



2019 Accepted IFAB Rule Changes – Effective July 1, 2019

1. Accidental handball goal won't stand (Handball - Law 12)

Changes

- The following 'handball' situations, even if accidental, will be a free kick:
 - The ball goes into the goal after touching an attacking player's hand/arm
 - A player gains control/possession of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then scores, or creates a goal-scoring opportunity
 - The ball touches a player's hand/arm which has made their body unnaturally bigger

Explanation

Greater clarity is needed for handball, especially on those occasions when 'non-deliberate' handball is an offence. The re-wording follows a number of principles:

- Football does not accept a goal being scored by a hand/arm (even if accidental)
- Football expects a player to be penalised for handball if they gain possession/control of the ball from their hand/arm and gain a major advantage e.g. score or create a goal-scoring opportunity

2. GK's allowed one foot off the line for penalties (Penalty Kick - Law 14)

Changes

- The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on/in line with the goal line when the kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line

Explanation

- Goalkeepers are not permitted to stand in front of or behind the line. Allowing the goalkeeper to have only one foot touching the goal line (or, if jumping, in line with the goal line) when the penalty kick is taken is a more practical approach as it is easier to identify if both feet are not on the line. As the kicker can 'stutter' in the run, it is reasonable that the goalkeeper can take one step in anticipation of the kick.

3. Substituted players can leave the field anywhere (Substitutes - Law 3)

Changes

- A player who is being substituted must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly/immediately at the halfway line or a different point because of safety, injury etc.)

Explanation

- To stop a player who is being substituted 'wasting' time by leaving slowly at the halfway line (which is not a Law requirement) the player must leave at the nearest point (as with an injury) unless the referee indicates otherwise, e.g. if the player can leave quickly at the halfway line, there is a safety/security issue or the player leaves on a stretcher. The player must go immediately to the technical area or dressing room to avoid problems with substitutes, spectators, or the match officials. A player who

infringes the spirit of this Law should be sanctioned for unsporting behaviour i.e. delaying the restart of play.

4. No attacking players in the wall (Free Kicks - Law 13)

Changes

- When there is a 'wall' of three or more defenders, the attackers are not allowed within 1m (1 yd) of the wall; an attacker less than 1m (1yd) from the 'wall' when the kick is taken will be penalised with an indirect free kick

Explanation

- Attackers standing very close to, or in, the defensive 'wall' at a free kick often cause management problems and waste time. There is no legitimate tactical justification for attackers to be in the 'wall' and their presence is against the 'spirit of the game' and often damages the image of the game.

5. Coaches will receive cards (Team Officials – Laws 5 & 12)

Changes

- A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a YC (caution) or RC (sending-off)*; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach who is in the technical area at the time will receive the YC/RC * Law 12 will have a list of YC/RC offences

Explanation

- The experiment with YC/RC for misconduct by team officials has been successful and has revealed many benefits at all levels, including for young referees dealing with 'difficult' adult coaches. If the offender cannot be identified, the senior team official (usually the main coach) in the technical area will receive the YC/RC (as the person responsible for the other team officials).