

2016 – 2017 Law Changes Summary

Law 1: The Field of Play

- ⚽ Logos/emblems of Regions, Tournaments, etc... are allowed on corner flags (but no advertising).

Law 3: The Players

- ⚽ Direct free kick (or penalty) if a substitute/team official/sent off player interferes with play.
- ⚽ If something/someone (other than a player) touches a ball going into the goal, the referee can award the goal if the ball goes in the goal and the touch had no impact on the defenders (unless in opponents' goal).
- ⚽ If a goal is scored with an extra person on the field and referee has restarted play, the goal stands and the match continues.

Law 4: The Player's Equipment

- ⚽ Player can return during play after changing/correcting equipment, once equipment has been checked (by referee, 4th official, AR or AAR) and referee signals.
- ⚽ Any tape or other material on/covering socks must be same color as the sock (use common sense especially for ankle braces).

Law 5: The Referee

- ⚽ Referee can "send off" a player from pre-match pitch inspection onwards (see Law 3).
- ⚽ Referee can only use Red Card or Yellow Card after entering the field of play at the start of the match.
- ⚽ Player injured by red card or yellow card foul can be quickly assessed/treated and stay on field (use common sense).

Law 7: Duration of the Match

- ⚽ More reasons for additional time (use common sense)
 - Substitutions,
 - assessment and/or removal of injured players,
 - wasting time,
 - disciplinary sanctions,
 - stoppages for drinks or other medical reasons permitted by competition rules,
 - any other cause, including any significant delay to a restart (e.g. goal celebrations).

Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play

- ⚽ Ball must clearly move to be in play for all kicked restarts.
- ⚽ Referee cannot "manufacture" outcome of a dropped ball.
 - Players should give the ball back to the opposing team (when the game is stopped for an injured, etc.) in the spirit of the game – and most do it. However, for most AYSO games,

because of the technical skills; physical characteristics; and emotional levels of youth players; it is OK if a referee manufactures a dropped ball in AYSO games.

- Ex: The goalkeeper has control of the ball – the referee stops the game due to a possible injury/etc. – when restarting the game, it is OK for the referee to say to the goalkeeper “When I drop the ball, you can pick it up and play it.”

- ⚽ At kick-off, the ball can be kicked in any direction.
 - Make sure that no players are standing on the opponent’s side of the field before the kick-off. And yes, the player kicking the ball back to a teammate will have part of his foot on the half way line or on the other side of the field – this is OK.

Law 11: Offside

- ⚽ Halfway line “neutral” for offside; player must be in opponents’ half.
- ⚽ Arms of all players (including goalkeepers) are not considered when judging offside position.
- ⚽ Offside position, not offence, judged at the moment the ball is played or touched by a teammate.
- ⚽ Offside free kick is always taken where the offside offence occurs (even in own half).
- ⚽ Interfering with an opponent after a save or rebound is an offence.

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

- ⚽ If a foul involves contact it is always a direct free kick.
- ⚽ Impeding an opponent *with contact* is a direct free kick.
- ⚽ If the referee plays advantage for a red card offence and the offending player then gets involved in play, it is an indirect free kick.
- ⚽ Change of wording for handball so that not every handball is a yellow Card.
 - Yellow card for handball now linked to stopping/interfering with a promising attack (like other fouls).
- ⚽ Attempted violent conduct is a red card, even if no contact.
- ⚽ Striking on head/face when not challenging an opponent is a red card unless the contact is minimal/negligible.
- ⚽ Offence on the field against substitutes, team officials, match officials etc... is now a direct free kick.
- ⚽ Foul off the field as part of normal play will be penalized with a direct free kick on the boundary line at the point nearest to the offence (penalty kick if in offender’s own penalty area).
- ⚽ Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a deliberate handball offence the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs.
- ⚽ Where a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offending player is cautioned unless:
 - The offence is holding, pulling or pushing or,
 - The offending player does not attempt to play the ball or there is no possibility for the player making the challenge to play the ball or,
 - The offence is one which is punishable by a red card wherever it occurs on the field of play (e.g. serious foul play, violent conduct etc..).
 - In all the above circumstances the player is sent off.

Law 13: Free Kicks

- ⚽ Ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
- ⚽ The penalty kick is completed when the ball stops moving, goes out of play, or the referee stops play for any infringement of the Laws.
- ⚽ Some offences are always an indirect free kick whether or not the PK results in a goal:
 - Indirect free kick if wrong player deliberately takes the penalty (and YC to player who took the kick).
 - Indirect free kick if ball kicked backwards.
 - If “illegal” feinting occurs it is always an indirect free kick (and YC to the kicker).
 - If the goal keeper infringes and the PK is missed/re-taken the goal keeper will now receive a yellow card.