

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

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Amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game – 2010

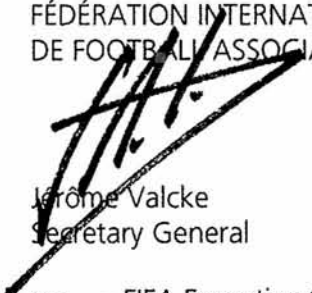
Dear Sir or Madam,

In collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board and the FIFA Refereeing Department, the FIFA Futsal Sub-Committee has undertaken a comprehensive revision of the 2010 Futsal Laws of the Game and harmonised the wording in all four FIFA languages.

We are pleased to attach a summary of the approved amendments to the Laws of the Game and the interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game and guidelines for referees.

The new Futsal Laws of the Game will come into force immediately. They are to be applied in their entirety by all of the member associations.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

- cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
- Confederations
- FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
- FIFA Referees Committee

Encl.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME – 2010

LAW 1 – THE PITCH

The penalty area

Two imaginary lines of 6 m in length are drawn from the outside of each goalpost and at right angles to the goal line; at the end of these lines a quarter circle is drawn in the direction of the nearest touch line, each with a radius of 6 m from the outside of the goalpost. The upper part of each quarter circle is joined by a line 3.16 m in length running parallel to the goal line between the goalposts. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area.

Within each penalty area, a penalty mark is made 6 m from the midpoint between the goalposts and equidistant to them.

LAW 2 – THE BALL

Replacement of a defective ball

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a match, the match is stopped:

- the match is restarted by retaking the kick if the ball bursts or becomes defective while a direct free kick without a wall, a kick from the second penalty mark or a kick from the penalty mark is being taken and does not touch the goalposts, the crossbar or a player and no infringement is committed.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Players

A match may not start if either team consists of fewer than three players.

Other matches

In national "A" team matches, up to a maximum of ten substitutes may be used.

In all other matches, a greater number of substitutes may be used, provided that:

- the teams concerned reach agreement on a maximum number
- the referees are informed before the match

If the referees are not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the match, no more than ten substitutes are allowed.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Infringements and sanctions

- the player, if he has not been substituted, is only allowed to re-enter the pitch when the ball is out of play or under the supervision of the third referee when the ball is in play

LAW 5 – THE REFEREES

Reserve assistant referee

In tournaments or competitions where a reserve assistant referee is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines contained in this publication.

LAW 6 – THE ASSISTANT REFEREES**The authority of the assistant referees**

Two assistant referees may be appointed (a third referee and a timekeeper) who must perform their duties in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game. They are positioned off the pitch, level with the halfway line and on the same side as the substitution zones. The timekeeper remains seated at the timekeeper's table, while the third referee may perform his duties either seated or standing up.

Powers and dutiesThe third referee:

- hands a document to the officials of each team before the start of each period of play with which they can request time-outs and collects it at the end of each period if none have been requested
- hands a document to the officials of each team which indicates when a substitute can enter the pitch to replace a player who has been sent off
- under the referees' supervision, monitors the entry of a player who has left the pitch to correct his equipment
- under the referees' supervision, monitors the entry of a player who has left the pitch due to an injury of any kind

The timekeeper:

- records the goals, accumulated fouls and periods of play on the public scoreboard, if available
- indicates a team's request for a time-out with a whistle or acoustic signal distinct from the one used by the referees, after informing the third referee
- performs the specific duties of the third referee in the event of the latter's absence
- provides any other information relevant to the game

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH**Ending the periods of play**

The timekeeper indicates the end of each period with the acoustic signal or whistle. After hearing the timekeeper's whistle or acoustic signal, one of the referees announces the end of the period or match with his whistle, bearing in mind the following:

- if a kick from the second penalty mark or direct free kick, beginning with the sixth accumulated foul, must be taken or retaken, the period in question is extended until the kick has been taken
- if a penalty kick has to be taken or retaken, the period in question is extended until the kick has been taken

If the ball has been kicked towards one of the goals, the referees must wait for the kick to end before the timekeeper may sound the whistle or acoustic signal. The period ends when:

- the ball goes directly into the goal and a goal is scored
- the ball leaves the boundaries of the pitch
- the ball touches the goalkeeper, the goalposts, crossbar or ground, crosses the goal line and a goal is scored
- the ball touches any player other than the goalkeeper after it has been kicked at the opposing goal and no infringement has been committed that requires a direct free kick or a penalty kick to be retaken or, during the trajectory of the ball, one of the teams does not commit an infringement that is sanctioned with a direct free kick, beginning with the sixth accumulated foul, or a penalty kick
- the defending goalkeeper stops the ball or it rebounds from the goalposts or crossbar and does not cross the goal line

LAW 10 – THE METHOD OF SCORING**Goal scored**

If, after a goal is scored, the referees realise, before play restarts, that the team that scored the goal is playing with an extra player or has carried out a substitution incorrectly, they must disallow the goal and restart play with an indirect free kick to be taken by the opponents of the offending player from any point inside the penalty area. If the kick-off has already been taken, they take the measures against the offending player provided for in Law 3, but the goal is allowed. The referees report the fact to the appropriate authorities. If the goal was scored by the other team, they must allow it.

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

There is no offside in futsal.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**Fouls penalised with a direct free kick**

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following seven offences in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- trips an opponent
- jumps at an opponent
- charges an opponent
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent
- pushes an opponent
- tackles an opponent

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following three offences:

- holds an opponent
- spits at an opponent
- handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

Fouls penalised with an indirect free kick

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits any of the following four offences:

- controls the ball with his hands or feet in his own half of the pitch for more than four seconds
- touches the ball again with his hands in his own half of the pitch after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate without an opponent playing or touching it
- touches the ball with his hands inside his own penalty area after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate
- touches the ball with his hands inside his own penalty area after he has received it directly from a ball inbound by a team-mate

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if, in the opinion of the referees, a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner in the presence of an opponent
- impedes the progress of an opponent
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands
- commits against a team-mate one of the nine offences penalised with a direct free kick if they are committed against an opponent
- commits any other infringement not previously mentioned in Law 12 or in any other Law, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player

Disciplinary sanctions

Only a player or substitute may be shown the red or yellow card. The relevant card is shown publicly and only on the pitch once the match has started. In other cases, the referees verbally inform the players and team officials of the disciplinary sanction taken.

The referees have the authority to take disciplinary sanctions from the moment they enter the premises where the pitch is located before the start of the match until they leave them.

Cautionable offences

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following seven offences:

- unsporting behaviour
- dissent by word or action
- persistent infringement of the Futsal Laws of the Game
- delaying the restart of play
- failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or ball inbound (defending players)
- entering or re-entering the pitch without the referees' permission or infringement of the substitution procedure
- deliberately leaving the pitch without the referees' permission

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

Infringements and sanctions

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance:

- the kick is retaken and the offending player is cautioned, unless the advantage can be applied or another infringement is committed that is punishable by a penalty kick. If the infringement is punishable by a free kick, the referees decide whether to punish the original infringement or the one committed subsequently. If the second infringement is punishable by a penalty kick or direct free kick, an accumulated foul is recorded against the offending team

Beginning with the sixth accumulated foul, if a free kick is taken by a team-mate of the player who had been identified previously:

- the referees stop play, caution him for unsporting behaviour and restart the match with an indirect free kick to the defending team to be taken from where he kicked the ball

Beginning with the sixth accumulated foul, if, after the direct free kick has been taken:

- the ball bursts or becomes defective while in play and has not previously touched the goalposts, the crossbar or another player:

- the kick is retaken

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK**Infringements and sanctions**

If, while a penalty kick is being taken, the ball is kicked by a team-mate of the player who had been previously identified:

- the referees stop play, caution him for unsporting behaviour and order the match to be restarted with an indirect free kick to the defending team, to be taken from the penalty mark (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

If, after the penalty kick has been taken:

- the ball bursts or becomes defective when in play and has not previously touched the goalposts, the crossbar or a player:

- the kick is retaken

LAW 16 – THE GOAL CLEARANCE**Infringements and sanctions**

If the ball is in play and the goalkeeper touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched an opponent (except if it has accidentally touched another player in his team):

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH OR HOME-AND-AWAY**Kicks from the penalty mark****Procedure**

- If, at the end of the match or extra time and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players, including substitutes, than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to equate with that of its opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded
- If a team must reduce its numbers to equate with that of its opponents, it may exclude the goalkeepers as players eligible to take the penalty kicks
- A goalkeeper excluded from taking penalty kicks in order to equate the number of players of his team with that of its opponents, i.e. who is located in his technical area, may replace his team's goalkeeper at any time
- Before the start of the kicks from the penalty mark, the referee must ensure that an equal number of players from each team eligible to take the penalty kicks remains in the other half of the pitch

INTERPRETATION OF THE FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES**LAW 1 – THE PITCH****Advertising on the pitch**

If the competition rules do not prohibit it, advertising on the floor of the pitch is permitted, provided that it does not confuse the players or referees and it enables the boundary lines stipulated in the Futsal Laws of the Game to be seen.

Advertising on the goal nets

If the competition rules do not prohibit it, advertising on the goal nets is permitted, provided that it does not confuse the players or referees.

Advertising in the technical areas

If the competition rules do not prohibit it, advertising on the floor of the technical areas is permitted, provided that it does not confuse the occupants of said areas, the third referee or the referees.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS**Players sent off**

- If a player who commits an infringement is sent off for a second caution or directly after the advantage has been applied and his team concedes a goal after the application of the advantage before he is sent off, the number of players in his team is not reduced, as the infringement was committed before the goal was scored
- if, during the interval or before the start of one of the periods of extra time, a player commits a sending-off offence, his team starts the next half or period of extra time with one player fewer

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT**Jewellery**

Referees and assistant referees are also prohibited from wearing jewellery (except for the referee, who is permitted to wear a watch or similar device to time the match if the timekeeper is absent).

LAW 5 – THE REFEREES**Guidelines for Referees****Four-second count when the ball is in play**

Each time that a team's goalkeeper is in possession of the ball while it is in play and in his own half of the pitch, one of the referees must visibly perform the four-second count.

Restart of play

The referees especially ensure that restarts of play are carried out quickly and do not allow play not to be restarted immediately for tactical reasons after a temporary stoppage (ball inbound, goal clearance, corner kick or free kick). In these cases, the four-second count starts and it is not necessary to use the whistle. In cases where the restart does not allow the four-second count (kick-off or penalty kick), the player or players who delay it are cautioned.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**Playing in a dangerous manner**

Playing in a dangerous manner is defined as any action that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to an opposing player or himself. It is committed with an opponent nearby and prevents the opponent from playing the ball for fear of injuring himself or the other player.

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK**Procedure**

- Feinting in the run-up to take a penalty kick to confuse opponents is permitted as part of football. 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

PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH OR HOME-AND-AWAY**Kicks from the penalty mark****Procedure**

- During the taking of the penalty kicks, the referees do not allow cameras or other media on the pitch