



Memorandum 2007

Modifications and Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game



Amendments to the Laws of the Game

Law 1: The Field of Play

USSF Advice to Referees: The change is likely to affect only matches played at the highest competitive level where advertising is more commonly seen. One practical effect of the change is to allow advertising to be displayed on the shelters or canopies which may be used to cover the team benches.

New Text

There should be no advertising of any kind on the ground within the technical area or within one meter from the touchline. Further, no advertising shall be allowed in the area between the goal line and the goal nets.



Amendments to the Laws of the Game

Law 4: The Players Equipment

USSF Advice to Referees: The general purpose of this change is to ensure that the visible color of any portion of a garment worn underneath the jersey or shorts is consistent with the main color of the jersey or shorts. Accordingly, the referee need not be concerned about the color or any portion of an undergarment which cannot be seen.

New Text

- a jersey or shirt – if undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.
- shorts – if undershorts are worn, they are of the same main color as the shorts.



Amendments to the Laws of the Game

Law 4: The Players Equipment

IFAB Decision 1

Present Text

- Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising.
- A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer.
- Jerseys must have sleeves.



Amendments to the Laws of the Game

Law 4: The Players Equipment

IFAB Decision 1

New Text

- Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising. **The basic compulsory equipment must not contain any political, religious or personal statements.**
- A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer. **The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment contains political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organizer or by FIFA.**
- Jerseys must have sleeves.



Amendments to the Laws of the Game

Law 4: The Players Equipment

IFAB Decision 1

USSF Advice to Referees:

- *The issue is the content (personal, political, commercial, religious statements), not how it is displayed*
- *Wearing such statements directly and visibly on any uniform part or revealing such statements by removing any part of the uniform is prohibited*
- *Manufacturer's names and logos are excepted*
- *Sanctions are the responsibility of the competition organizer or FIFA, not the referee (but full details must be included in the match report)*
- *The referee retains authority to deal with such statements if they are abusive, insulting, or offensive (see prior guidelines on this subject)*



Amendments to the Laws of the Game

The Fourth Official

USSF Advice to Referees: A competition authority may provide a more specific order of priority for a fourth official in a situation where an official is unable to continue (including the appointment of a reserve assistant referee). In the absence of such provisions, the fourth official may substitute for any of the three match officials.

New Text

The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue, **unless a reserve assistant referee is appointed**. He assists the referee at all times.

A reserve assistant referee may be also be appointed under competition rules. His only duty shall be to replace an assistant referee who is unable to continue or to replace the fourth official, as required.



Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials

Celebration of a Goal

New Text

A player must be cautioned when:

- he covers his head or face with a mask or other similar item

USSF Advice to Referees: This change in the Law is intended only to extend the existing provision that a player who removes the jersey or uses the jersey to cover the head as part of a goal celebration has committed misconduct and is to be cautioned.



**Amendments to the Laws of the Game
are in effect as of July 1, 2007**

**Additional Instructions are in effect
immediately**