

## TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1224

Zurich, 19 May 2010

SG/jot-est

### Amendments to the Laws of the Game – 2010/2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 124<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in Zurich on 6 March 2010. The amendments to the Laws of the Game approved at this meeting and the various instructions and directives issued are listed below.

#### *Amendments to the Laws of the Game and Decisions of the Board*

##### 1. Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Submitted by FIFA)

##### Goals

Present Text	Proposed Text
The goalposts and crossbar must be made of wood, metal or other approved material. They may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players.	The goalposts and crossbar must be made of wood, metal or other approved material. They <b>must</b> be square, rectangular, round or elliptical in shape and must not be dangerous to players.

##### **Reason**

The current definition has been clarified in order to indicate that goalposts of any other shape are not permitted.

## 2. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

### Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

#### Injured Players

Present Text	Proposed Text
<p>Exceptions to this ruling are to be made only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a goalkeeper is injured</li> <li>• a goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need immediate attention</li> <li>• a severe injury has occurred, e.g. swallowed tongue, concussion, broken leg</li> </ul>	<p>Exceptions to this ruling are to be made only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a goalkeeper is injured</li> <li>• a goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need immediate attention</li> <li>• <b>players from the same team have collided and need immediate attention</b></li> <li>• a severe injury has occurred, e.g. swallowed tongue, concussion, broken leg</li> </ul>

#### **Reason**

It was considered unfair that players of the same team who collided were required to leave the field of play to receive treatment, leaving the team concerned at a numerical disadvantage.

## 3. Law 5 – The Referee

(Submitted by The Scottish Football Association)

### Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

#### Injured Players

Present Text	Proposed Text
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the stretcher-bearers should enter the field of play with a stretcher at the same time as the doctors to allow the player to be removed as quickly as possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stretcher-bearers should only enter the field of play with a stretcher <b>following a signal from the referee</b></li> </ul>

#### **Reason**

Stretcher-bearers' mandatory entry onto the field of play for all injuries where a doctor is requested frequently caused unnecessary disruption to the game.

***Other decisions of the IFAB*****1. Law 1 – The Field of Play****Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees****Logos and emblems**

The IFAB reiterated that the reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, member associations, leagues, clubs or other bodies is forbidden on the field of play, the goal nets and the areas they enclose, the goals, the flagposts and their flags during playing time.

Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that such logos may not be reproduced on corner flags.

**2. Goal-line technology**

(continuation of discussions at the 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting)

The use of goal-line technology and indeed technology in general within the game was rejected by majority decision.

**3. Authoritative language for the Laws of the Game**

It was confirmed that in the event of any divergence between translations of the Laws of the Game, the English text is authoritative.

**4. Additional instructions to match officials**

It has been noted that certain associations and confederations are unilaterally issuing their own instructions and recommendations to referees within their territories concerning the enforcement of the Laws of the Game, thus increasing the chances of differing interpretations around the world. We would like to reiterate that the International Football Association Board (or FIFA on its behalf) is the only body with the authority to issue such additional instructions concerning the Laws of the Game in order to ensure uniform application worldwide.

Moreover, a special meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in Zurich on 18 May 2010. The amendments to the Laws of the Game approved are listed below.

## **Amendments to the Laws of the Game and Decisions of the Board**

### **1. Law 14 – The penalty kick**

(Submitted by FIFA)

#### **Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees**

##### **Procedure**

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
Feinting to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of football. However, if, in the opinion of the referee, the feinting is considered an act of unsporting behaviour, the player must be cautioned.	<b>Feinting in the run-up to take a penalty kick</b> to confuse opponents is permitted as part of football. <b>However, feinting to kick the ball once the player has completed his run-up is considered an infringement of Law 14 and an act of unsporting behaviour for which the player must be cautioned.</b>

##### **Reason**

In view of an increasing trend in players feinting to take a penalty kick to deceive the goalkeeper, it is necessary to clarify what is permitted and what action a referee must take in the event of an infringement.

### **2. The fourth official**

(Submitted by The Scottish FA)

#### **The fourth official and the reserve assistant referee (bulletpoint 7)**

<b>Present Text</b>	<b>Proposed Text</b>
He must indicate to the referee when the wrong player is cautioned because of mistaken identity or when a player is not sent off having been seen to be given a second caution or when violent conduct occurs out of the view of the referee and assistant referees. The referee, however, retains the authority to decide on all points connected with play.	<b>He assists the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game.</b> The referee, however, retains the authority to decide on all points connected with play.

##### **Reason**

It is considered that the scope of the fourth official's duty to assist the referee should be extended to allow him to offer support and advice not only in the limited number of situations covered under the existing Laws of the Game.

***Entry into force of Laws of the Game 2010/2011***

The IFAB unanimously agreed that the decisions of the 124<sup>th</sup> IFAB Annual General Meeting and the special meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) would come into force on 1 June 2010 and therefore apply for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

cc: FIFA Executive Committee  
FIFA Referees Committee  
Confederations