





CHANGES that effect what coaches may need to re-educate players are highlighted in yellow and summarized below.

- Kick-Off
- Dropped Ball Restart
- Penalty Kick Restart – cautionable infractions
- Free Kick Restart – cautionable offense
- Kicks from the Penalty Mark – reduce to equate



CHANGES highlighted in pink are those that effect what referees need to know in order to:

- restart the match correctly and
- which infractions now need to be addressed with a yellow or red card.

These changes only effect players in that the restart or level of punishment may no longer be the same as previously.

But, these changes are not related to coaching techniques or players that play the game within the Laws.



On a kick-off the ball is in play when it is **kicked** and **clearly** moves.

*The ball no longer has to move forward at a kick-off, it just has to be kicked in **any direction** and move for the game to start.*

For all kick restarts the ball must **“clearly move”** to be in play.



A goal can not be awarded if a dropped ball enters the goal without the ball **touching at least two players.**

*Previously, the interpretation was that **two touches** of the ball by **any player** including the player who first touched the ball (i.e. a 'double touch' situation) was all that was to be required before a goal could be awarded.*



A referee must also **caution** the player taking the kick when:

- a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick
- feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up

If the goalkeeper commits an infringement and the ball does not enter the goal, the penalty kick is retaken and the goalkeeper is **cautioned**.



Violent conduct is punishable by a red card even if **no contact** is made.

If a player who, when not challenging for the ball, deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the **head or face** with a **hand or arm** is guilty of violent conduct ... unless the force used was negligible.

An opponent who **deliberately prevents** a free kick being taken must be cautioned.



A team with more players than the other team at the end of the match and **before or during** the kicks must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents.

The team shall choose any of its eligible players to be excluded, but the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player to be excluded.



If an offside offense occurs, an IFK is awarded where the offense occurred, i.e. **where the player was determined to have become involved in active play**, e.g. where the player touches the ball or interferes with an opponent.



If a player leaves the field-of-play as part of play and commits an offense against another player, play is restarted with a **free kick (IFK or DFK)** on the touchline or the goal line nearest where the offense occurred.

A **DFK** offense by a defender, which occurs as part of play, off the field, outside the goal line and within the width of the defender's penalty area, would result in a **PK** restart.



When a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own **penalty area** which denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) **AND** the referee awards a **penalty kick**, the offending player is **cautioned**, unless:

- the offense is holding, pulling or pushing
- the offense is one which is punishable by a red card
- the offending player does not attempt to play the ball
- the offending player has no possibility of making a challenge to play the ball
- it is a handball offense



When a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) by a deliberate **handball** offense, **wherever the offense occurs**, the player is sent-off.

A player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior, if the player **handles** the ball:

- to interfere with or stop a **promising attack**
- In an **unsuccessful attempt** to prevent a goal



A **DFK (or PK)** is awarded if the ball is in play and a player commits an offense on the field-of-play against:

- a team-mate
- a substitute
- a substituted player
- a team official (either team)
- **a match official (referee or AR)**



If at the taking of the penalty kick one of the following infringements occurs, play will be restarted with an **indirect free kick (IFK)** regardless of whether or not a goal is scored:

- a team-mate of the identified kicker takes the kick
- the penalty kick is kicked backwards
- feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up (feinting in the run-up is permitted).



If a **team official, substitute, substituted or sent-off player** interferes with play, causing the game to be stopped, it will now result in a direct free-kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK) restart.

If a **someone or something** (other than a player) interferes with play in which the ball is going into the goal, a goal is to be awarded if:

- 1) the ball enters the goal (even if contact is made with the ball) ... and ...
- 2) the interference does not prevent a defending player from being able to play the ball.