



# 2019 AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION

## Directions in Law Changes

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# What will we discuss today?

- Brief history of AYSO and the Laws of the Game
- Law changes and shifts in philosophy since the 2016/17 rewrite
- Major law changes for 2019/20
- General discussion – How does this all affect AYSO?

# AYSO and the Laws of the Game

- From the beginning (1964)....
  - We are proud to follow the Laws of the Game!
  - “We even reprint the typos”
  - Each year we print an exact reproduction of the IFAB Laws of the Game...
  - With AYSO-specific material as an addendum (6 pages in 2018/19)
    - Age-specific rules of competition
    - Duties and responsibilities of AYSO participants (including substitutions & half play rule)
    - “Spirit of the Laws”

# Spirit of the Laws (originally Law V IBD 8)

- “The Laws of the Game are intended to provide that games should be played with as little interference as possible and in this view, it is the duty of the referee to penalize only deliberate breaches of the Law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches produces bad feelings and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators.”

# A Brief History of the Laws

- First “universal” laws: 1863
- Founding of the International Football Association Board: 1886
- Major revisions in 1938, 1997 and 2016
  - 1997: Simplify and update the Laws for broader understanding
  - 2016: Rewrite and clarify the Laws for the modern game and bring several different law documents together

# How are the Laws changed?

- IFAB member associations propose changes
  - FIFA, The Football Association, Scottish Football Association, Irish Football Association, and Football Association of Wales
- IFAB Annual General Meeting in Spring changes the Laws by  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote
  - FIFA has 4 votes, other Associations have 1 each
- Changes take effect:
  - June 1, EXCEPT:
  - Competitions starting before June 1 MAY delay until next competition

# 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!



# What does this all mean for AYSO?

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# 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/document/for-football-bodies](http://www.theifab.com/document/for-football-bodies)
  - Summary of main Law changes 2019/20
  - Changes to the Laws and Clarifications 2019/20

# Some of the relevant changes are:

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# The coin toss (Law 8)

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

# Disciplinary action against team officials (Law 5 and Law 12)

- 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 (Law 8)

- 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 by a player, outside agent, or match official
- ALL OTHER PLAYERS (both teams) must be at least 4.5 yards away

# Ball hits a match official (Law 9)

- 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

# “Handball offence” (Law 12)

- “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 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
    - Restart if goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponents’ goal:  
Goal kick (Law 10)

# “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)
- The above offences 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.

# 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
  - If the hand/arm is close to their body and has **not** made their body unnaturally bigger
  - When a player falls 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)

- Clarifies that no disciplinary action (i.e. Caution or Send off) for a goalkeeper handling the ball within their penalty area when not permitted to do so
- If the goalkeeper clearly kicks or attempts to kick the ball to release it into play, having received it via a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate, but the attempt fails, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball

# Quick free kick (Law 12)

- 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

# Free Kicks (Law 13)

- Ball in play when kicked and clearly moves
  - Does NOT have to exit penalty area
  - Opponents must be 10 yards away and outside PA
- Modified IFK signal
  - The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising the arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another player, goes out of play or it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly

# No attackers in the wall (Law 13)

- 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

# Penalty kick modifications (Law 14)

- 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 (Law 16)

- 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

# 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. (Law 15)
- Substituted player **must** leave from the nearest point on the boundary line, unless directed by referee. (Law 3)
- Still a caution for “illegal” celebration after a goal even if the goal is disallowed (Law 12)
- Difference between “cooling” breaks (90 sec-3 min) and “drinks” breaks (max 1 min) (Law 7)
- Multicolored or patterned undershirts allowed if they match the sleeve of the main shirt (Law 4)

# What does this all mean for AYSO?

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# Thank you!

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