

At a Glance: Outline Summary of the Main Changes 2019-2020 Laws of the Game

All modifications came into force on **June 1, 2019**. However, the IFAB allows competitions to delay their implementation until no later than the start of the next competition.

Law 3

- A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee

Law 4

- Undershirts can be multi-colored/patterned if the same as the sleeve of the main shirt.

Law 5

- Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident.
- If the referee leaves the field to call players back to the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed.
- Team officials guilty of misconduct can be shown a YC/RC; if an offender in the technical area cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC
- If a penalty kick is awarded and the fouled player is injured and he is the team's penalty taker, he can receive assessment or treatment on the field, then take the penalty kick.

Law 7

- Clarification of the difference between 'cooling' (to allow the body's temperature to fall) and 'drinks' (for rehydration) breaks.

Law 8

- The team that wins the coin toss may choose to take the kick-off or which goal to attack in the first half.
- Dropped ball:
 - Dropped for goalkeeper (if play stopped in penalty area) or
 - For one player of team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch;
 - All other players (of both teams) must be at least 4m (4.5 yds) away.

Law 9

- Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee (or other 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

Law 10

- Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal even though the ball is in play.

Law 12

- Handling the ball text re-written with clearer guidelines for when:
 - Handball is an offense
 - Handball is usually an offense
 - Handball is not usually an offense

- Confirmation that an 'illegal' handball offense by a goalkeeper in their own penalty area is not sanctioned with a YC/RC.
- If, after a throw-in or deliberate pass from a team-mate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball again.
- Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a promising attack.
- The YC for an 'illegal' goal celebration remains even if the goal is disallowed.
- List of the warning/YC/RC offenses for team officials.
- All verbal offenses are punished with an IFK.
- Kicking an object is punished in the same way as throwing an object.

Law 13

- Once an IFK has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IFK signal if a goal cannot be scored directly (e.g. from most offside IFKs).
- For defending team free kicks from inside their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area to be in play.
- All opponents must be outside the penalty area and at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the ball.
- When there is a defensive 'wall' of at least 3 players, all attacking team players must be at least 1m (1 yd) from the 'wall'; IFK if they encroach.
- Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty is taken, and the goalkeeper must not be touching them.
- Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line.
- If an offense occurs after the referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken but the kick is not taken, it must then be taken after any YC/RC is issued.

Law 15

- Opponents must be at least 2m (2 yds) from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line.

Law 16

- At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.
- All opponents need to be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.