



2017-18 Laws of the Game





IFAB / OSSRC Changes



This presentation of the 2017-18 IFAB *Law* changes/clarifications are intended for Referees primarily officiating youth matches.

The specific changes/clarifications in a *Law* are **texted in red and highlighted in yellow**, as shown here.

The black text is the previous/existing wording.

Explanations and comments that follow a *Law* change/clarification are written in blue text and framed as shown here.



The 2016-17 IFAB changes and clarifications in the *Laws of the Game* were implemented in Ohio South (both youth and adult) at the beginning of the 2017 calendar year.

These 2017-18 IFAB updated changes/clarifications in the *Laws* will take effect in Ohio South on August 1, 2017.

The 2016/17 revision of the *Laws of the Game* was well-received and many have welcomed the emphasis on the importance of applying the ‘spirit’ of the Laws.

This second, follow-on, stage was necessary to extend the principles of the previous revision, to add clarifications and to include additional / different wording in order to provide a clearer understanding.



The *Laws of the Game* now specifically states in Law 5 that:

"The decisions made by the referee and all other match officials, must always be respected."

As such, players and team officials are expected to respect all decisions, even when they may appear to be wrong.



The *Laws of the Game* also state that:

the team captain has "a degree of responsibility for the behavior of their team".

Captains (esp. older ages) are expected to use this responsibility to help calm / positively influence the behavior of their teammates, particularly in controversial / confrontation situations involving opponents or match officials.



IFAB Changes



The following Laws of the Game have no changes / clarifications:

Law 2

Law 15

Law 6

Law 17

Law 9

The changes / clarifications contained in Laws 1 and 5 do not affect play and thus have not been included in this presentation.



Substitution Procedures

IFAB has included language in *Law 3* that now authorizes the use of unlimited substitutions at all levels of youth play. Nothing has really changed, it's just that IFAB has finally sanctioned a playing rule that has been in use at all levels of youth soccer in this country since the beginning.

Law 3 now also states that any substitution (limited or unlimited), including a change of goalkeepers, made at halftime or between any periods of play in extra time, without the permission of the referee, is not a cautionable (YC) offense.

Any change of goalkeepers that takes place without the permission of the referee, during play, still requires that both players be cautioned (YC), when the ball is next out-of-play.



Returning to the Field Without Permission

If a player who requires the referee's permission to re-enter the field-of-play, re-enters without the referee's permission, the referee must:

- *stop play (not immediately if the player does not interfere with play or a match official or if the advantage can be applied);*
- *caution the player;*

Previously, interference with a match official was not specifically included in the decision to stop play.



Returning to the Field Without Permission

If the referee stops play, it must be restarted:

- *with a direct free kick from the position of the interference*
- *with an indirect free kick from the position of the ball when play was stopped if there was no interference*

If the interference is in the penalty area the restart is a penalty kick (PK).

Previously, any player entering the field-of-play without permission resulted in an IFK restart regardless of whether there was interference or not.



Returning to the Field Without Permission

Examples of interference occur when the player:

- is in physical contact with an opposing player, a match official or the ball;
- is in close proximity with an opponent or match official and impedes their movement;
- distracts or influences the actions of an opponent or match official;
- blocks the view of an opposing player or match official.

Entering the field-of-play well away from play by itself is typically a non-interference situation, and play should not be stopped on the anticipation or presumption that interference might occur.



Extra Person on the Field-of-Play

If, after a goal is scored, the referee realizes, before play restarts, an extra person was on the field of play when the goal was scored:

The referee must disallow the goal if the extra person was:

- *A player, substitute, substituted player, sent-off player or team official of the team that scored the goal; **play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position of the extra person (...)***

This change in Law 3 makes it consistent with the 2016-17 changes, which penalizes the actions of a substitute/team official who enters the field-of-play without permission with a direct free kick (DFK) -- instead of a goal kick, corner kick or dropped ball.



Illegal Equipment

Players **are not permitted to wear or use** any form of **electronic or communication equipment**, except where EPTS (Electronic Performance and Tracking System) devices are allowed.

Players are not to wear any such communication devices (e.g. camera, earpiece, microphone, etc.).

This is to preserve the integrity of the game so that no one can communicate with players during a match, except for the open verbal tactical dialog from the coaches.



EPTS Equipment

When any EPTS devices are being worn by players, such equipment must be certified as having satisfied the established minimum safety criteria of the International Match Standard developed by FIFA and approved by IFAB.

This requirement, as specifically defined and outlined in *Law 3*, is mandatory and must be met before allowing such equipment to be worn in a match.



Illegal Equipment

*The use of any form of electronic communication by **team officials** is not permitted, **except where it directly relates to player welfare or safety.***

Using a lapel microphone to ask for a stretcher or ambulance, etc. or using assessment equipment (e.g. iPad) for a head injury would be examples of electronic equipment that could be used by team officials.



Disciplinary Action

The referee (...)

- *takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and may expel them from the field-of-play and its immediate surrounds; a medical team official who commits a dismissible offense may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention.*

IFAB recognizes the importance of player safety and well being and, as such, has implemented this provision. The coach then becomes directly responsible for any subsequent misbehavior by this individual. A full written report on the dismissal of this team official must still be filed with the league administration.



Disciplinary Action

The referee (...)

- *has the power to show yellow or red cards **and where competition rules permit, temporarily dismiss a player, from entering the field at the start of the match (...)***

NOTE:

- This “sin bin” rule is **NOT in effect** anywhere in the U.S. at this time. The implementation of such a rule must be sanctioned by USSoccer, which has chosen **not** to do so.
- It has been included in this presentation merely to emphasize and clarify to referees that it is **NOT** being implemented.



Water Break

Players are entitled to an interval at half-time, not exceeding 15 minutes; a short drinks break is permitted at the interval of half-time in extra time.

The length of the half-time interval in extra time is not defined by IFAB. The purpose of the interval is only to allow teams to change direction of play for the second overtime period. The intent has always been to be quick and without unnecessary delay.



Water Break

The 2016-17 IFAB changes in the Laws officially recognized and allowed for matches to be interrupted for the taking of drinks during extreme weather conditions.

In conjunction with that allowance, IFAB has now taken into account the consideration of the players' welfare to also mean that it is sensible to allow players a quick drinks break during the interval between the extra time periods, i.e. irrespective of weather conditions.

It should be noted that this is specifically not intended to be a break for coaching purposes.



The Kick-Off

For every kick-off:

- *all players, **except the player taking the kick-off** must be in their own half of the field of play.*

The kicker is now permitted to stand in the opponents' half of the field-of-play at the taking of the kick.



The Kick-Off

*A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off; **if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents.***

This just reinforces the criteria that a team may not score against itself directly, even on a kick-off now that it can be kicked in any direction. When it does occur at the taking of a kick-off, the resulting restart will always be a corner kick.



Kicks from the Penalty Mark

The 2016-17 IFAB changes to the *Laws of the Game* included placing the procedures for Kicks from the Penalty Mark (KFPM) in *Law 10*.

The 2017-18 IFAB *Law 10* contains clarifications to the KFPM with regard to offenses committed by the goalkeeper and / or the kicker, which are highlighted in this presentation.

Several other clarifications are just wording changes to provide a clearer understanding of the *Law* and have not been included here, i.e. nothing has changed.



Kicks from the Penalty Mark

Offense by Goalkeeper:

- *If the goalkeeper commits an offense and, as a result, the kick is retaken the goalkeeper must be cautioned.*

Offense by Kicker:

- *If the kicker is penalized for an offense committed after the referee has signaled for the kick to be taken, that kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.*



Kicks from the Penalty Mark

Offense by Goalkeeper and Kicker:

- *If both the goalkeeper and kicker commit an offense at the same time:*
 - ❖ *if the kick is missed or saved, the kick is retaken and both players cautioned;*
 - ❖ *if the kick is scored, the goal is disallowed, the kick is recorded as missed and the kicker is cautioned.*



Kicks from the Penalty Mark

At the taking of a KFPM the additional text in *Law 10* clarifies the outcome, when an offense is committed by:

- 1) the goalkeeper only;
- 2) the kicker only;
- 3) both the goalkeeper and the kicker

In Summary:

- the kicker will be always be cautioned (YC) when committing an offense;
- the goalkeeper is only cautioned (YC) when committing an offense if the kick must be retaken.



Offside Offense

In situations where:

- *A player moving from, or standing in, an offside position is in the way of an opponent and interferes with the movement of the opponent towards the ball this is an offside offense if it impacts the ability of the opponent to play or challenge for the ball; if the player moves into the way of an opponent and impedes the opponent's progress (blocks the opponent) the offense should be penalized under Law 12;*



Offside Offense

There is no change in the determination of whether an offside offense has occurred with regard to a player in an offside position who is in the way of an opponent.

If the player in the offside position moves to impede the progress of an opponent, then the foul of impeding has occurred and a free kick is awarded at the spot of the offense, i.e. an indirect free kick (IFK) if there is no contact or a direct free kick (DFK) if there is contact.

In effect the result in either case is the same, i.e. a free kick for the defending team.



Offside Offense

In situations where:

- *A player in an offside position is moving towards the ball with the intention of playing the ball and is fouled before playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the foul is penalized as it occurred before the offside offense;*

Since the player in the offside position has not yet become involved in active play, and therefore not yet guilty of committing an offside offense, a defender is not free to commit a foul against that player.



Offside Offense

In situations where:

- *An offense is committed against a player in an offside position who is already playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the offside offense is penalized as it occurred before the foul challenge.*

Since the player in the offside position has become involved in active play, a subsequent foul by a defender does not negate the fact that the offside offense already occurred. The defender may still be disciplined for being reckless or using excessive force.



Goal Celebration

A player must be cautioned for:

- *climbing onto a perimeter fence and/or approaching the spectators in a manner which causes safety and/or security issues;*

Any action by a player which causes safety / security concerns, or is provocative or inflammatory must be cautioned (YC).



Indirect Free Kicks

A indirect free kick is awarded if a player:

- *Is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures or other verbal offenses*

This just clarifies that when play is stopped for any verbal/gesture offenses, the restart is always an indirect free kick (IFK), whether or not a caution (YC) or send-off (RC) is given.

Some officials have wrongly interpreted that any “offense against a match official”, including dissent, etc., warranted a direct free kick restart ... NOT TRUE. A direct free kick (DFK or PK) restart for an “offense against a match official” only applies if the offense is physical.



Advantage After a Red Card

*Advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play (...), unless there is an opportunity to score a goal. (...) if the 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, **unless the player committed a more serious offense.***

This just clarifies that when a player commits a send-off (RC) offense and the referee plays the advantage, and the player then commits another offense, it should be penalized, as such, with an IFK, DFK or PK restart, depending upon the type of offense, e.g. the player fouls an opponent.

The send-off (RC) for the first offense is issued, and then the restart is taken for the subsequent offense.



Promising Attack in Penalty Area

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior, including if a player:

- *commits a foul or handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack, **except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offense which was an attempt to play the ball;***
- *denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offense which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick.*



Promising Attack in Penalty Area

This clarification specifically defines the instance when a caution (YC) should **not** be given for “the stopping of a promising attack” within the penalty area.

A handling foul within the penalty area to “stop a promising attack” would still result in a caution (YC), since it is not considered to be an attempt to play the ball.



Promising Attack in Penalty Area

The removal of a caution (YC) for “stopping a promising attack” when a penalty kick is awarded is now consistent with similar changes previously made for a DOGSO offense committed in the penalty area whilst making an attempt to play the ball.

The DOGSO offense in the penalty area involving an attempt to play the ball is now listed as one of the cautionable (YC) offenses and is no longer considered as a sending-off (RC) offense. Where the offense is not an attempt to play the ball, it is still a send-off (RD).



Sending-Off Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player who commits any of the following offenses is sent-off:

- *denying **a goal or** an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent **whose overall movement is** towards the **offender's** goal by an offense punishable by a free kick (...)*

The inclusion of “overall movement” is intended to clarify that if, in the final stage of an attack, the player moves diagonally to get past a goalkeeper/defender an obvious goal-scoring opportunity can still exist.

Language is also intended to clarify that denying a goal is a send-off offense.



Sending-Off Offenses

Where a player commits an offense against an opponent which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offender is cautioned if the offense was an attempt to play the ball; in all other circumstances (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.) the offending player must be sent-off.

There is absolutely no change in the *Law* or its application from what was presented in the 2016-17 IFAB changes. It's just an attempt to use clearer wording, as to when a caution (YC) or send-off (RC) should be issued.



DOGSO from Off the Field

A player, substitute, or substituted player who enters the field-of-play without the required referee's permission and interferes with play or an opponent and denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is guilty of a sending-off offense.

This is a clarification that if a goal is prevented, or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity is denied, the offender is guilty of committing a send-off (RC) offense, even if no other offense is committed.

See *Law 3* with regard to players entering the field-of-play without the required referee's permission.



Throwing Objects

*If a player standing on or off the field-of-play throws an object (including the ball) at an **opposing player, substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official, match official or the ball**, play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position where the object struck or would have struck the **person or the ball**. **If this position is off the field-of-play, the free kick is taken on the nearest point on the boundary line; a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender's penalty area.***



Throwing Objects

When play is stopped as a result of an object having been thrown by a player during play, the restart will be a direct free kick (DFK or PK), regardless of whether:

- it was thrown from on or off the field-of-play;
- its intended target was located on or off the field-of-play.

The free kick will be taken on the nearest boundary line when the object is thrown at anyone on the opponents' team list who is off the field-of-play.



Throwing Objects

If a substitute, substituted or sent-off player, player temporarily off the field-of-play or team official throws or kicks an object onto the field-of-play and it interferes with play, an opponent or match official, play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick) where the object struck interfered with play or struck or would have struck the opponent, match official or the ball.



Throwing Objects

When play is stopped as a result of someone on the team list throwing an object onto the field, the restart will be a direct free kick (DFK or PK).

The free kick will be taken where the interference occurs or where the target is struck or would have been struck.

In all cases the referee must also take appropriate disciplinary action against the offending person, i.e. YC or RC or dismissal.



On the Field-of-Play Offense

If the ball is in play and a player commits an offense inside the field-of-play against:

- *A teammate, substitute, substituted or **sent-off player**, team official or match official - a direct free kick or penalty kick (...)*

This just clarifies that if an offense is committed by a player on the field-of-play, which is now also specifically against a sent-off player, the restart is a direct free kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK).



Outside the Field-of-Play Offenses

If when the ball is in play:

- *a player commits an offense against a match official or an opposing player, substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official outside the field-of-play or;*
- *a substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official commits an offense against, or interferes with, an opposing player or match official outside the field-of-play*
play is restarted with a free kick on



Outside the Field-of-Play Offenses

..... the boundary line nearest to where the offense/interference occurred; a penalty kick is awarded if this is a direct free kick offense within the offender's penalty area.

This section of *Law 12* applies only for an offense by one of the players or against one of the players (or match official), while the ball is in play.

It does not apply to offenses between substitutes or team officials – it is only for an offense by or against one of the players.



Outside the Field-of-Play Offenses

It does not apply to offenses not involving one of the 22 players and/or match official (e.g. substitute against substitute, coach against coach).

A player who commits an off the field-of-play offense is penalized with a free kick (IFK or DFK or PK) on the boundary line, regardless of whether the offending player:

- was already off the field-of-play;
- leaves the field-of-play as part of play;
- leaves the field-of-play to commit the offense.

This is a change which now standardizes the restarts for any and all offenses committed off the field-of-play by a player during play



Outside the Field-of-Play Offenses

When a substitute, etc. (i.e. any non-player on the team list) commits an off the field-of-play offense against an opposing player or match official the restart shall be a free kick (IFK, DFK or PK) on the nearest boundary line.

An example of such an offense would be when a player, who has temporarily left the field-of-play to chase the ball, is tripped.

This addition also establishes that the restarts will be the same for any offenses committed off the field-of-play during play, whether by a player or any other individual on the team list



Opposing Player Enters Penalty Area

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.

The free kick (DFK or IFK) is retaken even though the ball has left the penalty area and into play.

An example of this occurs when an opposing player cuts diagonally across the penalty area (instead of going around) to get quicker access to the ball.



Extended Time Penalty Kick

When additional time is allowed, the penalty kick is completed when, after the kick has been taken, the ball:

- *stops moving*
- *goes out of play;*
- *is played by any player (including the kicker) other than the defending goalkeeper;*

or the referee stops play for an offense by the kicker or the kicker's team.

If a defending team player (including the goalkeeper) commits an offense and the penalty is missed/saved, the penalty is retaken.



Extended Time Penalty Kick

No change in the *Law* has occurred. This wording just reinforces and clarifies when a penalty kick taken in extended time is completed.

In reality only the kicker and the goalkeeper should be guilty of an offense at the taking of the kick, since all the other players are not involved in the play (actually, they really serve no purpose by being on the field-of-play during the kick).



Penalty Kicks

Offense by Goalkeeper and Kicker (See Law 10):

- *If both the goalkeeper and kicker commit an offense at the same time:*
 - ❖ *if the kick is missed or saved, the kick is retaken and both players cautioned;*
 - ❖ *if the kick is scored, the goal is disallowed, the kicker is cautioned and play restarts with an indirect free kick (IFK) to the defending team.*



Interference with a Penalty Kick

The ball is touched by an outside agent as it moves forward:

- *the kick is retaken, unless the ball is going into the goal and the interference does not prevent the goalkeeper or defending player playing the ball, in which case the goal is awarded if the ball enters the goal (even if contact was made with the ball) unless the ball enters the opponents' goal.*

This just clarifies what should happen if there is interference by an outside agent with a ball going into the goal from the taking of a penalty kick.



Opposing Player Enters Penalty Area

*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, the goal kick is retaken.*

The goal kick is retaken even though the ball has left the penalty area and into play (See Law 13).



For the next 2 years, there will be a special focus by IFAB on some crucial areas, including:

- ***Player behavior (especially the role of the captain)***
- ***Increasing playing time/reducing time wasting***
- ***Different order for kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM)***
- ***Handball***