



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game - 2012/2013

Match officials are advised that the following amendments to the Laws of the Game 2012/13 are to be enforced in all sanctioned SAASL games commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. These amendments are also to be implemented in all trial games.

### 1. Law 1 - The Field of Play

#### Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees – Commercial advertising

Present Text	New Text
Commercial advertising shall be at least 1m (1yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play.	Advertising <b>on the ground</b> shall be at least 1m (1yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play. <b>Upright advertising shall be at least:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1m (1yd) from the touch lines of the field of play</li><li>• the same distance from the goal line as the depth of the goal net, and</li><li>• 1m (1yd) from the goal net</li></ul>

#### Reason

There should be no upright advertising within a one metre area surrounding the goal net to allow an unrestricted view of the goal for match officials. The proposal was approved with some discretion accorded for certain stadiums where a full metre distance behind the goal may not be possible without major stadium work.

### 2. Law 3 - The Number of Players

Present Text	New Text
	<b>If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named player at the start of the match and the referee is not informed of this change:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the referee allows the named substitute to continue the match</li><li>• no disciplinary sanction is taken against the named substitute</li><li>• the number of substitutions allowed by the offending team is not reduced</li><li>• the referee reports the incident to the appropriate authorities</li></ul>

#### Reason

It is rare that a substitution is made prior to the start of the match and after the referee has been informed of the names of the players and substitutes. This is normally due to an injury of a player during the warm-up. If the referee is informed of the substitution, this is permitted but it is necessary to clarify how to proceed if the referee is not informed of the change.

### 3. Law 4 - The Players' Equipment

Present Text	New Text
stockings	stockings - <b>if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as that part of the stocking it is applied to</b>

#### Reason

An increasing number of players are using excessive amounts of tape externally on their socks. This can be a multitude of colours and completely changes the look of the sock. This can cause confusion, particularly for assistant referees who may need to look at the sock to determine who last played the ball before it went out of play.



#### 4. Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play

Present Text	New Text
Infringements and sanctions The ball is dropped again: (...)	Infringements and sanctions The ball is dropped again: (...)  <b>If the ball enters the goal:</b> • if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded • if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team

##### Reason

There have been a number of occasions where goals have been scored from "uncontested" dropped balls. This has put a great deal of pressure on the referee as he has to allow the goal to stand. We then have the unseemly situation where the opposition allows the team to score from the kick-off without any players trying to stop them in order to rebalance the game.

#### 5. Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

##### Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees – Disciplinary sanctions

Present Text	New Text
Disciplinary sanctions There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player: • deliberately <b>and blatantly</b> handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession	Disciplinary sanctions There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player: • deliberately handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession

##### Reason

It is more important to punish the consequence that the hand ball created rather than the fact that it was blatant. In fact, a hand ball could be inconspicuous but certainly very important. Furthermore, it is difficult to define what is meant by "blatantly" (p. 113), and therefore to have a uniform interpretation, especially by referees from different countries or continents with very different experiences. Deleting the word "blatantly", and providing that if the hand ball prevented the opponent from gaining possession the player must be cautioned, makes the interpretation easier (p. 117).

##### ***Other decisions of the IFAB***

#### 5. Law 4 - The Players' Equipment

The members approved the principle of wearing a headscarf, subject to referral to the FIFA Medical Committee for an analysis of its safety ahead of final approval at the 5 July meeting.

##### **LAWS OF THE GAME 2012/13**

All members are advised to download the current copy of Laws of the Game from:-

[http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/footballdevelopment/refereeing/81/42/36/lawsofthegame\\_2012\\_e.pdf](http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/footballdevelopment/refereeing/81/42/36/lawsofthegame_2012_e.pdf)