



**On March 2, 2019 IFAB approved a number of changes to the 2019/2020 LOTG. These changes go into effect on June 1, 2019.**

**SSBRA will be training its Referees starting in May and Cal South will continue to provide training over the next several months.**

**SSBRA is providing you this file so your organization is aware of the changes.**

**Here are two links two to documents provided by IFAB with contain additional information.**

<http://theifab.com/backend/library/doc/smarty-of-main-law-changes-2019-20>

<http://theifab.com/backend/library/doc/changes-to-the-laws-and-clarifications-201920>



**IFAB 2019/2020  
Laws of the Game  
Changes**

**Effective 6/1/2019**



## Reminders

- The IFAB and FIFA would like to remind everyone of two very important aspects of the game:
  - Captains
    - The Laws of the Game state that the captain has “a degree of responsibility for the behavior of their team”
    - Captains are expected to use this responsibility to help calm/positively influence the behavior of their players, especially in controversial/confrontational situations involving opponents or match officials
  - Respect for Referees
    - Players must respect all decisions made by the referee and other match officials
    - Respect for the Laws of the Game and the match officials who apply the Laws is paramount



## Law 3 –Substitutes

- 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.)



## Law 4 –Players' Equipment

- Multi-colored/patterned undershirts are allowed if they are the same as the sleeve of the main shirt

## Laws 5 –Team Officials

- 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 7 –Medical breaks

- Difference between 'cooling' breaks (90 secs –3 mins) and 'drinks' breaks (max 1 min)



## Laws 8 –Kick-off

- The team that wins the toss can now choose to take the kick-off or which goal to attack (previously they only had the choice of which goal to attack)

## Laws 8 & 9 –Dropped Ball

- If play is stopped inside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for the goalkeeper
- If play is stopped outside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the point of the last touch
- In all cases, all the other players (of both teams) must be at least 4m (4.5yds) away
- If the ball touches the referee (or another match official) and goes into the goal, team possession changes or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded



## Law 12 –Handball

- Deliberate handball remains an offence
- 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 touches 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
  - the ball touches a player's hand/arm when it is above their shoulder (unless the player has deliberately played the ball which then touches their hand/arm)



## Law 12 –Handball (cont.)

- It is **usually an offence** if a player touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)





## Law 12 –Handball (cont.)

- The following **will not usually be a free kick**, unless they are one of the above situations:
  - the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from their own head/body/foot or the head/body/foot of another player who is close/near
  - the ball touches a player's hand/arm which is close to their body and has not made their body unnaturally bigger
  - if a player is falling and the ball touches their hand/arm when it is between their body and the ground to support the body (but not extended to make the body bigger)
  - If the goalkeeper attempts to 'clear' (release into play) a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate but the 'clearance' fails, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball



## Law 12 –Quick Free Kick and YC/RC

- If the referee is about to issue a YC/RC but the non-offending team takes the free kick quickly and creates a goal-scoring opportunity, the referee can delay the YC/RC until the next stoppage if the offending team was not distracted by the referee

## Law 12 –Goal Celebrations

- A YC for an 'illegal' celebration (e.g. removing the shirt) remains even if the goal is disallowed



## Law 13 –Free Kicks

- 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 penalized with an indirect free kick
- When the defending team takes a free kick in their own penalty area, the ball is in play once the kick is taken; it does not have to leave the penalty area before it can be played

## Law 14 –Penalty Kick

- The team's penalty taker can have (quick) treatment/assessment and then take the kick
- The goalkeeper must not be touching the goalposts/crossbar/nets; they must not be moving
- 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



## Law 16 –Goal Kick

- The **ball is in play once the kick is taken; it can be played before leaving the penalty area**