

# 2019/20

## Main Law Changes Summary

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### **AYSO Region 297**

**Players, coaches, and parents must respect all decisions made by the Referee and other match officials.**

**Respect for the Laws of the Game and the match officials who apply the Laws is paramount to the fairness and image of football.**

#### **Law 3** Substitutes

**Changes** ● A player who is being substituted must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly/ immediately at the halfway line)

#### **Laws 5 & 12** Team officials

**Changes** ● A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a YC (caution) or RC (sending-off)\*; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach who is in the technical area at the time will receive the YC/RC \* Law 12 will have a list of YC/RC offences

#### **Law 7** Medical breaks

**Changes** ● Difference between 'cooling' breaks (90 secs – 3 mins) and 'drinks' breaks (max 1 min)

#### **Explanation**

In the interests of player safety, competition rules may allow, in certain weather conditions (e.g. high humidity and temperatures), 'cooling' breaks (from ninety seconds to three minutes) to allow the body's temperature to fall; they are different from 'drinks' breaks (maximum one minute) which are for rehydration.

#### **Law 8** Kick-off

**Changes** ● The team that wins the toss can now choose to take the kick-off or which goal to attack (previously they only had the choice of which goal to attack)

## **Laws 8 & 9** Drop ball

### **Changes**

- If play is stopped inside the penalty area the ball will be dropped for the goalkeeper.
- If play is stopped outside the penalty area the ball will be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the point of the last touch.
- In all cases, all the other players (of both teams) must be at least 4m (4.5yds) away
- If the ball touches the referee (or another match official) and goes into the goal, team possession changes or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded

## **Law 12** Handball

### **● Deliberate handball remains an offence**

### **Changes**

- **The following 'handball' situations, even if accidental, will be a free kick:**
  - 1) the ball goes into the goal after touching an attacking player's hand/arm
  - 2) a player gains control/possession of the ball after it has touches their hand/arm and then scores, or creates a goal-scoring opportunity
  - 3) the ball touches a player's hand/arm which has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - 4) the ball touches a player's hand/arm when it is above their shoulder (unless the player has deliberately played the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

● **The following will not usually be a free kick, unless they are one of the above situations:**

- 1) the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from their own head/body/foot or the head/body/foot of another player who is close/near
- 2) the ball touches a player's hand/arm which is close to their body and has not made their body unnaturally bigger
- 3) if a player is falling and the ball touches their hand/arm when it is between their body and the ground to support the body (but not extended to make the body bigger)
- 4) If the goalkeeper attempts to 'clear' (release into play) a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate but the 'clearance' fails, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball

### **Explanation**

Greater clarity is needed for handball, especially on those occasions when 'non-deliberate' handball is an offence. The re-wording follows a number of principles:

- 1) football does not accept a goal being scored by a hand/arm (even if accidental)
- 2) football expects a player to be penalized for handball if they gain possession/control of the ball from their hand/arm and gain a major advantage e.g. score or create a goal-scoring opportunity
- 3) it is natural for a player to put their arm between their body and the ground for support when falling.
- 4) having the hand/arm above shoulder height is rarely a 'natural' position and a player is 'taking a risk' by having the hand/arm in that position, including when sliding
- 5) if the ball comes off the player's body, or off another player (of either team) who is close by, onto the hands/arms it is often impossible to avoid contact with the ball
- 6) When the GK clearly kicks or tries to kick the ball into play, this shows no intention to handle the ball so, if the 'clearance' attempt is unsuccessful, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball without committing an offence

### **Law 12** Quick free kick and YC/RC

**Changes** ● If the referee is about to issue a YC/RC but the non-offending team takes the free kick quickly and creates a goal-scoring opportunity, the referee can delay the YC/RC until the next stoppage if the offending team was not distracted by the referee

### **Law 13** Free Kicks

**Changes** ● When there is a 'wall' of three or more defenders, the attackers are not allowed within 1m (1 yd) of the wall; an attacker less than 1m (1yd) from the 'wall' when the kick is taken will be penalized with an indirect free kick

● When the defending team takes a free kick in their own penalty area, the ball is in play once the kick is taken; it does not have to leave the penalty area before it can be played

### **Law 16** Goal Kick

**Changes** ● The ball is in play once the kick is taken; it can be played before leaving the penalty area