

LOTG Changes for 2019-20

A practical guide for AYSO referees and coaches

EVERYONE PLAYS®

BALANCED TEAMS

OPEN REGISTRATION

POSITIVE COACHING

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



Law Changes 2019-20

- There are some big changes, which will begin applying to AYSO games in August 2019.
- These slides are not intended to be all-inclusive, but to highlight the changes that will most affect AYSO games.
- Referees and coaches are encouraged to read the more detailed IFAB materials on the changes, which can be found at <http://theifab.com/document/for-football-bodies>.

Hand Ball Ref!

- Deliberate handling remains the main handling offense.
- But now non-deliberate handling will also be an offense if either
 - the ball goes into the goal directly from the hand or arm of an attacker, or
 - the player gains possession and scores or creates a goal scoring opportunity.
- Law 12 also now includes guidance on identifying when handling is deliberate, but care must be used in applying those factors to younger players with less body control than adults.

An Extra Choice at the Coin Flip

- The winner of the coin flip may now choose either to kick off or which goal to attack.
 - If the winner chooses to kick off, the other team chooses which goal to attack.
 - If the winner chooses a goal to attack, the other team kicks off to start the game.

Dropped Ball—to only one player. Always!

- The ball is always dropped to only one player.
- All other players, from both teams, must be 4 meters (4 ½ yards) away from where the ball is dropped.
- The ball is in play when it touches the ground.
- A goal may not be scored unless touched by a second player (on either team).

Dropped Ball—who gets it?

- When play is stopped, if the ball is in the penalty area or the ball was last touched in the penalty area, then the ball is dropped to the goalkeeper.
- Otherwise, the ball is dropped to the team of the player who last touched the ball at the spot the ball was last touched (last touched by the player, or where touched by an outside agent or game official).

Darn it! The ball hit the ref!

- When the ball touches the referee (or an assistant referee on the field), the ball remains in play unless:
 1. the ball goes in the goal,
 2. a team starts a promising attack, or
 3. a team loses possession to the other team.
- If any of those three things happen, play stops and there is a dropped ball for the team that last touched the ball at the spot it touched the referee.

Goal Kicks in Play when Kicked

- Goal kicks (and defensive free kicks within the penalty area) no longer need to leave the penalty area—the ball is in play immediately when it is kicked and clearly moves.
- Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is kicked.
- For games using the build out line, this means that on a goal kick opponents may cross back over the build out line as soon as the ball is kicked.

Cards for Coaches

Laws
5 & 12

- Coaches will be shown yellow and red cards for inappropriate behavior.
- This is not a change in what behavior is acceptable—the cards will be used to clearly communicate the level of unacceptable behavior.
- Examples of conduct that would warrant a warning, caution, or expulsion are included in Law 12.
- Cards still may not be used with parents or other spectators.
- Coaches are reminded that AYSO expects their behavior to be consistent with the AYSO philosophies of good sportsmanship and positive coaching.
- As with players, all cards issued to coaches must be reported on game cards.

Penalty kicks—GK one foot on the line

Law
14

- On penalty kicks, the goalkeeper will only be required to have one foot on or over the goal line when the ball is kicked.

“Pass Back”?

- It remains an offense for a goalkeeper to handle the ball received directly from the goalkeeper’s team’s throw in, or if the ball is deliberately kicked to the goal keeper by a teammate.
- There is a new exception: it is not an offense if the goalkeeper clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball into play.
 - Example: a defender deliberately kicks the ball to the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper attempts to clear the ball, but shanks it sideways. The goalkeeper is permitted to handle the ball.

Walls

- When a team defending against a free kick forms a wall of three or more players, players on the other team must be at least one yard away from the wall.
 - Note: This will primarily be an issue for referees in older games where members of the attacking team may attempt to interfere with the wall.

Indirect Free Kick Signal Can End Sooner

- On indirect free kicks, the referee signals that the free kick is indirect by raising one arm straight up in the air (this is not new).
- The referee may lower the arm as soon as it is clear that the ball will not enter the attack goal untouched.