



NH State Referee Committee

2019-2020 IFAB Law Changes Summary

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Below is a summary of the more significant law changes made by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) for 2019-2020. It is not intended to be all inclusive of all laws, changes and interpretations. You can find the complete Laws of the Game on the IFAB website (theifab.com) or downloading the [IFAB App](#).

Law 3 – Substituted Player Leaving Field of Play

- Substituted players leave the field via the nearest boundary line

Law 5 – Yellow and Red Cards for Team Officials

- Referee warns, cautions (shows a yellow card) or sends off (shows a red card) for team officials not acting in a responsible manner
- Warning examples (not exhaustive)
 - Entering field of play in respectful manner
 - Not cooperating with match official
 - Minor disagreement with a decision
 - Leaving technical area with no other offense
- Caution examples (not exhaustive)
 - Clearly not respecting confines of technical area
 - Delaying restart of play by their team
 - Dissent by kicking/throwing an object or gesturing that shows lack of respect for match officials (e.g. sarcastic clapping)
 - Gesturing for a yellow or red card
 - Showing lack of respect for the game
 - Repeated warning offenses
- Send off examples (not exhaustive)
 - Delaying restart of play by opposing team
 - Deliberately leaving technical area to dissent, dispute a call, or complain to a match official
 - Kicking/throwing object onto field of play
 - Entering field of play to confront match official (includes half-time and full-time)
 - Aggressive behavior towards anyone
 - Offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
 - Receiving a second caution

Law 5 – Injured Penalty Taker

- If a team’s penalty kicker is injured and a penalty kick has been awarded, the player may be treated on the field and is not required to leave

Law 8 – Winning Toss and Choosing Kick-Off

- The team that wins the coin toss can decide which goal to attack or take the kick-off in the first half.

Law 8 – Dropped Ball

- Ball is dropped to only player of team that last touched ball at the position it was last touched
- Ball dropped for defending team goalkeeper if ball was in penalty area or last touched in penalty area when play was stopped
- Ball is out of play and a drop ball restart is used if the ball touches a match official and:
 - a team starts a promising attack
 - the ball goes directly into the goal
 - the team in possession of the ball changes

Law 12 – Handling by Goalkeeper

- Goalkeeper can touch the ball with his/her hand if he/she clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release into play even if was deliberately kicked by a teammate or received directly from a throw-in by a teammate

Law 12 – Handball

- Always a handball
 - Player deliberately touches ball with hand/arm, including moving hand/arm toward ball
 - Goal scored or goal scoring opportunity after ball goes off hand/arm (even if accidental)
- Usually a handball
 - Ball touches hand/arm that makes body unnaturally bigger
 - Ball touches hand/arm above the shoulder (except if player deliberately plays the ball first)
- Usually not a handball
 - Ball touches player’s hand/arm directly from the player’s own body, head or foot
 - Ball touches player’s hand/arm directly from another player who is close
 - Hand/arm is close to body and does not make body unnaturally bigger
 - Player is falling and the hand/arm is between the body and ground for support (but not extended away from the body)

Law 12 – Delaying a Yellow Card / Red Card

- Referee can delay a yellow or red card if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick, has a clear goal-scoring opportunity, and the referee has not started the disciplinary sanction procedure
- Sanction administered at next stoppage

Law 13 – Free Kicks; Law 16 – Goal Kick

- For defending team free kicks / goal kicks in the penalty area, the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves (does not need to leave penalty area)
- Opponents must be outside penalty area and 10 yards away until ball is in play

Law 13 – Defensive “Wall”

- When three or more defenders form a “wall, all attackers must be at least 1 yard away from the wall until the ball is in play (infringement results in IFK)

Law 14 – Goalkeeper Encroachment at PK

- When ball is kicked during a penalty kick, goalkeeper must have at least one foot touching or in line with goal line