

2018-19 Changes to the Laws of the Game Summary

Executive Summary:

Law changes 2018/19

(Summary of main changes/clarifications)

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- Player who has left the field because of an equipment issue and returns without permission and interferes with play is penalized with a direct free kick (or penalty kick)

Law 5 – THE REFEREE

- Match officials are not permitted to wear cameras

Law 10 – DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH

- Kicks from the penalty mark – a replacement for a goalkeeper cannot take a kick in that 'round' if the goalkeeper has already taken a kick

Law 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- **Biting is included as a direct free kick and sending-off offence**

“The Luis Suarez Law!” – Ref Admin Comment

- Throwing an object at the ball or hitting the ball with a held object are separate direct free kick offences (not a form of handball)
- If the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper this does not prevent the goalkeeper handling the ball a second time even if the first attempt to catch/holds the ball was deliberate
- If the referee plays advantage for a DOGSO the offender is cautioned (YC) whether or not a goal is scored
- Excessively showing the TV signal is a caution (YC)

- Where 2 separate cautionable (YC) offences are committed in close proximity, both cautions (YCs) must be issued; same principle if one is a sending off offence
- If a player commits an offence outside the field of play (ball in play) against someone from their own team (including a team official) it is an indirect free kick on the boundary line

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

- Clarification that free kicks can also be awarded for offences by a substitute, substituted or sent off player, or a team official

LAW 15 – THE THROW-IN

- A player must stand to take a throw-in (kneeling, sitting etc. not permitted)

Further explanation and AYSO impact:

Law changes 2018/19

(Details of main changes/clarifications and AYSO impact)

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

- Player who has left the field because of an equipment issue and returns without permission and interferes is penalized with a direct free kick (or penalty kick)

1. Offences and sanctions

Additional text

A player who enters without permission must be cautioned and if play is stopped to issue the caution, an indirect free kick is awarded from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless there was interference in which case a direct free kick (or penalty kick) is awarded from the position of the interference.

Explanation

Clarifies the restart if a player returns without the necessary permission and interferes (consistent with Law 3).

AYSO impact

Minimum. This is rarely seen. Referees and ARs should work together to make sure players do not reenter the field of play without permission.

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

- Match officials are not permitted to wear cameras

1. Referee's equipment Other equipment

Additional text

Referees and other 'on-field' match officials are prohibited from wearing jewelry or any other electronic equipment, including cameras.

Explanation

Clarifies that referees and other 'on-field' match officials are not permitted to use or wear cameras.

AYSO impact

Minimum. However, there are a number of reasons AYSO referees should not wear a GoPro-type camera, including Safe Haven considerations.

LAW 10 – DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH

- Kicks from the penalty mark – a replacement for a goalkeeper cannot take a kick in that 'round' if the goalkeeper has already taken a kick.

1. Kicks from the penalty mark Procedure

Additional text

- A goalkeeper who is unable to continue before or during the kicks may be replaced (...) but the replaced goalkeeper takes no further part and may not take a kick. If the goalkeeper has already taken a kick, the replacement may not take a kick until the next round of kicks

Explanation

Clarifies that if a goalkeeper is replaced and has taken a kick, the replacement may not take a kick in that 'round' of kicks.

AYSO impact

Minimum. This is rarely seen. But referees need to be aware of the change should such an event occur.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- Biting is included as a direct free kick and sending-off offence
- Throwing an object at the ball or hitting the ball with a held object are separate direct free kick offences (not a form of handball)

1. Direct free kick

Additional text

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:

(...)

- bites or spits at an opponent someone
- throws an object at the ball, opponent or match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object

Deleted text

Handling the ball

- touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard etc.) is an offence
- hitting the ball with a thrown object (boot, shinguard etc.) is an offence

Explanation

- Reference to biting (a rare offence) as a direct free kick offence (and also in the list of sending-off offences)
- Throwing an object at the ball or making contact with the ball with a held object becomes a separate category of offence and not part of handball so a goalkeeper can be penalized for such conduct in their penalty area.

AYSO impact

Minimum. These situations are rare, but referees need to be aware of the change should such events occur.

- If the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper this does not prevent the goalkeeper handling the ball a second time even if the first attempt to catch/holds the ball was deliberate

1. Indirect free kick

Amended text

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball when:

- the ball is between (...) or by touching it with any part of the hands or arms except if it rebounds accidentally from the goalkeeper or the... (...)

Explanation

Goalkeepers often unsuccessfully attempt to catch/hold/stop or 'parry' the ball but as this is a 'deliberate' touch with the hand(s) they have technically controlled the ball so cannot pick it up. This is not the Law's intention and is not enforced; removal of 'accidentally' clarifies the Law.

AYSO impact

This is already how this situation is dealt with. This change makes clarifies the spirit of the Law and makes it official.

- If the referee plays advantage for a DOGSO the offender is cautioned (YC) whether or not a goal is scored

1. Disciplinary action Advantage

Amended text

If the referee plays the advantage for an offence for which a caution / send off would have been issued had play been stopped, this caution / send off must be issued when the ball is next out of play, except when for the denial of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity results in a goal when the player is cautioned for unsporting behavior."

Explanation

If the referee plays advantage for a DOGSO and a goal is scored, it is a YC but technically, if no goal results, the Law said it should be a RC. This is never applied and is not seen as 'fair' as applying the advantage effectively means that a goal-scoring opportunity remains; consequently, a YC is the fairest sanction, whether or not a goal is scored.

AYSO impact

Referees should now show a YC if advantage is played for a DOGSO and a goal is not scored. There should be very few occasions when advantage is played for a DOGSO foul; there must be a clear and obvious opportunity for a goal to be scored.

- Excessively showing the TV signal is a caution (YC)
- Where 2 separate cautionable (YC) offences are committed in close proximity, both cautions (YCs) must be issued; same principle if one is a sending off offence

1. Disciplinary action Cautionable offences

Additional text

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

(...)

- excessively using the 'review' (TV screen) signal

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if guilty of:

(...)

- excessively using the 'review' (TV screen) signal

Where two separate cautionable offences are committed (even in close proximity), they should result in two cautions, for example if a player enters the field of play without the required permission and commits a reckless tackle or stops a promising attack with a foul/handball, etc.

Explanation

- Inclusion of excessively using the review (TV) signal in the list of cautionable offences
- Clarifies the action the referee should take where 2 clearly separate cautionable (YC) offences occur which may be linked, particularly when someone enters the field without permission (where needed) and then commits a cautionable offence. This principle also applies to sending-off offences.

AYSO impact

- With the introduction of VAR, we have already seen the TV review signal being used in games. Though not always so, this can be a signal of dissent, and is now a cautionable (YC) offense.

- Referees must now link two cautionable (YC) offenses when they are linked, such as in the example above.

- Biting is included as a direct free kick and sending-off offence

1. Disciplinary action Sending-off offences

Additional text

A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off:

(...)

- Biting or spitting at an opponent or any other person someone

Explanation

Inclusion of biting as a sending-off offence.

- If a player commits an offence outside the field of play (ball in play) against someone from their own team (including a team official) it is an indirect free kick on the boundary line

1. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct Sending-off offences

Additional text

If, when the ball is in play:

(...)

If an offence is committed outside the field of play against a player, substitute, substituted player or team official of their own team, play is restarted with an indirect free kick on the boundary line closest to where the offence occurred.

If a player makes contact with the ball with an object held in the hand (boot, shinguard etc.) play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick).

Explanation

Clarifies:

- how the game is restarted if a player commits an offence off the field of play against someone from their own team (including a team official).
- that hitting the ball with an object held in the hand is a separate offence and not part of handball; consequently, a goalkeeper can be penalized for such conduct in their own penalty area.

AYSO impact

Minimum. This rarely happens, but referees need to be aware of the change should this event occur. Note the clarification of offenses against opposing players or team officials, and own players or team officials.

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

- Clarification that free kicks can also be awarded for offences by a substitute, substituted or sent off player, or a team official

1. Types of free kick

Additional text

Direct and indirect free kicks are awarded to the opposing team of a player, substitute, substituted or sent off player, or team official guilty of an offence.

Explanation

The Laws permit substitutes, substituted and sent off players, and team official to be penalized with a free kick for some offences.

AYSO impact

Minimum. This rarely happens, but referees need to be aware of the change should this event occur.

Law 15

- A player must stand to take a throw-in (kneeling, sitting etc. not permitted)

1. Procedure Amended text At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must: • face stand facing the field of play

Explanation

Clarifies that a player must stand to take a throw in i.e. sitting or kneeling positions are not permitted.

AYSO impact

Minimum. This rarely happens, but referees need to be aware of the change should this event occur. Also note that in AYSO, allowances may be made for players who lack the normal use of both hands, so long as all other legal requirements are met.

