



LAW CHANGES 2020

# LAW V (5) – REFEREES

## 5. The Referee shall:

E. Caution (and show a yellow card) to any player or **team official (coach)** guilty of misconduct or any cautionable offense; and eject (first show a yellow card and then show a red card) to any player **or team official (coach)** who persists in misconduct.

I. Eject (and show a red card) to any player **or team official (coach)** who is guilty of a send-off offense. Any ejection should be reported promptly to the league administrator.

# LAW VIII (8) - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

## KICKOFF

1. Prior to the game, choice of ends shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
  - A. The team winning the toss will choose whether to kick-off or decide which goal to attack during the first period
  - B. Depending on the winner's choice, the other team shall take the kick-off or decide which goal to attack in the first period
  - C. The team that decided which goal to attack in the first period shall take the kick-off to start the second period

# LAW VIII (8) - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

## DROPPED BALL

7. On any occasion where it is necessary for the Referee to temporarily stop a game, while the ball was in play, for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in these Laws play is restarted with a dropped ball at the location where the ball was when play was stopped.

A. The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in the Penalty Area if, when play was stopped:

1) The ball was in the Penalty Area

2) The last touch of the ball was in the Penalty Area

B. In all other cases, the Referee drops the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched a player, an outside agent, or a match official [as outlined in LAW IX (9)].

C. All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 4 yards from the ball until it is in play.

**9. This section is deleted completely. [As of January 1, 2020]**

# LAW VIII (8) - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

## SMALL-SIDED (7v7) BUILD-OUT AREA- Passers (8U) & Wings (10U)

11. The opposing team's players must remain outside the Build-Out Area until the ball is put back into play on all restarts within the Build-Out Area by the defending team

- A. On goal kicks the ball is in play when it **is kicked and clearly moves**
- B. On free kicks (DFK or IFK) taken from within the Penalty Area the ball is in play when it is **kicked and clearly moves**
- C. On free kicks (DFK or IFK) taken from outside the Penalty Area the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

# LAW IX (9) - THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

1. The ball is out-of-play when:

C. It touches the Referee or Assistant Referee without completely leaving the field of play and:

- 1) A team starts a promising attack or
- 2) The ball goes directly into the goal or
- 3) The team in possession of the ball changes

In all of these cases, play is restarted with a dropped ball

2. The ball **remains** in-play at all other times **when**:

C. If there is an apparent violation, but no signal has been given by the Referee.

# LAW X (10) - METHOD OF SCORING

2. A goal shall not be awarded if the goalkeeper throws the ball directly into the opponent's goal. Play is to be restarted with a goal kick.
3. The team scoring more goals shall be the winner. If there are no goals, or an equal number of goals are scored by each team, the game shall be a draw.

# LAW XII (12) - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

## 3. Direct Free Kick (DFK):

B. A direct free kick (DFK) is also awarded to the opposing team, if while the ball is in play, a player inside the field-of-play commits any of the following six (6) offenses:

- (1) holds an opponent; or
- (2) bites or spits at anyone; or
- (3) impedes an opponent with contact; or
- (4) throws **or kicks** an object at the ball, opponent or match official; or
- (5) makes contact with the ball with a held object (including the goalkeeper); or



# LAW XII (12) - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT (continued)

(6) handles the ball deliberately, i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with hand or arm (this does not apply to goalkeepers within their own Penalty Area). The following “handball” situations, **even if accidental**, will also result in a free kick to the opponents:

- (a) the ball goes into the goal after touching an attacking player’s hand or arm; or
- (b) a player gains control or possession of the ball after it has touched their hand or arm and then scores, or creates a goal-scoring opportunity; or
- (c) the ball touches a player’s hand or arm which has been extended into an unnatural position; or
- (d) the ball touches a player’s hand or arm when it is above their shoulders

# LAW XIII (13) - FREE KICK

4. On all free kicks:

A. The ball must be stationary when the free kick is taken

B. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

6. When a free kick is being taken by the kicking team from inside its own Penalty Area:

A. The ball shall be in play when the ball is kicked and clearly moves

C. If an opponent, who is in the Penalty Area when the free kick is taken or enters the Penalty Area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it has touched another player, the free kick is retaken

# LAW XIV (14) - PENALTY KICK

5. The goalkeeper (who may be changed with another player on the field for the taking of the penalty kick):

B. Must have at least part of one foot touching the Goal Line (or, if jumping, in line with the Goal Line) at the time the ball is kicked, and

C. Is permitted to move the body or arms – but not in an unsporting attempt to distract the kicker.

## NOTES:

2) If, after the kick has been taken, the ball:

3) If, after having given the signal for a penalty kick to be taken and before the ball has been kicked, any of the following situations occur, the Referee shall allow the kick to proceed

a) The goalkeeper moves **completely** off the Goal Line. If a goal is not scored, the penalty kick shall be retaken

# LAW XVI (16) - GOAL KICK

3. The ball shall be stationary and is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.

A. The goal kick is to be retaken if an opponent, who is in the Penalty Area when the goal kick is taken or enters the Penalty Area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it has touched another player.

B. If a player taking a goal kick touches the ball after it has been kicked, but before it is touched by another player, an indirect free kick (IFK) shall be awarded to the opposing team. The IFK will be taken from the place where the second touch occurred.

5. Players of the opposing team shall remain outside the Penalty Area, until the ball has been kicked and clearly moves.

**EXCEPTION:** In the Passers (8U) and Wings (10U) divisions all opposing players must remain outside the Build-Out Area, until the ball has been kicked and clearly moves [**See Law VIII (8)**].



[saysoccer.org](https://saysoccer.org) > [referee](#) > [organizational and playing rules](#) > [SAY playing laws](#)