## **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

### **Handling the ball**

#### ***It is an offense if a player:***

- *deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball*
- *gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:*
  - *scores in the opponents' goal*
  - *creates a goal-scoring opportunity*
  - *scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper*

#### ***It is usually an offense if a player:***

- *touches the ball with their hand/arm when:*
- *the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger*
- *the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)*

*The above offenses apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.*

#### ***Except for the above offenses, it is not usually an offense if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:***

- *directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)*
- *directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close*
- *if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger*
- *when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body*

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction.

### **Indirect free kick**

*An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offenses:*

- *controls the ball with the hand/arm for more than six seconds before releasing it*
- *touches the ball with the hand/arm after releasing it and before it has touched another player*
- *touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after:*
  - *it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate*
  - *receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate*

## **Team officials**

*Where an offense is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.*

### *Warning*

*The following offenses should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offenses should result in a caution or sending-off:*

- *entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner*
- *failing to cooperate with a match official (e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official)*
- *minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision*
- *occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offense*

### *Caution*

*Caution offenses include (but are not limited to):*

- *clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area*
- *delaying the restart of play by their team*
- *deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)*
- *dissent by word or action including:*
  - *throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects*
  - *gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) (e.g. sarcastic clapping)*
- *entering the referee review area (RRA)*
- *excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card*
- *excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR 'review'*
- *gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner*
- *persistent unacceptable behavior (including repeated warning offenses)*
- *showing a lack of respect for the game*

### *Sending-off*

*Sending-off offenses include (but are not limited to):*

- *delaying the restart of play by the opposing team (e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player)*
- *deliberately leaving the technical area to:*
  - *show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official*
  - *act in a provocative or inflammatory manner*
- *enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner*
- *deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play*
- *entering the field of play to:*
  - *confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)*
  - *interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official*
- *entering the video operation room (VOR)*
- *physical or aggressive behavior (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)*
- *receiving a second caution in the same match*
- *using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures*
- *using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment*
- *violent conduct*

## **Law 13 – Free Kicks**

### **Procedure**

*Where three or more defending team players form a ‘wall’, all attacking team players must remain at least 1 m (1 yd) from the ‘wall’ until the ball is in play.*

### **Offenses and sanctions**

*If, when a free kick is taken, an attacking team player is less than 1 m (1 yd) from a ‘wall’ formed by three or more defending team players, an indirect free kick is awarded.*

If, when a free kick is taken by the defending team inside its penalty area, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, *the referee allows play to continue*. If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the free kick is taken, or enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball *before it is in play*, the free kick is retaken.

## **Law 14 – The Penalty Kick**

### **Procedure**

*When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line.*

## **Law 16 – The Goal Kick**

### **Offenses and sanctions**

If, when a goal kick is taken, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, *the referee allows play to continue*. If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken, or enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball *before it is in play*, the goal kick is retaken.