



Summary of the *AYSO-Relevant* Changes to the 2019-2020 Laws of the Game (LOTG)



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*.
[Note: Since AYSO typically has teams and their respective spectators on opposite sides of the pitch, the Referee may ask, in the interest of safety or security, that a substitute in a particularly contentious game to leave the field away from the opposing team and spectators.]

Law 4 (The Players' Equipment)

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

Law 5 (The Referee)

- Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a Yellow Card (YC)/Red Card (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, e.g., Coaches and Assistant Coaches, 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/she is the team's penalty-kick taker, he/she can receive assessment or treatment on the field, then take the penalty kick.

Law 7 (The Duration of the Match)

- Clarification of the difference between 'cooling' (to allow the body's temperature to fall) [1-3 minutes] and 'drinks' (for rehydration) breaks [1 minute].

Law 8 (The Start and Restart of Play)

- 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 to the goalkeeper, if play is stopped in penalty area); or
 - For one player of team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch (except in the penalty area, in which case it is always dropped to the goalkeeper).
 - All other players (of both teams) must be at least 4.5 yards away from the dropped ball.

Law 9 (The Ball in and Out of Play)

- A dropped ball is awarded 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 (Determining the Outcome of a Match)

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

Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct)

- 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 teammate, 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 Indirect Free Kick (IFK).
- Kicking an object is punished in the same way as throwing an object.

Law 13 (Free Kicks)

- Once an IFK has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IFK signal (holding the arm up) 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 10 yards from the ball.
- When there is a defensive 'wall' of at least 3 players, all attacking team players must be at least 1 yard from the 'wall'; an IFK is awarded to the defending team if they (the attacking team) encroach.

Law 14 (The Penalty Kick)

- Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty kick 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. The goalkeeper cannot stand behind the goal 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 (The Throw-In)

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

Law 16 (The Goal Kick)

- 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.