



Memorandum 2008 Supplement





Introduction

**Some language changes in the Laws
of the Game, 2008-2009**

**“Additional Instructions” renamed to
“Interpretations” – with some
language changes**

**Some “Points of Emphasis” to draw
attention to prior changes**



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 1

Optional marks outside the field

Ten yards from corner arc

Along touchline (not just goal line)



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 4

Teams are required to wear jersey colors which distinguish them from the other team and from the officials

(Always assumed but never in the Law)



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 5

The Referee “indicates the restart of the match after it has been stopped”

(Previous language sometimes misunderstood to mean that the referee could not end a period of play at a stoppage)



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 6

The AR's responsibility to signal for an offense is based on having a "better view" -- not necessarily who is closer

(Interpretations define "better view" as being out of the sight of the referee – behind or blocked)



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 12

Still 10 “direct free kick fouls” but now divided into 7 (careless, reckless, excessive force) and 3 (offense no matter how it is done).

“Tackles” added to first group

“Making contact with opponent before contact with ball” dropped from second group



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 12

Indirect free kick offenses divided more logically into a group of four which can only be committed by a goalkeeper and a second group which can be committed by anyone (including a goalkeeper)



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 12

The International Board maintains that a substitute who illegally enters the field is cautioned for “unsporting behavior”

USSF accordingly drops its earlier expectation that the Board would revise the original list of reasons for cautioning a substitute to include “entering the field without the permission of the referee”



Changes in the Laws of the Game

Law 15

The Law now officially accepts 2 yards as an acceptable equivalent to 2 meters for the distance an opponent must be from the thrower



Changes in the Interpretations

Law 3

7 is minimum to start

National associations may allow fewer than 7 to continue

USSF has not done so

Dropping below 7 is permissible if it is temporary



Changes in the Interpretations

Law 5 (and elsewhere)

Use of the term “advantage”

USSF: Advantage applies to offenses in Law 12 only

The International Board occasionally uses “advantage” where USSF emphasizes the concept of “trifling”

Example: spectator enters field and Interpretations say play need not be stopped immediately if “advantage” could be applied – this means only if the spectator’s presence has no affect on play



Changes in the Interpretations

Law 6

Signal by AR at penalty kick or KFTM if goalkeeper moves illegally





Changes in the Interpretations

Law 6

Referee may send off (and show red card) to a player who has committed misconduct even after a stoppage and restart if

- **AR has signaled for the offense**
- **AR has maintained signal throughout play, the stoppage, and the restart**

Restart is not based on original offense but on how play was stopped when AR signal is seen



Changes in the Interpretations

Cover this in the pregame!

**Determine what offenses this should apply to
(emphasis is on violent conduct)**

Referee may send off (and show red card) to a player who has committed misconduct even after a stoppage and restart if

- AR has signaled for the offense**
- AR has maintained signal throughout play, the stoppage, and the restart**

Restart is not based on original offense but on how play was stopped when AR signal is seen



Changes in the Interpretations

Law 12

Player leaves the field during play and commits misconduct

If play is stopped for this, Referee must decide:

- **Player's misconduct was incidental to being off the field – restart is dropped ball where ball was**
- **Player left the field to commit the misconduct – restart is IFK for opposing team where the ball was**



Changes in the Interpretations

Law 13

Referee gives indirect free kick but fails to display proper signal

Kick is taken and ball enters opposing team's goal directly

Kick must be retaken



Changes in the Interpretations

Law 15

Thrown ball strikes the ground before entering the field

- **If throw otherwise meets requirements of Law 15, retake throw**
- **If throw violates a requirement of Law 15, throw-in restart is given to the opposing team**



Changes in the Interpretations

Laws 15 and 17

If opponent is within the minimum distance (2 yards for throw-in, 10 yards for corner kick), referee must “warn” player before cautioning

USSF advice: game management flexibility

- Ignore (or talk afterward) if trifling or doubtful
- Warn if appropriate (and caution if it continues)
- Caution immediately if blatant and/or affects play