

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1033

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GS/sde

Amendments to the Laws of the Game - 2006

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2006 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in Lucerne, Switzerland on 04 March 2006. The amendments to the Laws of the Game made at the meeting and the various instructions and directives are listed below.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

Basic Equipment

Present Text

The basic compulsory equipment of a player is:

- a jersey or shirt;
- shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as the shorts;
- stockings;
- shinguards;
- footwear

New Text

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

- a jersey or shirt;
- shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as the shorts;
- stockings;
- shinguards;
- footwear

Reason

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

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

Competition Rules

Present Text

When competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn, only the following procedures, which have been approved by the International F.A. Board, are permitted

- Away goals rule
- Extra time
- Kicks from the penalty mark

New Text

When competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match **or home-and-away tie** has been drawn, only the following procedures, which have been approved by the International F.A. Board, are permitted

- Away goals rule
- Extra time
- Kicks from the penalty mark

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Cautionable Offences

Present Text

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offences:

1. is guilty of unsporting behaviour
2. shows dissent by word or action
3. persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. delays the restart of play
5. fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick
6. enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.

New Text

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following seven offences:

1. is guilty of unsporting behaviour
2. shows dissent by word or action
3. persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
4. delays the restart of play
5. fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick **or throw-in**
6. enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
7. deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission.

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following three offences:

1. **is guilty of unsporting behaviour**
2. **shows dissent by word or action**
3. **delays the restart of play**



For the Good of the Game

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Sending-Off Offences

Present Text

A player is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following seven offences:

1. is guilty of serious foul play
2. is guilty of violent conduct
3. spits at an opponent or any other person
4. denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
5. denies an obvious goalscoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
7. receives a second caution in the same match.

A player who has been sent off must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area

New Text

A player, **substitute or substituted player** is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following seven offences:

1. is guilty of serious foul play
2. is guilty of violent conduct
3. spits at an opponent or any other person
4. denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
5. denies an obvious goalscoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
7. receives a second caution in the same match.

A player, **substitute or substituted player** who has been sent off **and shown the red card** must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Infringements/Sanctions

Present Text

If the referee gives the signal for a penalty kick to be taken and, before the ball is in play, one of the following situations occurs:

The player taking the penalty kick infringes the Laws of the Game:

- the referee allows the kick to proceed
- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick to the defending team

Reason

To be consistent with the other infringements.

Present Text

A team-mate of the player taking the kick enters the penalty area or moves in front of or within 9.15 m (10 yds) of the penalty mark:

- the referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick to the defending team
- If the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper, the crossbar or the goalpost and is touched by this player, the referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick to the defending team.

Reason

To be consistent with the other infringements. Bullet point 4 is covered by bullet point 3.

New Text

If the referee gives the signal for a penalty kick to be taken and, before the ball is in play, one of the following situations occurs:

The player taking the penalty kick infringes the Laws of the Game:

- the referee allows the kick to proceed
- if the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick, **from the place where the infringement occurred**, to the defending team

New Text

A team-mate of the player taking the kick **infringes the Laws of the Game:**

- the referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball enters the goal, the kick is retaken
- If the ball does not enter the goal, the referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick, **from the place where the infringement occurred**, to the defending team

Present Text

A team-mate of the goalkeeper enters the penalty area or moves in front of or within 9.15 m (10 yds) of the penalty mark:

- the referee allows the kick to proceed
- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken

Reason

To be consistent with the other infringements.

Law 17 – The Corner Kick

Procedure

bullet point 3

Present Text

- opponents remain at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the ball until it is in play

Reason

To be consistent with Law 1.

New Text

A team-mate of the goalkeeper **infringes the Laws of the Game:**

- the referee allows the kick to proceed
- if the ball enters the goal, a goal is awarded
- if the ball does not enter the goal, the kick is retaken

New Text

- opponents remain at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from **the corner arc** until **the ball** is in play

2. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

Delaying the restart of play

new bullet point 6

Present Text

Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by tactics such as:

- taking a free kick from the wrong position with the sole intention of forcing the referee to order a retake
- appearing to take a throw-in but suddenly leaving it to one of his teammates to throw-in
- kicking the ball away or carrying it away with the hands after the referee has stopped play
- excessively delaying the taking of a throw-in or free kick
- delaying leaving the field when being substituted

New Text

Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by tactics such as:

- taking a free kick from the wrong position with the sole intention of forcing the referee to order a retake
- appearing to take a throw-in but suddenly leaving it to one of his teammates to throw-in
- kicking the ball away or carrying it away with the hands after the referee has stopped play
- excessively delaying the taking of a throw-in or free kick
- delaying leaving the field when being substituted
- **provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play**

The IFAB agreed that the amendments made to the Laws of the Game should enter into force prior to the 2006 FIFA World Cup on **1st June**, instead of on 1st July 2006. The instructions and directives are introduced with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Urs Linsi
General Secretary

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- FIFA Referees Committee
- Confederations