



Changes to the Laws of the Game

There are a few changes to the rules of the game that you should be aware of. Here is a quick overview of the laws of the game, both former and new, as well as the intention for the change.

Law 8 & 9 – Dropped Ball

Changes: Dropped balls are done by the team who last had possession prior to the game stoppage and that player is given a minimum of five yards to play the ball.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Changes: If there is a defensive wall made of 3 or more players, the team taking the kick cannot be in the wall.

Law 16 – Goal Kick

Changes: Ball is in play as soon as it is kicked and the team taking the kick can receive in the penalty box. The opposing team cannot start inside the penalty box, but can enter as soon as the ball has been kicked.

Law 12 - Handball

Changes: Accidental touches with the arm or hand are fouls.

Law 14 – Penalty Kick

Changes: Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on or in line with the goal line when the kick is taken.

Law 12 – Quick Free Kick and Yellow/Red Card

Changes: Quick free kicks can be taken if there is going to be a yellow or red card if the offending team has not been distracted by the referee.

Law 3 - Substitutes

Changes: To avoid time wasting, substitutes must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline or goal line.

Law 5 & Law 12 – Team Officials

Changes: A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a yellow card or red card; if the guilty party cannot be identified, the card will be given to the senior coach who is in the Technical Area.