



Amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game - 2008

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AMENDMENTS TO THE FUTSAL LAWS OF THE GAME – 2008

These are the amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game and the instructions and guidelines that were revised at the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board and approved by the FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee.

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- 5 The referee **and the second referee**
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Reason: *Law 6 has been merged with Law 5, so the numbering has changed from Law 6 onward.*

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Current text

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES, SECOND REFEREES, THIRD REFEREES AND TIMEKEEPERS.

New text

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Reason: *All the officials mentioned are referees and they must all be equally familiar with the Laws. The word “guidelines” has been added to underline that it is obligatory to comply with them.*

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS BY THE BOARD

Law 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Current text

3 A team official may give tactical instructions to players during a match. However, team officials shall not obstruct players and referees and shall always behave in an appropriate manner.

New Text

3 A team official may give tactical instructions to players during a match. However, team officials shall not obstruct players and referees, **placing themselves within the technical area, where one exists, and** shall always behave in an appropriate manner.

4 **The technical area relates particularly to matches played in facilities with a designated seated area for technical staff and substitutes.**

While the technical areas may differ between facilities, e.g. in terms of size, the following notes are issued for general guidance:

- **The technical area extends 3 feet (1 m) on either side of the designated seated area and extends forward up to a distance of 30 inches (75 cm) from the touch line.**
- **It is recommended that markings are used to define this area.**
- **The number of persons permitted to occupy the technical area is defined by the competition rules.**
- **The occupants of the technical area are identified before the beginning of the match in accordance with the competition rules.**
- **Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions and he/she must return to his/her position after giving these instructions.**
- **The coach and other officials must remain within the confines of the technical area except in special circumstances, for example, a physiotherapist or doctor entering the field of play, with the referees' permission, to assess an injured player.**
- **The coach and other occupants of the technical area must behave in a responsible manner.**

Reason: *The technical area is established as the place from which officials may give instructions to their players, thus preventing them from hindering the development of play.*

Law 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

Basic equipment

Current text

The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate articles:

- A jersey or shirt
- Shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, they must be the same main color as the shorts.

New Text

The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate articles:

- A jersey or shirt – **if undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve must be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.**
- Shorts – **if undershorts are worn**, they must be the same main color as the shorts.

Reason: *To bring the Laws into line with the IFAB’s decisions in the Football Laws of the Game.*

Law 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

Decisions

Current text

1 Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising. Any player who lifts his/her shirt to reveal slogans or advertising shall be sanctioned by the competition organizers.

2 The shirts must have sleeves.

New Text

1 Players must not reveal **undergarments** showing slogans or advertising. **The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal statements.**

2 A player removing his/her shirt to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer. **The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment has political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organizer or by FIFA.**

3 The shirts must have sleeves.

Reason: *To bring the Laws into line with the IFAB’s decisions in the Football Laws of the Game, which were already obligatory, even through they did not appear in the Laws, which were not amended last year.*

Law 5 – THE REFEREE AND THE SECOND REFEREE

Duties and powers

Current text

5 – THE REFEREE

The authority of the referee

Each match shall be controlled by a referee, who has full authority to enforce the Laws of

New Text

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE AND THE SECOND REFEREE

The authority of the referees

Each match shall be controlled by **two**

the Game in connection with the match to which he/she has been appointed, from the moment he/she enters the premises where the pitch is located until he/she leaves them.

Duties and powers

The referee shall:

- Enforce the laws of the game;
- Allow play to continue if the team against which an offence has been committed stands to benefit from such an advantage, and penalize the original offense if the anticipated advantage does not ensue;
- Take note of and report to the appropriate authorities any incidents occurring before, during and after the match and any disciplinary measures taken against players and team officials;
- Act as a timekeeper in the event that this official is not present;
- Stop, suspend or terminate the match for any infringement of the Laws of the Game when he/she considers it appropriate;
- Stop, suspend or terminate the match as a result of any kind of outside interference;
- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences;
- Take action against team officials who are guilty of misconduct and, if necessary, dismisses the from the pitch and surrounding area;
- Ensures that no unauthorized persons enter the pitch;
- Stop the match if, in his/her opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensure that this player is removed from the pitch;
- Allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in his/her opinion, only slightly injured;
- Ensure that any ball used meets the requirements of Law 2;
- Punish the more serious offence if a player commits more than one offence at the same time.

Decisions of the referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

The referee and second referee may only change a decision if they realize that it is incorrect or if they deem it necessary to do so, provided that play has not restarted or the

referees, who **have** full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which **they have** been appointed.

Duties and powers

The referees shall:

- Enforce the laws of the game;
- Allow play to continue if the team against which an offence has been committed stands to benefit from such an advantage, and penalize the original offense if the anticipated advantage does not ensue;
- Take note of and report to the appropriate authorities any incidents occurring before, during and after the match and any disciplinary measures taken against players and team officials;
- Takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences;
- Take action against team officials who are guilty of misconduct and, if necessary, dismisses the from the pitch area **without showing them a red card**;
- Ensures that no unauthorized persons enter the pitch;
- Stop the match if, in **their** opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensure that this player is removed from the pitch;
- Allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in **their** opinion, only slightly injured;
- Ensure that any ball used meets the requirements of Law 2;
- Punish the more serious offence if a player commits more than one offence at the same time.

The referee shall:

- **Act as a timekeeper in the event that this official is not present;**
- **Stop, suspend or abandon the match for any infringement of the Laws of the Game or because of outside interference of any kind.**

Decisions of the referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final.

The referee and second referee may only change a decision if they realize that it is incorrect or if they deem it necessary to do so,

match has not ended.

6 – THE SECOND REFEREE

Duties and powers

This Law has been deleted.

provided that play has not restarted or the match has not ended.

Decisions

[...]

- 3 In the event of undue interference or improper conduct on the part of the second referee, the referee shall relieve him/her of his/her duties, arrange for his/her replacement and submit a report to the appropriate authorities.**
- 4 The second referee shall operate on the opposite side of the pitch to the referee and shall also be equipped with a whistle.**
- 5 The second referee is compulsory for international matches.**

Reason: *To merge Law 5 and 6 in order to clarify that the decisions taken by the second referee are of equal validity to those taken by the first referee.*

LAW 6 – THE TIMEKEEPER AND THE THIRD REFEREE

The timekeeper

Current text

The timekeeper:

- [...]
- Indicate the end of the first half, the end of the match, the end of the periods of extra time and the end of time outs with a whistle or acoustic signal distinct from the one used by the referee;
- Keep a record of all time-outs remaining to each team, keep the referees and teams informed in this regard and indicate permission for a time-out when requested by an official from either team (Law 8);
- Keep a record of the first five accumulated fouls committed by each team signalled by the referees in each half of the match and use a whistle or acoustic signal distinct from the one used by the referee to indicate when a team has committed its fifth accumulated foul.

The third referee

In addition to assisting the timekeeper, the third referee shall:

- Keep a record of the first five accumulated fouls committed by each team signalled by the referees in each half of the match and place a visible sign on the timekeeper's table to advertise this fact;

New Text

• [...]

- Indicate the end of the first half, the end of the match, **the end of the periods of extra time** and the end of time outs with a whistle or acoustic signal distinct from the one used by the referees;
- **Indicate a team's request for a time-out with a whistle or acoustic signal distinct from the one used by the referees, after informing the third referee;**
- Indicate the fifth accumulated foul by a team with a whistle or acoustic signal distinct from the one used by the referees, **after informing the third referee.**

The third referee

In addition to assisting the timekeeper, the third referee shall:

- Keep a record of the first five accumulated fouls committed by each team signalled by the referees in each half of the match and place a visible sign on the timekeeper's table to advertise this fact;
- **Keep a record of all time-outs that each team has remaining, keep the referees and teams informed in this regard and indicate permission for a time-out when requested by an official from either**

- Keep a record of stoppages in play and the reasons for them;
- Take note of the goalscorers' numbers;
- Record the names and numbers of any players cautioned or sent off;
- Monitor the replacement of ball at the request of the referees;
- If necessary, check the substitutes' equipment before they enter the pitch;
- Signal to the referees when an obvious mistake has been made in cautioning or sending off a player or if an act of violence has been committed out of their range of vision. In any case, the referee shall decide on any facts connected with play;
- Monitor the conduct of those persons seated on the team benches and inform the referees of any inappropriate behavior;
- Provide any other information relevant to the game.

In the event of undue interference by the timekeeper or the third referee, the referee shall relieve the person in question of his/her duties, arrange for his/her replacement and submit a report to the appropriate authorities. In case of injury, the third referee may replace either the referee or second referee.

team (Law 7);

- Keep a record of stoppages in play and the reasons for them;
- **Keep a record of the players taking part in the match;**
- Take note of the goalscorers' numbers;
- Record the names and numbers of any players cautioned or sent off;
- Monitor the replacement of ball at the request of the referees;
- If necessary, check the substitutes' equipment before they enter the pitch;
- Signal to the referees when an obvious mistake has been made in cautioning or sending off a player or if an act of violence has been committed out of their range of vision. In any case, the referee shall decide on any facts connected with play;
- Monitor the conduct of those persons seated on the team benches and inform the referees of any inappropriate behavior;
- Provide any other information relevant to the game.

In the event of undue interference by the timekeeper or the third referee, the referee shall relieve the person in question of his/her duties, arrange for his/her replacement and submit a report to the appropriate authorities.

In case of injury **to the referee or second referee**, the third referee shall replace the second referee.

Reason: *To define the duties of the timekeeper and the third referee, which were not clear in the old version. Also, to explain that the third referee may only replace the second referee.*

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

Periods of play

Current text

The match shall last two equal periods of 20 minutes.

The timekeeping shall be carried out by a timekeeper, whose duties are defined in Law 7. The duration of either half may be prolonged to enable a penalty kick to be taken, or for a direct free kick to be taken against a team that has committed more than five accumulated fouls.

New Text

The match shall last two equal periods of 20 minutes.

The timekeeping shall be carried out by a timekeeper, whose duties are defined in Law **6**. The duration of either half **shall** be prolonged to enable a penalty kick to be taken, or for a direct free kick to be taken against a team that has committed more than five accumulated fouls.

Reason: *To specify that the prolongation of a duration of the match is obligatory if it is necessary for a penalty or direct free kick to be taken after the fifth accumulated foul.*

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

Time-out

Current text

The teams are entitled to a one-minute time-out in each half.

The following conditions apply to a time-out:

- The team officials are authorized to request the timekeeper for a one-minute time-out.
- [...]

New Text

The teams are entitled to a one-minute time-out in each half.

The following conditions apply to a time-out:

- The team officials are authorized to request the **third referee** for a one-minute time-out.
- [...]

Reason: *To prevent the timekeeper from being distracted.*

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

Decisions

Current text

1 If the timekeeper is not available, the team official may request the referee for a time-out.

New Text

1 If the **third referee or** timekeeper is not available, the team official may request the referee for a time-out.

Reason: *If the third referee or timekeeper is not available, the team official may request the referee for a time-out.*

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Direct free kick

Current text

A direct free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six infringements in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessively forceful:

- kicking or attempting to kick an opponent;
- tripping or attempting to trip an opponent, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind an opponent;
- jumping at an opponent;
- charging an opponent,
- striking or attempting to strike an opponent;
- pushing an opponent.

A direct free kick shall also be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following five infringements.

New Text

A direct free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following **seven** infringements in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessively forceful:

- kicking or attempting to kick an opponent;
- tripping or attempting to trip an opponent, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind an opponent;
- jumping at an opponent;
- charging an opponent,
- striking or attempting to strike an opponent;
- **tackling an opponent;**
- pushing an opponent.

A direct free kick shall also be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the

- holding an opponent;
- spitting at an opponent;
- sliding in an attempt to play the ball while an opponent is playing it or is about to play it (sliding tackle), except for the goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area, provided he/she does not endanger the safety of an opponent;
- touching the opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession,
- carrying, striking or throwing the ball with one's hands or arms, except for the goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area.

following **four** infringements.

- holding an opponent;
- spitting at an opponent;
- sliding in an attempt to play the ball while an opponent is playing it or is about to play it (sliding tackle), except for the goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area, provided he/she does not endanger the safety of an opponent;
- carrying, striking or throwing the ball with one's hands or arms, except for the goalkeeper in his/her own penalty area.

Reason: *To bring the text into line with the Football Laws of the Game*

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Indirect free kick

Current text

An indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits one of the following offenses;

- after clearing the ball, he/she touches it again with his/her hands before it has been played or touched by an opponent;
- he/she touches or controls the ball with his/her hands after it has deliberately been kicked to him/her by a team-mate;

[...]

New Text

An indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits one of the following offenses;

- after clearing the ball, he/she touches it again with his/her hands **following a deliberate pass by a team-mate, before it has crossed the halfway line or** been played or touched by an opponent;

[...]

Reason: *To ensure that the previous wording is complied with.*

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Cautionable offences

Current text

A player or a substitute shall be cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following infringements:

New Text

A player shall be cautioned if he/she commits any of the following infringements:

Reason: *To create a specific provision for substitutes.*

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Cautionable offences

Current text

New Text

A substitute shall be cautioned if he/she commits any of the following infringements:

- Unsporting behavior
- Dissent by word or action
- Delaying the restart of play

Reason: *To differentiate between cautions for players and cautions for substitutes.*

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Sending-off offences

Current text

New Text

A substitute shall be sent off if he/she commits the following offence:

- Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity

Reason: *To appropriately punish a serious offence.*

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Decisions

Current text

2 Under Law 12, following a clearance by the goalkeeper a player may pass the ball back to him/her using his head, chest, knee, etc provided the he/she receives it after it has crossed the halfway line or has been touched or played by an opponent.
[...]

The offense shall be deemed to have been committed by any player who attempts to circumvent both the letter and the spirit of Law 12.

New Text

2 Under Law **11**, following a clearance by the goalkeeper a player may pass the ball back to him/her using his head, chest, knee, etc provided the he/she receives it after it has crossed the halfway line or has been touched or played by an opponent.
[...]

*The offense shall be deemed to have been committed by any player who attempts to circumvent both the letter and the spirit of Law **11**.*

Reason: *Change in the numbering of the Laws.*

LAW 13 – ACCUMULATED FOULS

Position of free kick

Current text

- Are those punished by a direct free kick mentioned in Law 12.

New Text

- Are those punished by a direct free kick mentioned in Law **11**.

Reason: *Change in the numbering of the Laws.*

LAW 14 – PENALTY KICK

Procedure

Current text

- The player taking the penalty shall kick the ball forward.
- He/she may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- The ball shall be deemed in play from the moment it is kicked and set in motion.

When a penalty kick is taken during the normal time or when time has been extended at half-time or full time, a goal shall be awarded if, before passing between the goalposts and under the crossbar:

- [...]

New Text

- The player taking the penalty shall kick the ball forward.
- He/she may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- The ball shall be deemed in play from the moment it is kicked and set in motion.

When a penalty kick is taken during the normal time or when time has been extended at half-time, full time **or during extra time**, a goal shall be awarded if, before passing between the goalposts and under the crossbar:

- [...]

Reason: *To specify that this provision also applies during extra time.*

LAW 16 – THE GOAL CLEARANCE

Procedure

Current text

- the ball shall be thrown from any point inside the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team.
- opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- the goalkeeper may not play the ball a second time until it has touched by an opponent or has crossed the halfway line.
- [...]

New Text

- the ball shall be thrown from any point inside the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team.
- opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- the goalkeeper may not play the ball a second time until it has touched by an opponent or **is returned to him/her by a team-mate once it has crossed the halfway line.**
- [...]

Reason: *To bring the text into line with Law 11.*

LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK

The corner kick

Current text

[...]

A corner kick shall be awarded when:

- the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, crosses the

New Text

[...]

A corner kick shall be awarded when:

- the whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, crosses the

goal line either along the ground or through the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 11.

goal line either along the ground or through the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law **10**.

Reason: *Change in the numbering of the Laws.*

PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH OR PLAY-OFF

Kicks from the penalty mark

Current text

- the referee shall choose the goal at which the kicks shall be taken.
- the referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss shall decide whether to take the first or second kick.
- the referee and the timekeeper shall keep a record of the kicks taken.
- [...]

New Text

- the referee shall choose the goal at which the kicks shall be taken.
- the referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss shall decide whether to take the first or second kick.
- the referee, **the third referee** and the timekeeper shall keep a record of the kicks taken.
- [...]

Reason: *To add that the third referee will also keep a record of the kicks taken from the penalty, as he is positioned next to the eligible players.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Current text

The aim of these additional instructions for referees, second referees, third referees and timekeepers is to ensure the correct application of the Futsal Laws of the Game.

Futsal is a competitive sport, and physical contact between the players is normal and an acceptable part of the game. However, players must respect the Futsal Laws of the Game and the principles of fair play.

Serious foul play and violent conduct are two sending-off offenses under Law 12 and constitute unacceptable levels of physical aggression.

New Text

The aim of these additional instructions **and guidelines** for referees is to ensure the correct application of the Futsal Laws of the Game.

Futsal is a competitive sport, and physical contact between the players is normal and an acceptable part of the game. [...] Serious foul play and violent conduct are two sending-off offenses under Law **11** and constitute unacceptable levels of physical aggression.

Reason: *To bring the text in line with the title and the change in the numbering of the Laws.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Caution for unsporting behavior as a result of deliberate handball

Current text

There are circumstances when, in addition to a direct free kick being awarded, a player must also be cautioned for unsporting behavior e.g. when a player:

- deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession;
- attempts to score a goal by deliberately handling the ball.

New Text

There are circumstances when, in addition to a direct free kick being awarded, a player must also be cautioned for unsporting behavior e.g. when a player:

- deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession;
- attempts to score a goal by deliberately handling the ball.
- **Pretends to be playing the ball with one part of his/her body when he/she is really doing so with his/her hands in order to deceive the referees**
- **Tries to prevent a goal or deny a goalscoring opportunity with his/her hand when the goalkeeper is not inside his/her penalty area, and fails in his attempt.**

Reason: *To list all the cases in which a player must be cautioned for deliberate handball, thus avoiding misinterpretation.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Holding an opponent

Current text

[...]

This inability to properly assess the action of holding a shirt or an arm can lead to controversy; referees are therefore urged to intervene immediately and firmly in these situations in accordance with Law 12.

New Text

[...]

This inability to properly assess the action of holding a shirt or an arm can lead to controversy; referees are therefore urged to intervene immediately and firmly in these situations in accordance with Law **11**.

Reason: *Change in the numbering of the Laws.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Goal celebrations

Current text

Players will be cautioned, if, in the opinion of the referee, they do any of the following:

- [...]
- remove their shirt or cover their head with it.

New Text

Players will be cautioned, if, in the opinion of the referee, they do any of the following:

- [...]
- remove their shirt or cover their head with it.
- **Cover their head or face with a mask or other similar item.**

Reason: *To bring the text into line with the IFAB's decisions.*

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Procedure for injured players

Current text

The referee must take into account the following instructions if a player is injured:

- allow the match to continue until the ball is no longer in play if the injury is, in the referee's opinion, a minor one.
- stop the match if the referee considers the injury to be serious.
- after consulting the injured player, the referee will authorize one or more (maximum two) medical staff to enter the pitch to allow them to assess the injury and ensure that the player leaves the pitch safely and swiftly.
- [...]
- the referee must ensure that the injured player is carried off the pitch safely and swiftly.
- the player may not be treated on the pitch.
- any player with a bleeding wound must leave the pitch and may not return until the referee has ascertained that the wound has stopped bleeding. A player may not wear blood-stained clothing.
- [...]

If the match has not been interrupted for any other reason, or if the player's injury is not a consequence of an infringement of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the referee shall restart the match with a dropped ball at the place from where the ball was when the match was interrupted *

New Text

The referees must take into account the following instructions if a player is injured:

- allow the match to continue until the ball is no longer in play if the injury is, in **their** opinion, a minor one.
- stop the match if **they consider** the injury to be serious.
- after consulting the injured player, the referees will authorize one or more (maximum two) medical staff to enter the pitch to allow them to assess the injury and ensure that the player leaves the pitch safely and swiftly.
- [...]
- the referees must ensure that the injured player is carried off the pitch safely and swiftly.
- the player may not be treated on the pitch.
- any player with a bleeding wound must leave the pitch and may not return until the referees **have** ascertained that the wound has stopped bleeding. **(the third referee may carry out the check, but only the referees may authorize his entry, if he/she has not been substituted);** a player may not wear blood-stained clothing.
- [...]

If the match has not been interrupted for any other reason, or if the player's injury is not a consequence of an infringement of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the referees shall restart the match with a dropped ball at the place from where the ball was when the match was interrupted *

Reason: *To specify that the second referee may also intervene on certain occasions due to the importance of the incident and because he/she is closer to it.*

The FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee has agreed that the amendments to the Laws of the Game and the instructions and guidelines for referee should come into force on 1 July 2008.