



IFAB
2019/2020 Laws of the Game
Summary of main changes

Resources

www.theIFAB.com

www.ussoccer.com/referee-program/laws-of-the-game

All encouraged to review file

“IFAB's 2019-20 LOTG - Main Changes”





Laws of the Game

Explore the Laws of football

★★★★★ 30

[OPEN](#)





The IFAB

Yesterday at 9:00 AM · 🌐



Questions & Answers: WHAT IS THE SANCTION ?

Not every HANDBALL offence results in a caution 🟡 / sending-off 🟥. Do you know which handball offences are punished by:

➡ yellow card?

➡ red card?

LEARN MORE with the official app ➡ 📱

bit.ly/LawsAppAndroid

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Q&A

Which handball offences are punished by the yellow/red card?

A player is cautioned (yellow card) if he/she handles the ball:

- to interfere with or stop a promising attack*
- in an attempt to score a goal
- in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal

*assuming the referee does not allow a quick free kick before showing the YC

A player is sent off (red card) if he/she denies the opposing



Law 3 – The Players

Substitute player

Substituted player leaving the field of play must now leave at the nearest touchline/goal line.

- Why – substitute taking a long time to leave at the halfway line which is NOT required.



Law 5 – The Referee

Injured penalty taker

A penalty kick has been awarded and the injured player will be the kicker.

- OK to treat on the field and NOT required to leave the field.



Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Winning the toss and choosing kick-off

Team that wins the coin toss decides which goal to attack in first half **OR** take the kick-off.

- Why – no reason not to allow this option if the captain winning the toss desires.



Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Dropped ball

Ball is dropped for one player – “uncontested” – all other players (both teams) must remain away 4.5 yards.

- Dropped to goalkeeper if ball was, in – or last touched, in the penalty area.
- Dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball.



Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Dropped ball

During play – If the ball has hit a match official (especially the referee) and:

- A team gains possession.
- A team starts an attack.
- A team scores a goal.

➤ Restart = Dropped Ball where the ball touched a match official.



Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handling offences by the goalkeeper

When, from a throw-in or a deliberate kick from a team-mate, the **goalkeeper** clearly **kicks or tries to kick** the ball with the **intention of releasing it into play**, this action demonstrates that the goalkeeper has no intention of ‘illegally’ handling the ball, so if the goalkeeper’s **clearance is unsuccessful**, he/she **can** then **handle the ball** without committing an offence.



Law 13 – Free Kicks

Defending team free kick in their penalty area

Ball in play once it is kicked and clearly moves– does not have to leave the penalty area.

- Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 10 yards away until ball in play.



Law 13 – Free Kicks

The defensive ‘wall’

Where three or more defending team players form a ‘wall’.

- all attacking team players to be at least 1m from the ‘wall’ until the ball is in play.



Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

When the ball is kicked the defending goalkeeper must have at least one foot touching or in line with the goal line.



Law 16 – The Goal Kick

Ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves – **it does not have to leave the penalty area.**

- Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until ball in play.
- 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 is in play, the Goal Kick is **retaken**.



Law 16 – The Goal Kick

However, if the goal kick is taken quickly and the opponent did not have time to leave the penalty area, they can intercept the ball **after the kick has been taken** but they cannot prevent the kick from being taken.

- Players who **deliberately** remain inside or enter the penalty area before the kick is taken should not gain an unfair advantage, even if the kick is taken quickly. **Retake** the goal kick.



Law 16 – The Goal Kick

There has been much debate about whether, at a goal kick, the goalkeeper is permitted to 'lift' the ball to a teammate to head or chest it back to the goalkeeper to catch and then put into play.

- The views of technical and refereeing experts about whether this is within the 'spirit' of the Laws is divided so the matter will be discussed by The IFAB.
- Until then, **this practice should not be permitted nor should it be penalized**. If it occurs the referee should order the goal kick to be **re-taken** (but without any disciplinary action).



Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Handball is probably the most ‘unclear’ area of the LOTG and this lack of clarity causes much confusion, inconsistency and controversy.

- Improved by moving the focus from ‘intent/interference’ to ‘outcome/impact’.
- Players “take a risk” when arm/hand is in certain positions.
- Position of the hand/arm “make the body unnaturally bigger”.
- Above shoulder height is not natural.



Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Offence if player deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball.

Offence if player gains possession / control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:

- Scores in the opponents' goal.
- Creates a goal-scoring opportunity.



Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Ok if player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm (ball played the hand).

Not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- Directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot).
- Directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.
- If the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger.
- When a player is falling and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body.





Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and Red Cards for Team Officials

Michigan we always displayed cards, LOTG did not provide though, now they do.

If offence in the technical area occurs and offender cannot be identified – senior team coach in the TA will receive the YC/RC.



Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and Red Cards for team officials

The following offenses should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant instances should result in a caution or sending off:

- Entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner.
- Minor/low level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision.
- Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offense.



Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and Red Cards for team officials

Cautionable offenses include (but are not limited to):

- Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area.
- Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational).
- Dissent by word or action including:
 - Gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. sarcastic clapping.



Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and Red Cards for team officials

Cautionable offenses include (but are not limited to):

- Excessively / persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card.
- Gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner.
- Persistent Unacceptable behavior (including repeated warning offenses).
- Showing a lack of respect for the game.



Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and Red Cards for team officials

Sending-off offenses include:

- Enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner.
- Deliberately throwing / kicking an object onto the field of play.
- Entering the field of play to:
 - Confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
 - Physical or aggressive behavior.



Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and Red Cards for team officials

Sending-off offenses include:

- Receiving a second caution in the same match.
- Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
- Using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment.
- Violent conduct.





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