



Connecticut State Referee Program



2019 IFAB Law Changes Summary

- Team winning the coin toss can elect attacking direction or “the ball”
- Free kick restarts, including goal kicks, in the Penalty Area no longer are required to leave the penalty area before being touched by the next player
- A new dropped ball procedure
- Team officials can be issued yellow and red cards for Misconduct.
- No attackers allowed in defensive wall
- Some handling situations, even if accidental, are now handling infractions
- Substitutions must leave at the nearest point (touchline or endline)
- On penalty kick, the goal keeper must have at least one foot on the line when the ball is struck



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Goal kicks or Defending team free kicks in their own penalty area

- The ball is in play when it is kicked and *clearly* moves
- Opponents must remain outside the penalty area (or build out line if applicable) AND at least 10 yards away until the ball is in play
- The ball is not required to leave the penalty area to be in play
- Teams can restart before the defensive team provides distance or exits the penalty area, at their own demise.
- Kicking team can wait for (request from referee) that all opposing players are outside the PA and 10 yards away

New Dropped ball procedure

- Referee shall award a dropped ball if/when:
 - The ball hits a match official and goes in the goal
 - The ball hits a match official and team possession changes
 - The ball hits a match official and a promising attack starts
 - Other reasons depicted in the laws of the game
- If play is stopped inside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for the goalkeeper, regardless of which team possessed the ball at the stoppage.
- If play is stopped outside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the point of the last touch; all other players (of both teams) must be 4.5 yards away



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Team officials can be issued Yellow and Red Cards

- Law 5 Powers of the Referee have not changed, they have been expanded to include the ability to caution or send off any individuals in the technical area
- The head coach can be cautioned or sent off for the behavior of anyone in the bench area if that individual cannot be identified
- Misbehavior by any non-rostered personnel results in misconduct for the head coach
- Proper procedure is to issue a yellow or red card to team personnel in the same fashion that it has been issued to players in the past

No attackers allowed in defensive wall

- Attacking players are restricted by rule to be part of a defensive wall of three players or more.
- Attacking players must be at least one yard away, includes in front or behind the wall.



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Substitutions must leave at the nearest point

- Implemented as written in adult competitions
- Unless noted in specific rules of competition, modified for youth competitions to work the same way it always has. Substitutions shall leave and enter the field at mid-field, in between the two technical areas.

Considerations for handling offenses

- Deliberate handball remains an offense
- The following handling situations will be enforced, even if accidental:
 - The ball goes in the goal after touching an attacking players hand/arm
 - A player gains control/possession of the ball after it has touched their hand or arm, and then scores, or creates a goal scoring opportunity
 - The ball touches the players hand/arm which has made their body unnaturally bigger
 - The ball touches a players hand/arm when it is above their shoulder (unless the player has deliberately played the ball)