



Laws of the Game 2022/23

Clarifications and associated Law changes



Main changes and clarifications



Law 3 – The Players

Additional substitutes for top competitions

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Additional substitutes for top competitions

Explanation

The temporary amendment to Law 3 giving competitions involving the 1st teams of clubs in the top division or 'A' international teams the option of allowing teams to use up to five substitutes in a match (with a limit on substitution opportunities) now becomes part of Law 3.

In addition, competition rules may now allow a maximum of fifteen substitutes to be named.

Law 3 – The Players

Additional substitutes for top competitions

New text

~~Deleted text~~

Existing text

Amended text

2. Number of substitutions

Official competitions

The number of substitutes, up to a maximum of five, which may be used in any match played in an official competition will be determined by FIFA, the confederation or the national football association. ~~except~~

For men's and women's competitions involving the 1st teams of clubs in the top division or senior 'A' international teams where ~~the maximum is three substitutes~~ competition rules permit a maximum of five substitutes to be used, each team:

- has a maximum of three substitution opportunities*
- may additionally make substitutions at half-time

Law 3 – The Players

Additional substitutes for top competitions

*Where both teams make a substitution at the same time, this will count as a used substitution opportunity for both teams. Multiple substitutions (and requests) by a team during the same stoppage in play count as one used substitution opportunity.

Extra time

- If a team has not used the maximum number of substitutes and/or substitution opportunities, any unused substitutes and substitution opportunities may be used in extra time
- Where competition rules permit teams to use one additional substitute in extra time, each team will have one additional substitution opportunity
- Substitutions may also be made in the period between full-time and the start of extra time, and at half-time in extra time – these do not count as used substitution opportunities

(...)

Law 3 – The Players

Additional substitutes for top competitions

New text

~~Deleted text~~

Existing text

Amended text

2. Number of substitutions

Official competitions

The competition rules must state:

- *how many substitutes may be named from three to a maximum of ~~twelve~~ fifteen*
- *whether one additional substitute may be used when a match goes into extra time (whether or not the team has already used the full number of permitted substitutes)*

Other matches

In ~~national~~ senior 'A' international team matches, a maximum of ~~twelve~~ fifteen substitutes may be named of which a maximum of six may be used.

(...)

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Referee tosses a coin

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Referee tosses a coin

New text

Deleted text

Existing text

Explanation

The toss of a coin to determine the 'ends' and kick-off is the responsibility of the referee and the wording should be consistent with Law 10.

Amended text

1. Kick-off

Procedure

- *the referee tosses a coin and* the team that wins the toss ~~of a coin~~ decides (...)





Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

Team officials

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

Team officials

New text

~~*Deleted text*~~

Existing text

Explanation

Confirmation that a team official may be cautioned or sent off during kicks from the penalty mark.

Amended text

3. Kicks from the penalty mark

Substitutions and sendings-off during kicks from the penalty mark

- *A player, substitute, ~~or~~ substituted player or team official may be cautioned or sent off*



Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Goalkeeper handball

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Goalkeeper handball

New text

Existing text

Explanation

The reference to handball offences in the DOGSO section of Law 12 could be misinterpreted as meaning a goalkeeper can be sent off for a handball offence in their own penalty area, so the 'caveat' used in the 'Sending-off offences' section of Law 12 has been added.

Additional text

3. Disciplinary action

Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO)

Where a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence, the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs *(except a goalkeeper within their penalty area)*.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Leaving the field of play to commit an offence against an outside agent

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Leaving the field of play to commit an offence against an outside agent

New text

~~*Deleted text*~~

Existing text

Explanation

The Law is clear that a free kick cannot be given for an offence against an outside agent. However, if a player leaves the field of play without the referee's permission and then commits such an offence while the ball is in play, an indirect free kick is awarded for the offence of leaving the field of play without the referee's permission at the point on the boundary line where the player left the field of play.

Amended text

4. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

(...)

If the referee stops play for an offence committed by a player, inside or outside the field of play, against an outside agent, play is restarted with a dropped ball unless ~~a~~ an indirect free kick is awarded for leaving the field of play without the referee's permission; the indirect free kick is taken from the point on the boundary line where the player left the field of play.

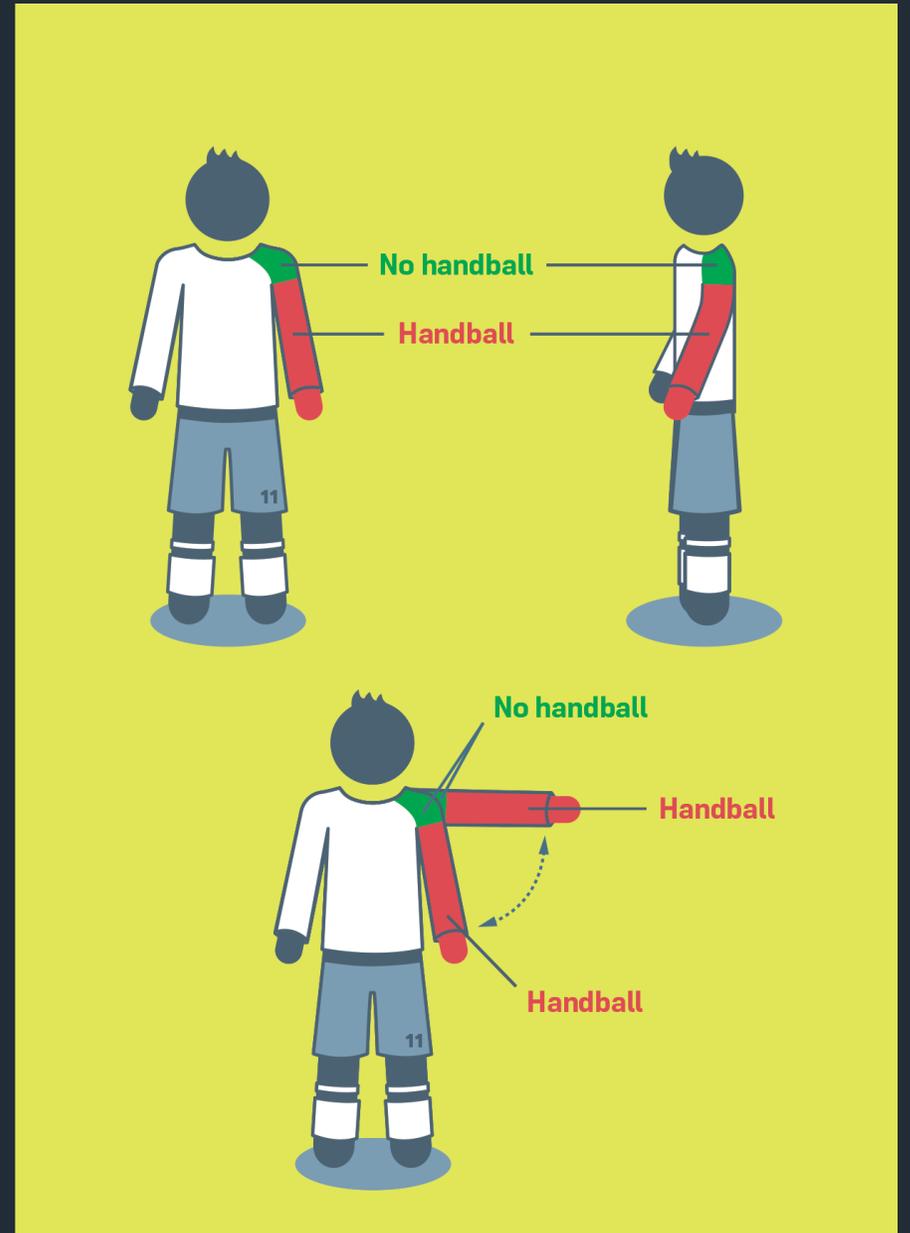
Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Improved illustration defining the punishable area related to handball

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Improved illustration defining the punishable area related to handball

In order to make the definition of the **areas which are to be considered handball (or not)** clearer, the **explanatory illustration** has been updated to make it clear that the arm 'starts' at the **bottom of the armpit** and not the 'T' shirt sleeve line.



Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Position of the goalkeeper

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Position of the goalkeeper

Explanation

Previously, the goalkeeper was required to have part of at least one foot on/above the goal line at the moment when a penalty kick (or kick from the penalty mark) was taken. Consequently, if the goalkeeper had one foot in front of the goal line and one behind it, this was technically an offence even though no unfair advantage is gained. The text has been amended to avoid such a position being penalised.

Explanation of this amendment should emphasise that the 'spirit' of the Law requires the goalkeeper to have both feet on/above the line until the moment when the kick is taken, i.e. the goalkeeper may not stand behind (or in front of) the goal line.



Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Position of the goalkeeper

New text

~~Deleted text~~

Existing text

Amended text

1. Procedure

(...) When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot touching, ~~or~~ in line with, or behind, the goal line.



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