



AMERICAN YOUTH
SOCCER ORGANIZATION

Selected Law Changes 2019-20 (relevant to AYSO)

Law changes since 2016/17:

- Terminology changes – e.g.:
 - “Offences” instead of fouls
 - “Handball offence” embraced!
- Many changes in details & clarification – e.g.:
 - Player taking the kick-off can be in the opponents’ half of the field
 - Distinguish impeding with or without contact
 - Biting is a DFK/PK and send-off offense
 - YC instead of RC for DOGSO if attempting to play the ball and a PK was awarded

Shift in philosophy since 2016/17:

- Expansion of sanctioning of non-player actors associated with a team
 - Team officials
 - Substitutes & substituted players
 - Sent-off players
- Expansion of DFK/PK offences to include:
 - Non-player actors associated with a team
 - Substitutes, substituted players, sent-off players
 - Team officials
 - Events off the field of play
 - BUT – the ball **MUST STILL** be in play!

Law changes for 2019-2020

- Passed by IFAB Annual General Meeting March 2, 2019, in Aberdeen, Scotland
- Many more relevant changes for us than in previous years!
- Source: www.theifab.com
- AND there's an app for that!
- In force for AYSO on August 1, 2019

Some of the relevant changes are:

EVERYONE PLAYS®

BALANCED TEAMS

OPEN REGISTRATION

POSITIVE COACHING

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

The coin toss

- Team winning the toss now chooses to:
 - Take the kick-off OR
 - Choose the goal to attack

Disciplinary action against team officials

- Team officials (e.g. coaches) may be:
 - Warned
 - Cautioned & shown the yellow card
 - Sent off & shown the red card
- If the offender can't be identified, the senior coach gets the card
- Some examples of each sanction are given in the Laws

Dropped Ball

- One-sided dropped balls mandated!
- **INSIDE THE PENALTY AREA:** Drop the ball to the goalkeeper
- **OUTSIDE THE PENALTY AREA:** Drop the ball
 - TO ONE PLAYER of the team that last touched the ball
 - AT THE POINT of the last touch
- **ALL OTHER PLAYERS** (both teams) must be at least 4.5 yards away

Ball hits a match official

- DROP THE BALL if the ball touches a match official, stays on the field, and
 - Goes into the goal
 - Team possession changes
 - A promising attack starts
- WHERE it touched the match official, UNLESS that's in the penalty area (in which case drop to the goalkeeper)

“Handball offence”

- “Greater clarity is needed for handball, especially on those occasions when ‘non-deliberate’ handball is an offence.”
- Did they succeed? You decide!

Handling the ball (“Handball offence”)

- It is an offence (DFK/PK) if a player:
 - Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm
 - Gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then
 - Scores in opponents’ goal
 - Creates a goal-scoring opportunity
 - Scores in the opponents’ goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
- **EXCEPTION:** Restart if goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents’ goal: Goal kick

“Usually” is a “Handball Offence” when:

- 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)

NOT “Usually” a “Handball Offence” when:

- The ball touches a player’s hand/arm directly from their own head, body, or foot or
- The head, body, or foot of another player who is close
- The ball touches a player’s hand/arm which is close to their body and has **not** made their body unnaturally bigger
- If a player is falling and the ball touches their hand/arm when it is between their body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically

Handling the ball (Goalkeeper offences)

- If the goalkeeper attempts to 'clear' (release into play) a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate but the 'clearance' fails, the goalkeeper then can handle the ball
- Clarifies no disciplinary action for a goalkeeper handling the ball within their own penalty area when not permitted to do so

No attackers in the wall

- IF three (or more) defenders form a wall for the taking of a free kick
- THEN all attackers must be at least 1 yd from the wall until the ball is in play
- **RESTART FOR OFFENCE:** Indirect free kick for the defenders

Penalty kick modifications

- Goalkeeper must keep ONE FOOT on or above the line until the ball is kicked
- PK taker, if assessed quickly for injury, does not have to leave & can take the kick
- Goalkeeper may not be touching goalposts/crossbar/nets
- Goalposts/crossbar/nets may not be moving

Goal kick & defensive free kick

- Ball is in play when kicked and clearly moves
- Does NOT have to clear the penalty area
- Opponents **STILL MUST** be outside the penalty area when the kick is taken
- **B10U WITH BUILD-OUT LINE:** On a goal kick, opponents may cross BOL when ball is kicked and clearly moves (AYSO NR&R)

Quick free kick

- Referee can allow quick free kick after YC/RC offense IF attacking team has a clear goal-scoring opportunity AND the referee has not started the disciplinary sanction procedure
- The sanction (card) is administered at the next stoppage
- YC (caution) and not RC (sendoff) if this is a DOGSO situation

Other changes

- All opponents must stand at least 2m (2 yds) from the point at which on the touchline where the throw-in is to be (should have been) taken.
- Substituted player **must** leave from the nearest point on the boundary line, unless directed by referee.
- Still a caution for “illegal” celebration after a goal even if the goal is disallowed
- Difference between “cooling” breaks (90 sec-3 min) and “drinks” breaks (max 1 min)
- Multicolored or patterned undershirts allowed if they match the sleeve of the main shirt

What does this all mean for AYSO?

- Lots of mechanical changes, but not much change in the way the game is played
- Let's WORK WITH other AYSO Team members (coaches, referees, administrators, spectators) to ease the transition
- Let's not go crazy!

Thank you!

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