On March 2, 2019 IFAB approved a number of changes to the 2019/2020 LOTG. These changes go into effect on June 1, 2019.

SSBRA will be training its Referees starting in May and Cal South will continue to provide training over the next several months.

SSBRA is providing you this file so your organization is aware of the changes.

Here are two links two to documents provided by IFAB with contain additional information.


IFAB 2019/2020
Laws of the Game
Changes

Effective 6/1/2019
Reminders

• The IFAB and FIFA would like to remind everyone of two very important aspects of the game:
  
  • Captains
    • The Laws of the Game state that the captain has “a degree of responsibility for the behavior of their team”
    • Captains are expected to use this responsibility to help calm/positively influence the behavior of their players, especially in controversial/confrontational situations involving opponents or match officials
  
  • Respect for Referees
    • Players must respect all decisions made by the referee and other match officials
    • Respect or the Laws of the Game and the match officials who apply the Laws is paramount
Law 3 – Substitutes

- 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 or a different point because of safety, injury etc.)
Law 4 – Players’ Equipment
  • Multi-colored/patterned undershirts are allowed if they are the same as the sleeve of the main shirt

Laws 5 – Team Officials
  • 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 7 – Medical breaks
  • Difference between ‘cooling’ breaks (90 secs – 3 mins) and ‘drinks’ breaks (max 1 min)
Laws 8 –Kick-off

- 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 –Dropped Ball

- 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
- The following ‘handball’ situations, **even if accidental, will be a free kick:**
  - the ball goes into the goal after touching an attacking player’s hand/arm
  - a player gains control/possession of the ball after it has touches their hand/arm and then scores, or creates a goal-scoring opportunity
  - the ball touches a player’s hand/arm which has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - 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)
Law 12 – Handball (cont.)

- It is **usually an offence** if a player touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)
Law 12 – Handball (cont.)

- The following will not usually be a free kick, unless they are one of the above situations:
  - 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
  - The ball touches a player’s hand/arm which is close to their body and has not made their body unnaturally bigger
  - 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)
  - 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
Law 12 – Quick Free Kick and YC/RC

- 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 12 – Goal Celebrations

- A YC for an ‘illegal’ celebration (e.g. removing the shirt) remains even if the goal is disallowed.
Law 13 – Free Kicks

- 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 14 – Penalty Kick

- The team’s penalty taker can have (quick) treatment/assessment and then take the kick.
- The goalkeeper must not be touching the goalposts/crossbar/nets; they must not be moving.
- The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on/in line with the goal line when the kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line.
Law 16 – Goal Kick

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