

Additional Instructions to Referees.

Also consult the latest **IFAB LOTG “Practical Guidelines for Match Officials”**.

RULE 1 – The Field of Play

The purpose of the referee’s crease:

- *The referee’s crease is designed to allow the referee to carry out his duties without interference by the players or team officials. For any breach of the rules regarding this area, an offending player shall be cautioned for unsporting behavior. Breach of the rule by a team official shall result in an initial verbal warning, and if continued, shall result in the team official being removed from the field.*

RULE 3 – The Number of Players

Players to continue

- *If a team is reduced to less than 4 players on the field of play for a timed penalty or an injury where the player is not expected back on the field of play in a reasonable amount of time then the game is abandoned*

Eligible player

- *For this rule, an eligible player is a player, named on the game sheet and present at the field of play, who is not serving a time penalty. Any eligible player who arrives prior to the second half commencing will be allowed to play as long they wait for the permission of the referee to enter the field.*

Substitution Procedure

- *The substitute entering the field of play cannot enter “over the boards”. Likewise, a player leaving the field of play cannot leave “over the boards.”Should either of these occur the offending player must be assessed a 2-minute technical offence penalty.*

- *The substitute entering the field does not have to enter the field at the same gate that the departing player uses.*

Stoppages other than a Guaranteed Substitution Opportunity

- *At all times other than a guaranteed substitution opportunity, play does not have to be held up and a team must ensure they do not have more than 6 players on the field of play.*

Changing the Goalkeeper

- *Goalkeepers may not be changed “on the fly”. If a goalkeeper leaves the field of play without the referee’s permission and is replaced by a substitute who may or may not be dressed as a goalkeeper:*
 - *play is stopped*
 - *the goalkeeper leaving the field of play cautioned and shown the yellow card*
 - *play is restarted with a free kick to the opposing team at the place the ball was located when play was stopped (subject to the special circumstances in rule 8)*

Bench Personnel - Behaviour

- *A “tactical instruction” does not include verbal abuse aimed at any player, spectator or non playing personnel, referee or assistant referee, and does not include dissent of a referee’s or assistant referee’s decision.*
- *If, in the referee’s opinion, a coach or team official is behaving in an irresponsible manner, the official shall be verbally warned and, at the referee’s discretion, the coach or team official may be removed from the field.*
- *Any coach or non-playing personnel found spitting on the playing surface shall be removed from the field of play and its surrounds.*

RULE 4 – The Players’ Equipment

Non-Basic Equipment

- *A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself/herself or another player*
- *Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight, padded material are not considered to be dangerous and are therefore permitted*
- *New technology has made sports spectacles much safer, both for the players themselves and for other players*

Jewelry

- *All items of jewelry are potentially dangerous. The term “dangerous” can sometimes be ambiguous and controversial, therefore in order to be uniform and consistent any kind of jewelry has to be forbidden.*
- *Players are not allowed to use tape to cover jewelry. Taping jewelry is not adequate protection.*
- *Rings, earrings, leather or rubber bands are not necessary to play and the only thing they can bring about is injury.*
- *In order to avoid “last minute” problems, teams should inform their players in advance.*

RULE 5 – The Referee

Advantage

- *The referee is encouraged to use the advantage power where appropriate, particularly as he is able to stop play to punish the original offence if the advantage does not occur in the phase of play immediately following the infringement.*

Taking “Delayed” Disciplinary Action

- *This power is complementary to the power to apply the advantage in situations on the field. Referees should refer to Rule 12, and the “delayed penalty” for the mechanics related to a disciplinary action taken after the ball has gone out of play.*

RULE 11 – Three line violation

Eligible players

- *For this rule, eligible players are the number of players entitled to be on the field, subject to the time penalty provisions of Rule 12.*

RULE 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Penalty Kick awarded against a goalkeeper

- *A penalty kick is awarded if, while the ball is in play, the goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, strikes or attempts to strike an opponent by throwing the ball at him.*

Possession by the Goalkeeper

- *The goalkeeper is considered to be in possession of the ball by touching it with any part of his hand or arms. Possession of the ball includes the goalkeeper deliberately parrying the ball, but does not include the circumstances where, in the opinion of the referee, the ball rebounds accidentally from the goalkeeper, for example after he has made a save.*

Disciplinary Sanctions

- *A player who commits a cautionable or sending-off offence, either on or off the field of play, whether directed towards an opponent, a team-mate, the referee, an assistant referee or any other person, is disciplined according to the nature of the offence committed.*

Spitting on the playing surface

- *Any player found spitting on the playing surface must be sanctioned with a 2-minute cautionable time penalty..*

Definition of Boarding:

- *Boarding is contact by a player that forces an opponent to hit the boards in a manner that endangers the safety of that opponent.*

Mandatory Instructions for Boarding Offences:

- *Any contact, legal or otherwise, by a player that forces an opponent to hit the boards in a manner that endangers the safety of that opponent will result in the offending player being sent off for boarding.*
- *Any player who attempts to deceive the referee by falling or making contact with the boards in an effort to gain an advantage by having an opponent sent off, will result in the offending player being penalized by a caution for unsporting behaviour.*

Attempt to deceive

- *Any simulating action anywhere on the field, which is intended to deceive the referee, must be sanctioned as unsporting behaviour*

Sending-Off Offences – Goalkeepers

- *If a goalkeeper is dismissed, he can be replaced by any other player from that team who is not currently serving a time penalty. The goalkeeper must be replaced before play can be restarted. The referee may award a further time penalty against the bench, if the team delays replacing a dismissed goalkeeper.*

Careless, Reckless, using Excessive Force

***Careless** means that the player has shown a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or that he acted without precaution.*

***Reckless** means that the player has acted with complete disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, his opponent*

***Using excessive force** means that the player has far exceeded the necessary use of force and is in danger of injuring his opponent.*