

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1432

Rio de Janeiro, 30 June 2014

SG/jya

Amendments and corrections to the Futsal Laws of the Game 2012/2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

In collaboration with the International Football Association Board (The IFAB) sub-committee and the FIFA Refereeing Department, the FIFA Futsal Committee has approved the amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game, as well as various directives issued by The IFAB that have a direct impact on futsal.

1. Law 3

Substitution procedure (old text crossed out)

A substitution may be made at any time, whether the ball is in play or not. To replace a player with a substitute, the following conditions must be observed:

- [...]
- ~~the substitute enters the pitch via the substitution zone~~
- ~~the substitution is completed when a substitute enters the pitch via the substitution zone~~
- [...]

Substitution procedure (new text in bold)

A substitution may be made at any time, whether the ball is in play or not. To replace a player with a substitute, the following conditions must be observed:

- [...]
- the player enters the pitch via **his own team's** substitution zone
- the substitution is completed when a substitute enters the pitch via **his own team's** substitution zone, **after passing the bib to the player being replaced, unless this player is leaving the pitch via another zone for any reason provided for in the Laws of the Game, in which case the substitute shall pass the bib to the third referee**
- [...]

Reason

To update the laws to include the precise substitution procedure that is already used in international competitions. The use of a bib to control the substitution procedure has simplified the procedure and helped to avoid yellow cards for non-compliance.

2. Law 3 (Interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees)

Substitutes (old text crossed out)

If a substitute enters the pitch by infringing the substitution procedure or causes his team to be playing with an extra player, the referees, assisted by the assistant referees, must adhere to the following guidelines:

- stop play, although not immediately if the advantage can be applied
- caution him for unsporting behaviour if his team plays with an extra player or for infringing the substitution procedure if the substitution was not made correctly
- ~~send him off if he denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. The number of players in his team is reduced if the offence consists of an infringement of the substitution procedure but is not reduced if his team is playing with an extra player~~

Substitutes (new text)

[...]

- **send him off if he denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity. The number of players in his team is reduced irrespective of whether the offence consists of an infringement of the substitution procedure or because his team is playing with an extra player, in which case in addition to the substitute sent off, another of the players must leave the pitch so that his team is then playing with one player less, with a new player being introduced as specified in the section of Law 3 entitled "Players and substitutes sent off"**

Reason

A substitute preventing a goal, in addition to being a serious unsporting act, may have significant consequences, such as determining the result of a match. It is not appropriate that the team of the offending player should benefit from the offence. Therefore, as an exception, a player from the team of the substitute who has committed the offence must leave the pitch, thereby leaving his team with one player less until two minutes have elapsed, or one of the events mentioned in the section of Law 3 entitled "Players and substitutes sent off" has occurred.

3. Law 4

Advertising on equipment (new text, replacing the previous text on page 20)

Basic compulsory equipment

The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images. The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment has political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.

Undergarments

Players must not reveal undergarments showing political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images, or any advertising other than the manufacturer's logo.

Players or teams revealing undergarments showing political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images or advertising other than the manufacturer's logo will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.

Reason

To adapt the text according to the matters approved by The IFAB at its meeting in March.

4. Law 4 (Interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees)

Other equipment (new text in bold)

A player may use equipment other than the basic equipment, provided that its sole purpose is to protect him physically and it poses no danger to him or any other player.

All items of clothing or equipment must be inspected by the referees and determined not to be dangerous.

Modern protective equipment, such as headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

When protective headgear is used, it must:

- **be either black or the same colour as the main colour of the shirt (provided players from the same team are wearing the same colour);**
- **be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment;**
- **be separate from the shirt;**
- **be secure and not pose any risk for the player wearing it or for any other player (e.g. with a fastening around the neck);**
- **not have any protuberances.**

[...]

Reason

To adapt the text according to the matters approved by The IFAB at its meeting in March.

5. Law 8

Dropped ball (old text crossed out)

[...]

Infringements and sanctions

The ball is dropped again at the same place where it was dropped the first time:

- if it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground
- if any infringement is committed before the ball makes contact with the ground

~~If the ball enters the goal directly after touching the ground and subsequently being played or touched by a player:~~

- ~~• if the ball is kicked directly into the opponent's goal, a goal clearance is awarded~~
- ~~• if the ball is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded.~~

Dropped ball (new text in bold)

[...]

Infringements and sanctions

The ball is dropped again at the same place where it was dropped the first time:

- if it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground

- **if the ball leaves the pitch after it makes contact with the ground without a player touching it**
- if any infringement is committed before the ball makes contact with the ground

If a player, after the ball has made contact with the ground, kicks it once directly towards one of the goals and:

- **the ball goes directly into the opponent's goal, a goal clearance is awarded**
- **the ball goes directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team**

If a player, after the ball has made contact with the ground, kicks the ball repeatedly towards one of the goals and:

- **the ball enters one of the goals, a goal is awarded**

Reason

To improve the text and avoid confusion.

6. Law 12 (Interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees)

Offences committed against goalkeepers (old text)

[...]

Restart of play

- Indirect free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick), except if the attacker jumped at, charged or pushed the goalkeeper in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, in which case the referees, irrespective of the disciplinary action that they take, must restart play with a direct free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

Offences committed against goalkeepers (new text in bold)

[...]

Restart of play

- **If play was stopped because of an offence committed against the goalkeeper as specified in the above paragraph and the referees cannot apply the advantage rule, thereby stopping play, play will be restarted with an** indirect free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick), except if the attacker jumped at, charged or pushed the goalkeeper in a careless or reckless manner or using excessive force, in which case the referees, irrespective of the disciplinary action that they take, must restart play with a direct free kick from the position where the offence occurred (see Law 13 – Position of free kick)

Reason

To improve the text and avoid confusion.

7. Law 15 (Interpretation of the Futsal Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees)

Procedures – infringements (old text crossed out)

[...]

If the ball enters the opponents' goal directly from a kick-in, the referees must award a goal clearance.
If the ball enters the taker's own goal directly from a kick-in, the referees must award a corner kick.

~~If the ball does not enter the pitch, the team retakes the kick-in from the same position, provided that the kick-in was taken in accordance with the correct procedure, but the four-second count continues from where it stopped once the team taking the kick-in is ready to retake it. If it was not taken in accordance with the correct procedure, a player from the opposing team must take it.~~

[...]

Procedures – infringements (new text in bold)

[...]

If the ball enters the opponents' goal directly from a kick-in, the referees must award a goal clearance.
If the ball enters the taker's own goal directly from a kick-in, the referees must award a corner kick.

If the ball does not enter the pitch from a kick-in, the referees shall order a player from the opposing team to take it.

[...]

Reason

Law 15 determines that a player has four seconds to take a kick-in correctly; if the ball does not enter the pitch, the kick-in has not been correctly completed within four seconds, and therefore an infringement of this rule has occurred.

8. Procedures to determine the winner of a match or home-and-away

[...]

Extra time (old text)

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods, not exceeding five minutes each, to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

[...]

Extra time (new text in bold)

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods, not exceeding **three or five minutes** each, to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply. **The competition regulations must state the precise duration of the two equal periods of extra time.**

Reason

In order to avoid the playing of only one period of extra time, as opposed to the two periods specified in the regulations, and in order to grant as much flexibility as possible to the competition organisers, these organisers are permitted to establish in the competition regulations a shorter period of extra time (two obligatory periods of three or five minutes each).

9. Procedures to determine the winner of a match or home-and-away

[...]

Kicks from the penalty mark (old text crossed out)

Competition rules may provide for kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure stipulated below.

Procedure

- [...]
- Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take ~~five~~ kicks
- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams
- If, before both teams have taken ~~five~~ kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score even if it were to complete its ~~five~~ kicks, no more kicks are taken
- If, after both teams have taken ~~five~~ kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored one goal more than the other from the same number of kicks

[...]

[...]

Kicks from the penalty mark (new text in bold)

Competition rules may provide for kicks from the penalty mark in accordance with the procedure stipulated below.

Procedure

- [...]
- Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take **three** kicks
- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams
- If, before both teams have taken all **three** kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score even if it were to complete its **three** kicks, no more kicks are taken
- If, after both teams have taken **three** kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored one goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.

[...]

Reason

When it is imperative that there is a winner, the duration of the match can become excessively long with extra time and penalty kicks. Sometimes the duration of a futsal match can exceed two hours, which is not ideal for participants, spectators or television viewers. For that reason, the number of penalty kicks has been reduced to three.

Adoption and enforcement

The decisions regarding changes to the Futsal Laws of the Game are binding for confederations and member associations from 2 July 2014.

Use of cameras and/or microphones by referees for distribution purposes

In addition to the above-mentioned amendments, on behalf of The IFAB, we would also like to inform you of its position on the use of audio and video from microphones and/or cameras worn by referees during matches. Subsequent to a number of incidents in which either microphones and/or cameras with a microphone were used by match officials, this topic was brought to the attention of The IFAB and discussed at its most recent Annual Business Meeting, which took place on 24 October 2013.

While The IFAB understands broadcasters' interest in providing the audience with an additional perspective on the game (whether via audio or video), the clear outcome of the discussions at this meeting was that such devices are not permitted, mainly because recordings broadcast by broadcasters may harm the credibility and integrity of match officials, especially in critical situations. The main reason that referee communication systems are currently encrypted and not broadcast publicly is to allow the refereeing teams to quickly and candidly communicate with each other. Making such communication public would force match officials to consider the public impact of their words before they said anything at all, which would restrict their ability to function as a team.


Furthermore, we would like to point out that legal consequences of using recordings of conversations between the referee, assistant referee and any further match officials during the course of a match would need to be taken into account as well. Should such conversations be recorded, they would likely be requested to be considered in disciplinary proceedings and would therefore have a significant impact on the way such proceedings are conducted (i.e. *inter alia*, the referee would have to check his report and make sure that it corresponded with the recordings which would result in a significant administrative impact for the referees and other bodies involved, etc.).

While we understand that the Laws of the Game do not specifically detail the equipment of referees (although this might be included in the Laws in the near future), we would like to reiterate that such equipment is not permitted at this point in time.

Thank you for your attention and your valuable collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

- cc. - FIFA Executive Committee
- FIFA Referees Committee
- FIFA Futsal Committee
- Confederations