



FIFA

2007 Laws of the Game and their Interpretations

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Amendments to the Laws of the Game - 2007



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Who makes these decisions?



The International Football Association Board (IFAB) at its March meeting examined possible amendments to a number of the Laws of the Game.

The IFAB is comprised of the four "Home Nations", England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales each having one vote and FIFA who exercises four votes. All decisions must pass by six votes.

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Why change the Laws at all?



Traditionally the IFAB have been a VERY conservative group resisting change for the sake of change.

Where changes are made they will always endeavour to increase effective playing time and to reduce the impact of cheating.

This year has been no exception and a number of key areas have been targeted.

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What are these key areas?



1. Law 4 – Players' Equipment
2. Law 10 – Method of Scoring
3. Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct
4. Law 14 – The Penalty Kick
5. Law 17 – The Corner Kick
6. Additional Instructions – Delaying the Restart of Play

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Law 4 – The Players' Equipment



Present Text

The basic compulsory equipment of a player is:

New Text

The basic compulsory equipment of a player *comprises the following separate items* :

Reason

Adding "*...the following separate items:*" ensures that the basic equipment must consist of individual garments and therefore a players' jersey and shorts may not be joined together in any way

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Law 10 – Method of Scoring



Changes to this Law are minor in nature and DO NOT affect the normal manner in which goals are scored during a match

They serve more to formalise the manner in which matches can be decided where a winner must be determined. Only methods approved by the IFAB may be used:

1. The "AWAY GOAL RULE"
2. EXTRA TIME
3. KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

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Law 5 – The Referee's Duties



ADVANTAGE

FIFA reiterates the use of 'advantage' and adds the following points:

The decision to penalise must be taken within the first few seconds

The referee must take into consideration where the offence has been committed when applying the advantage: the closer to the opponent's goal the more effective it can be

If the offence deserves a caution it can be given at the next stoppage. However, unless there is a clear advantage, it is recommended to stop the play and caution the player

If the offence deserves an expulsion – stop play and send the player off unless there is a subsequent opportunity to score a goal

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Law 5 – Simultaneous Offences



For offences committed by the same player:

Law 5 already requires the referee to punish the more serious offence when a player commits more than one offence at the same time. FIFA has added: "The play should be restarted with a DFK or penalty kick"

For offences committed by two players from the same team:

The referee must punish the most serious offence when players commit more than one offence at a time. The play should be restarted according to the fouls committed

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Law 5 – Simultaneous Offences



For offences "committed by players from different teams:

The referee must stop the play and restart it with a drop ball where the ball was located (at the time of the offences).

Trifling [minor] offences:

The Laws of the Game are intended to ensure that games are played with as little interference as possible. Constant whistling for minor and dubious infringements can cause bad feeling and loss of temper from players and spectators.

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Law 7 – Duration of the Match



FIFA notes that "...throw-ins, kick offs, dropped balls and replacement of balls are causes that consume time".

That being the case this implies that they should be taken into account when calculating "*Additional Time*" or "*Time Added On*".

"The Fourth Official must indicate the minimum additional time at the end of the final minute in each period of play."

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Law 8 – Start & Restart of Play



DROP BALL RESTARTS

FIFA have issued additional advice regarding this section of Law 8:

1. All the players may challenge for the ball
2. There is no minimum or maximum number of players required to take part in a dropped ball
3. The referee cannot decide who may or may not take part in a drop ball restart

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Law 11 – OFFSIDE



FIFA states that in judging when an attacker is in an offside position:

Consideration must only be given to any part of the:

- Head
- Body
- Or feet of the attacker

in relation to the second last defender, the ball or the halfway line.

For the purposes of this decision the players' arms are not considered to be part of the body.

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Law 11 – OFFSIDE continued



Interfering with an opponent now means:

Preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. For example, by:

- clearly obstructing the goal keeper's line of vision or movement;
- being in the direct path of a shot;
- making a gesture or movement that distracts an opponent.

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Law 11 – OFFSIDE for the AR



FIFA additionally recommends that the AR:

1. concentrates;
2. has good positioning;
3. uses appropriate running techniques ("side to side movement – better line of vision");
4. uses a 'wait and see technique'.

FIFA explains how to use this 'wait and see technique'

Freeze in your mind the position of the attacker and afterwards judge his involvement in active play.

To judge his involvement in active play take into account the movement of the ball – direction, speed, distance, any deflection, etc.

It is better to be slightly late and correct, than to be too quick and wrong.

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Law 11 – OFFSIDE for the AR



FIFA also advises:

If an AR is **not totally sure** about an offside offence, the flag should not be raised

Improve techniques to see the ball and the second last defender.
Quick movements of the eyes to the ball and the players

Watch the 2nd last defender and 'notice' the kick and movement of the ball

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Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



FIFA stresses that the Referee MUST judge whether the first 6 Direct Free Kick offences are committed in a manner that is **careless, reckless** or **uses excessive force**. As guidance FIFA has provided these definitions:

Careless means that the player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making his challenge – without precaution. No further disciplinary sanction is needed if a foul is judged to be careless.

Reckless means that the player has made the action with complete disregard for, danger to, or consequences for his opponent. A **caution** is needed if a player plays in a reckless manner.

Excessive means that the player has far exceeded the necessary use of force and is in danger of injuring his opponent. If a player plays using excessive force he should be **sent from the field of play.**"

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Charging an Opponent



Noting that "...it is an offence to charge an opponent in a careless or reckless manner, or with excessive force...", FIFA has added the following advice:

The act of charging can be performed under the following circumstances

1. Shoulder to shoulder [not to the centre of the opponent's back], taking into account the differences in height, weight, strength;
2. Within playing distance and not using his arms or elbows;

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Holding an Opponent



FIFA advises that: "... this includes 'the act of stretching the arms out to prevent an opponent from moving past or around. The referee must take into consideration the following circumstances":

SHIRT PULLING

ARM HOLDING

Holding inside the penalty area by attackers or defenders during corner kicks and free kicks – try to prevent this before the ball is in play; and **no second warning ⇒ caution**

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Dealing with Holding



Disciplinary sanctions for holding are:

Caution for unsporting behaviour, where a player prevents an opponent from gaining possession of the ball or taking up an advantageous position;

Sending off if the player denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity;

No further disciplinary action if simply a holding offence."

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Handling the Ball



The following advice has been provided by FIFA

Handling the ball involves a **deliberate** act to make contact with the ball by a player's hand or arm.

The referee must take into consideration the following circumstances:

1. The movement of the hand towards the ball, not the ball towards the hand;
2. Touching the ball with something held in the hand [clothing, shinguard, etc.] counts as an infringement;
3. The distance between the opponent and the handball [be aware of the unexpected ball];
4. Position of the hand does not necessarily mean infringement.

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Disciplinary sanctions - Deliberate Handball



Caution if unsporting behaviour, for example to prevent an opponent from gaining possession; or attempting to score a goal;

Sending off if [the handball] denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity;

No further disciplinary action if normal handball."

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Handball offences by Goalkeepers



A goalkeeper who commits a handball offence outside his penalty area is treated as an ordinary player;

A goalkeeper who commits a handling offence inside his own penalty area, that is:

1. handles the ball again after releasing it and before it is touched by another player;
2. touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team mate;
3. touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate;

... is punished with an Indirect Free Kick from the place of the offence.

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Playing in a Dangerous Manner



FIFA defines this as: "... any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens damage or harm to someone including the player himself. It is committed with an opponent nearby and prevents the opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury. The action becomes an offence only when an opponent or the player himself is affected.

Playing in a dangerous manner involves **no physical contact** between the players.

If there is a physical contact the offence becomes a careless offence punishable with a DFK or penalty kick.

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Playing in a Dangerous Manner



The sanctions are:

1. Caution, if in the opinion of the referee the action is made with obvious risk of damage or harm;
2. Sending off if the action denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity;
3. No further disciplinary action if a 'normal' challenge;

Restart with an IDFK."

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Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity



Criteria for Judging an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity

Take the following into account:

1. The direction of play;
2. The location of the foul;
3. The proximity of the player to the ball;
4. The probability of [the player controlling] the ball;
5. The location and number of opponents;
6. The opportunity for an attempt on goal.

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AR Flag Techniques – Throw In



Current Australian advice mirrors FIFA's advice. For example:

1. One part signal when the ball has gone out near the AR and the direction is clear;
2. if in doubt raise the flag, maintain eye contact with the referee and follow his signal;
3. When the ball is well away from the AR use one part signal showing direction when the decision is clear;
4. Otherwise it is the priority for the referee to indicate direction and for the AR to raise the flag vertically to indicate ball out of play.

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AR Flag Techniques – Goal Kicks



1. If certain it is a goal kick use right hand to signal goal kick, but raise the flag first if the referee may not be aware that the ball has gone out over the goal line;
2. If ball goes out over the goal line but AR is uncertain about the restart raise flag, maintain eye contact with referee and follow his signal.
3. It is a priority for the AR to signal goal or corner kicks when the ball is nearest to him; when the ball is on the far side the priority for signalling rests with the referee.

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AR Positioning – Goal Kicks



The AR must:

1. Stay in line with the goal area line until the ball is placed correctly;
2. If incorrect try to have it corrected yourself or raise flag to alert referee;
3. Move out to the edge of the penalty area to check ball clears the PA;
4. Take up a position in line with the 2nd last defender.

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Use of the Whistle



FIFA now specifies:

Compulsory whistle:

1. to start each period of play;
2. to stop play for free kicks; to stop, suspend, terminate match;
3. to restart play at free kicks where the wall has been formally set up; and at penalty kicks.

Discretionary whistle:

1. to stop play for goal kicks, corner kicks, throw-ins;
2. goals if the decision is tight;
3. to restart play for other free kicks than in previous section;
4. goal kick; corner kick;
5. throw-in.

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The End

This ends today's presentation on the 2007 Laws of the Game and the FIFA Interpretations of those Laws.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention.

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