

IFAB Law Changes Applicable to AYSO, effective June 1, 2016

These are the major changes to the Laws of the Game (LOTG). See the TheIFAB.com for exact wording.

Applicable to all AYSO games

8.1 Kick-off: The ball can be kicked in any direction; it no longer needs to be kicked forward. The ball is in play when it is kicked and CLEARLY moves. Just tapping the top of the ball does not put it in to play. (The concept of clearly moves is also now in free kicks, penalty kicks and corner kicks.)

8.2 Dropped ball: must touch at least 2 players before entering the goal, or the goal is not valid. Restart with a GK or CK according to who last touched the ball – or another dropped ball if untouched. Note: the concept of the referee not being allowed to “manufacture the outcome” of a dropped ball is not applicable to AYSO. Referees may continue to do a dropped ball solely to a GK who had possession when play was stopped.

11.1 and 11.2 Offside: The halfway line is ‘neutral’ for offside, i.e., a player must have part of the body, head or feet in the opponents’ half to be in an offside position (the hands do not count).

11.4 Position of Indirect Free Kick: The IDFK is now taken from where the Offside offence occurred (NOT from where the offending player was when the offside position was judged), including if it is in the player’s own half of the field of play.

12.1 Fouls with Contact: If an offense involves contact, including the new foul of Impeding with Contact, it is penalized by a direct free kick or penalty kick.

15.1 Throw-In: Specifies that the throw-in must be done with both hands.

16.2 Opponents in the penalty area at the taking of a goal kick: if an opponent who is in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken touches or challenges for the ball before it has touched another player, the goal kick is retaken.

Although these changes affect all ages, they are not likely to be seen below U12, and rarely in AYSO in general

3.7 Extra Person on the Field of Play: If a team official, substitute, substituted player or sent-off player enters the field and interferes with play, award a DFK or PK to the opponents. If the Extra Person’s opponents are able to score a goal with the Extra Person on the field, allow the goal in the interest of Fair Play.

5.3 Authority to take Disciplinary Action: Referees can send off players prior to the match and can report other misconduct (yellow card offenses), but cannot show the red and yellow cards until entering the field for the start of the match. Any yellow card offense that occurs before entering the field for the start of the match (for example during the field inspection) does NOT carry into the match.

5.5 Additional Signal: a one-armed advantage signal is now permitted.

11.4 Players off of the field (Offside): clarifies that a player off of the field is only “active” until play stops or the defending team clears the ball away from their penalty area towards the halfway line.

11.4 Attacking player “inside the net” (Offside): If an attacking player remains stationary between the goalposts and inside the goal as the ball enters the goal, a goal must be awarded unless the player commits an offside offence or Law 12 offence in which case play is restarted with an indirect or direct free kick.

12.3 Attempted violent conduct: Violent conduct is a send-off offense even if no contact is made.

12.3 Striking the head or face: a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, is guilty of violent conduct unless the force used was negligible.

12.3 Advantage after a Red Card offence: if the referee plays advantage after a Red Card offence, and the offending player plays the ball or challenges/interferes with an opponent, the referee will stop play, send off the player and restart with an indirect free kick.

12.3 Certain DOGSO offenses committed in the penalty area are changed to Cautions from Send Offs:

Send-off DOGSOs: deliberate handling of the ball, holding, pushing, pulling, no attempt to play the ball, no possibility to play the ball, serious foul play, violent conduct. These are the “cynical” offenses that deserve the PK and the send off.

Caution DOGSOs: all other DOGSO offences (ex.: charges, jumps at, kicks or attempts to kick, strikes or attempts to strike, tackles or challenges, trips or attempts to trip). These are “normal” fouls where a PK and a caution is considered sufficient punishment.

12.4 Offence against a non-player on the field: an offence committed on the field by a player when the ball is in play against a team-mate, substitute, substituted player, team official or a match official is restarted with a direct free kick or penalty kick.

12.4 Offence committed off the field: If a player leaves the field of play as part of play and commits an offence against another player, play is restarted with a free kick taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offence occurred; for direct free kick offences a penalty kick is awarded if this closest boundary line is within the offender’s penalty area.

14.2 If the goalkeeper moves forward off of the goal line before the ball is kicked and no goal is scored, the goalkeeper is cautioned.

Applicable in Kicks From the Penalty Mark (KFPM) to determine the winner of a tied match

10.3 Choosing the goal for the kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM): If KFPM are used to determine the winner of a tied match, the referee will toss a coin to determine which goal to use, unless there are other considerations (ground conditions, safety, etc.).

10.3 Same Number of Players (in KFPM): If at the end of the match and before or during the kicks, one team has a greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents.

10.3 Goalkeeper unable to continue (in KFPM): A goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during the kicks and whose team has not used its maximum permitted number of substitutes, may be replaced by a named substitute, or a player excluded to equalize the number of players, but the goalkeeper takes no further part and may not take a kick.

10.3 Player leaving the field of play (in KFPM): Kicks from the penalty mark must not be delayed for a player who leaves the field of play. The player's kick will be 'forfeited' (not scored, meaning marked as a miss) if the player does not return in time to take a kick.