



To the member associations of FIFA

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Circular no. 907

Zurich, 14 May 2004  
GS/jmg/ftr/jya

### **Amendments to the Laws of the Game - 2004**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in London, England on 28 February 2004. 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 1 - The Field of Play**

##### **Present Text**

##### **New text**

##### **Field surface**

*Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.*

#### **New International FA Board Decision 7**

*Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.*



**Reason:**

Advances in artificial surface technology have created high quality surfaces, which are fully acceptable at all levels of the game. This proposal recognises the surface of the field in the Laws of the Game for the first time and also the fact that artificial surfaces in identified levels of international competition must meet recognised FIFA standards.

**New International FA Board Decision 8**

*Where a technical area exists, it must meet the requirements approved by the International FA Board, which are contained in this publication.*

**Reason:**

This new International FA Board Decision gives formal recognition to the text on the technical area, which is published as an appendix to the Laws in the Laws of the Game booklet.

**Law 3 – The Number of Players**

**Present Text**

**Other matches**

In other matches, substitutes may be used, provided that:

- The teams reach agreement on a maximum number
- The referee is informed before the match

If the referee is not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the start of the match, no more than three substitutes are allowed.

**New Text**

**Other matches**

*In other matches, up to six substitutes may be used.*

**Reason:**

The practice of making large numbers of substitutions in friendly matches devalues the game and creates a farcical situation. The number of substitutes used in friendly matches must be controlled.



## Law 5 – The Referee

### Present Text

#### **International FA Board Decision 2**

In tournaments or competitions where a fourth official is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the International FA Board.

### New Text

#### **International FA Board Decision 2**

*In tournaments or competitions where a fourth official is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the International FA Board, which are contained in this publication.*

#### **Reason:**

This additional text using the phrase ‘which are contained in this publication’ is to provide consistent wording with other IFAB Decisions and to formally recognise the guidelines on the fourth official published in the Laws of the Game booklet.

## Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

### Present Text

#### **Extra Time**

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods to be played.  
The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

### New Text

#### **Reason:**

This text will now be included in ‘Procedures to determine the winner of a match’.

## Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

### Present Text

#### **Competition Rules**

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time, or other procedures approved by the International F.A. Board, to determine the winner of a match.

### New Text

#### **Competition Rules**

*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 FA Board, are permitted:*

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



#### **New International FA Board Decision 1**

*Only procedures to determine the winner of a match, which are approved by the International FA Board and contained in this publication, are permitted in competition rules.*

#### **Reason:**

These texts confirm the decision taken at the Annual Business Meeting of the IFAB in September 2003 that competition rules to determine the winner of a match may only include procedures that have been approved by the International FA Board.

### **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

#### **New International FA Board Decision 6**

*A player who removes his jersey when celebrating a goal must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.*

#### **Reason:**

The removal of the jersey after a goal has been scored is unnecessary and players must avoid such excessive displays of celebration.

### **Procedures to determine the winner of a match**

#### **Present Text**

The Golden Goal and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

#### **New Text**

*Away goals, extra time and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.*

#### ***Away Goals***

*Competition rules may provide that where teams play each other home and away, if the scores are equal after the second match, any goals scored at the ground of the opposing team will count double.*

#### ***Extra Time***

*Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods, not exceeding 15 minutes each, to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.*

#### ***Kicks from the penalty mark***

*Text unchanged*

**Reason:** This text confirms the procedures proposed earlier.



## 2.- INFORMATION

### **Radio communication system**

It was recognised that this technology could make a positive contribution to match control but it was also recognised that such a system must only be used for communication between the match officials and must not be used for broadcasting purposes.

### **Radio communication between players and technical staff**

The Board supported FIFA's opposition to the use of radio communication between players and technical staff.

### **Law 4 – The Players' Equipment**

The Board agreed that the use of a one-piece playing suit was contrary to the Laws of the Game.

The amendments to the Laws of the Game take effect as from 1 July 2004 and instructions and directives are introduced with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linsi".

Urs Linsi  
General Secretary

cc: FIFA Executive Committee  
FIFA Referees and Assistant Referees Committee  
FIFA Referees and Assistant Referees  
FIFA Referee Instructors and FIFA Assistant Referee Instructors  
Confederations