



U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

Memorandum 2011





U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Meeting held in Wales on March 5, 2011



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 1 – The Field of Play

Interpretation – Field markings

Present text

Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the field of play.

New text

Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the field of play.

Where artificial surfaces are used, other lines are permitted provided that they are of a different color and clearly distinguishable from the lines used for football [soccer].

USSF Advice to Referees: The above guideline is simply a practical adjustment to the growing number of fields throughout the world which use the turf surface and which are marked for various sports other than soccer. The referee remains the final judge of whether the non-soccer markings interfere with the safe and enjoyable conduct of the game.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Law 1 – The Field of Play Interpretation – Goals

New text:

The position of the goalposts in relation to the goal line must be according to the graphics below:



USSF Advice to Referees: The size of the goal (measured from the inside of the goal framework) must be consistent across all permissible goalpost shapes as well as in conformity with the dimensions mandated in Law 1.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 2 – The Ball

Replacement of a Defective Ball

Present text

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of the match:

- the match is stopped
- the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the original ball became defective, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the replacement ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the original ball was located when play was stopped

New text

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- the match is stopped
- the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the original ball became defective, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the replacement ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the original ball was located when play was stopped

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during a penalty kick or during kicks from the penalty mark as it moves forward and before it touches any player or the crossbar or goalposts:

- the penalty kick is retaken



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 2 – The Ball

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If the ball bursts or becomes defective during a penalty kick or during kicks from the penalty mark as it moves forward and before it touches any player or the crossbar or goalposts:

- the penalty kick is retaken

USSF Advice to Referees: The addition is not only a reasonable accommodation to the special circumstances of penalty kicks and kicks from the mark but also consistent with the general guideline that a penalty kick (or kick from the mark) must be retaken if anything illegally interferes with the movement of the ball on its path to the goal.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 3 – The Number of Players

Structural Amendment

Present structure

- Players
- Official competitions
- Other matches
- All matches
- Substitution procedure
- Changing the goalkeeper
- Infringements and sanctions
- Players and substitutes sent off

New structure

- Number of players
- Number of substitutions
 - Official competitions
 - Other matches
- Substitution procedure
- Changing the goalkeeper
- Infringements and sanctions
- Players and substitutes sent off

USSF Advice to Referees: changes in the arrangement of topics, no substantive changes to content. Review the new Law 3 in your 2011/2012 Lawbook.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 3 – The Number of Players

Interpretation: Extra persons on the field of play

Present text

Outside agents

Team officials

If a team official enters the field of play:

New text

Outside agents

Team officials

The coach and other officials indicated on the team list (with the exception of players or substitutes) are deemed to be team officials.

If a team official enters the field of play:

USSF Advice to Referees: USSF has previously advised referees that, in circumstances often seen in lower level matches, it is acceptable to consider anyone who is permitted in the technical area (other than players, substitutes, or substituted players) to be a team official for purposes of enforcing responsible behavior.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

Basic equipment

Present text

shorts – if undershorts are worn, they must be of the same main color as the shorts

New text

shorts – if undershorts **or tights** are worn, they must be of the same main color as the shorts

USSF Advice to Referees: The modification merely extends to tights the same requirement that previously had been specified for undershorts. The general principle is therefore confirmed that anything worn by a player under the shorts which extends visibly below the shorts must be of the same main color as the shorts.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Laws 2 (The Ball) and 5 (The Referee)

Interpretation

Law 2: Extra balls on the field of play (text removed)

If an extra ball enters the field of play during the match, the referee must stop the match only if it interferes with play. Play must be restarted by a dropped ball from the position of the ball when the match was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

If an extra ball enters the field of play during the match without interfering with play, the referee must have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Law 5: Powers and duties (text added)

If an extra ball, **other object or animal** enters the field of play during the match, the referee must stop the match only if it interferes with play. Play must be restarted by a dropped ball from the position of the ball when the match was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

If an extra ball, **other object or animal** enters the field of play during the match without interfering with play, the referee must have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

USSF Advice to Referees: Aside from shifting the text in the Interpretations from Law 2 to Law 5, the new text clarifies that the guidance pertains to anything (other than people) entering the field during play – extra balls, objects (e.g., balloons) or animals. The critical element in the referee's decision as to stopping play immediately is whether there is actual interference with play.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Structural Amendment

Present structure

- Preliminaries
- Kick-off
- Procedure
- Infringements and sanctions
- Dropped ball
- Procedure
- Infringements and sanctions

New structure

- Definition of kick-off
- Procedure
 - Before a kick-off at the start of the match or extra time
 - Kick-off
- Infringements and sanctions
- Definition of a dropped ball
- Procedure
- Infringements and sanctions

USSF Advice to Referees: changes in the arrangement of topics, no substantive changes to content. Review the new Law 8 in your 2011/2012 Lawbook.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

2011-2012

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Addition to the current text

Present text

Dropped ball

If, while the ball is still in play, the referee is required to stop play temporarily for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the Laws of the Game, the match is restarted with a dropped ball.

New text

Definition of a dropped ball

A dropped ball is a method of restarting play when, while the ball is still in play, the referee is required to stop play temporarily for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the Laws of the Game.

USSF Advice to Referees: Rewording only, no substantive changes to content.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken which may affect officials in the U. S.

Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment

Other equipment: wearing of “snoods”

The IFAB determined that items such as “snoods” and other similar clothing do not meet the definition of “other equipment” under Law 4 and was therefore not permitted.

USSF Advice to Referees: A “snood” (which is not a familiar item of clothing in the United States) is a type of scarf worn around the neck. An example is shown below of the most common variety of “snood” considered by the IFAB and determined to be not permissible.





AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken which may affect officials in the U. S.

Vanishing spray

The IFAB approved the use of vanishing spray by CONMEBOL on a trial basis.

USSF Advice to Referees: Except where specifically approved by USSF, the use of vanishing spray is not permitted.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken but do not affect officials in the U. S.

Additional Assistant Referees (AARs)

The proposal to move the AAR's position from left to right and to allow the referee to return to his "traditional" diagonal system should be approved, provided that any such change does not commence until the start of a new season (e.g., 2011/2012 in Europe).

The AAR experiment will be permitted to continue until its planned conclusion, following which the IFAB will make a final decision.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken but do not affect officials in the U. S.

Additional Assistant Referees (AARs)

The IFAB unanimously agreed to grant UEFA permission to use AARs at the EURO 2012 final tournament.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken but do not affect officials in the U. S.

Goal-line technology (GLT)

The IFAB has agreed to the continuation of the GLT project. A final decision on GLT should be made during the IFAB Special Meeting, which will be convened following the conclusion of UEFA EURO 2012.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken but do not affect officials in the U. S.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

Other Equipment: usage of radio communication

The IFAB agreed that this item should be referred to the FIFA Task Force Football 2014 for consideration.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken but do not affect officials in the U. S.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Sending-off offenses

The IFAB agreed that the matter should be referred to the FIFA Task Force Football 2014 for consideration.



AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Implementation

The decisions of this year's Annual General Meeting of the Board regarding changes to the Laws of the Game are binding for confederations and member associations as from 1 July 2011 but confederations or member associations whose current season has not ended by 1 July may delay the introduction of the adopted alterations to the Laws of the Game in their competitions until the beginning of their next season.