

SYNOPSIS OF SIGNIFICANT LOTG CHANGES 2019-20

Law 3 – The Players

- A player, who is being substituted, must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee for reasons of safety/security or injury. If the player refuses to leave, play continues.

Law 4 – Players' Equipment

- Undershirts can be:
 - a single color, which is the same as the main color of the shirt sleeve, or
 - multi-colored/patterned if exactly the same as the shirt sleeve.

Law 5 – The Referee

- Although the Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted, in quick kick circumstances for a goal scoring opportunities, (s)he may issue a YC/RC for an incident that occurred prior to the restart at the next subsequent stoppage.
- If the referee leaves the field for a VAR review or to call the players back to the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed for an earlier incident.
- Team officials, who are guilty of misconduct, can be shown a YC/RC; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC.
- If a PK is awarded, the team's PK taker can receive assessment or treatment and then stay on the field and take the PK.

Law 8 – Start and Restart of Play

- The team that wins the coin toss may now choose to take the kick off or which goal to attack/defend.
- A dropped ball located in the penalty area is dropped uncontested for the GK. Elsewhere, it is dropped uncontested for a player of the team that last touched the ball at the point where the ball was touched by a player or outside agent. All other players must be at least 4.5 yards away.

Law 9 – Ball In or Out of Play

- If the ball touches a Referee or other match official, remains on the field of play and (i) goes into the goal, (ii) causes a change of possession, or (iii) initiates an attacking move, play is stopped and restarted with a dropped ball.

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

- A GK cannot score a goal by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal – the restart is a goal kick.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handling the Ball

- It is ALWAYS an offense, if a player:
 - gains possession/control by touching ball with hand/arm, then scores or creates a goal-scoring opportunity;
 - scores in the opponents' goal directly from his/her hand/arm, even if accidental.
- It is USUALLY an offense, if a player touches the ball when the hand/arm:

- has made the body unnaturally bigger;
- is above/beyond the shoulder level (unless the player has deliberately played the ball legally, which then touches the hand/arm).
- It is NOT USUALLY an offense, if the ball touches the player's hand/arm:
 - directly from the player's own head, body or foot;
 - directly from the head, body or foot of a close-by player;
 - when the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make it unnaturally bigger;
 - when the hand/arm is between the body and ground, supporting the fallen player, but not extended laterally.
- If GK illegally handles the ball inside his penalty area, IFK awarded but no misconduct is applied, even if DOGSO or a goal is denied.
- If, from a throw-in or deliberate back pass by a team mate, the GK unsuccessfully kicks or attempts to kick the ball into play, the GK can then handle the ball.
- The Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage, if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a goal-scoring opportunity.
- The YC is shown for inappropriate goal celebration, even if the goal is disallowed.
- Kicking an object at opposition team members and match officials is punished in the same way as throwing the object.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

- Once an IFK is taken, Referee can lower the signaling arm, if it's clear that no goal is possible.
- A defensive free kick in the penalty area is in play when kicked and clearly moves – the ball does not have to leave the penalty area. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- When 3 or more defenders form a “wall”, all attackers must be at least 1 yard away from the wall until the ball is in play; IFK if they encroach.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

- The goal frame and net must not be moving when the penalty kick is taken. The GK must remain on the goal line without touching the goal frame and net.
- When the ball is kicked, the GK must have at least part of one foot on the goal line.

Law 15 – The Throw In

- All opponents must stand at least 2 yards from the point on the touch line where the throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower has backed away from the line.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

- On a goal kick, the ball is in play when kicked and clearly moves – the ball does not have to leave the penalty area. Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- As before, if an opponent inside the penalty area touches or challenges for the ball before it is in play, the kick is retaken. If no opposition interference with the kick, play continues.