



# Memorandum 2009





# AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

2009-2010

- **Few actual changes in the Laws of the Game**
- **Clarification and emphasis**



# Law 1 – The Field of Play

## Current Text:

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.

The color of artificial surfaces must be green.

Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of member associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.

## New Text:

Football Turf



# Law 11 – Offside

## Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

### Current Text:

When an offside offense occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him by one of his team mates.

If a defending player steps behind his own goal line in order to place an opponent in an offside position, the referee must allow play to continue and caution the defender for deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission when the ball is next out of play.

### New Text:

Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall be considered to be on his own goal line or touch line for purposes of offside until the next stoppage of play. If the player leaves the field of play deliberately, he must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.



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## Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

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### ***USSF Advice to Referees:***

***It doesn't matter why the defender left the field***

***It doesn't matter where the defender left the field***

***If with the referee's permission, the defender cannot freely return to the field and should not be counted in determining who is the last and second to last defender***

***If not with the referee's permission, the defender is considered to be on the goal line or touch line (whichever is relevant) and must be considered***

***If not in the "normal course of play," caution for misconduct***



# Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match or Home-And-Away

## Kicks from the Penalty Mark

### Current Text:

If at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than their opponents, they must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded.

### New Text (added to the above):

**Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark**

### *USSF Advice to Referees:*

*The intent of the new language is simply to confirm that players excluded as a result of the working of the “reduce to equate” process cannot participate in any way in the kicks from the mark phase of play. As a practical matter, such individuals must be directed to leave the field and join other ineligible team members and team officials in their team’s technical area. Excluded players are still under the referee’s authority.*



# The Technical Area

## Current Text:

- only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions and he must return to his position after giving these instructions
- the coach and other officials must remain within its confines except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the referee's permission, to assess an injured player
- the coach and other occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner

## New Text:

- only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the technical area

## *USSF Advice to Referees:*

*The original language required team officials to return to their bench after they had arisen and moved toward the front of the technical area to give tactical instructions. The requirement to "return to the bench" has been removed.*



## Reminder to referees

Referees are reminded that Law 5 states that the referee must stop the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured.

***USSF Advice to Referees: This statement confirms an earlier guideline issued by the International Board and repeated in a memorandum from USSF.***

- ***Kicking the ball off the field to stop play for an apparent injury detracts from the referee's responsibility under Law 5***
- ***The referee must be seen to be quickly and publicly assessing any possible injury and clearly indicating a decision whether play is to be stopped***
- ***The referee must control such decisions as much as possible***