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COMMUNICATION



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2020 CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME - SUMMARY

Full details of all laws and law changes can be found on the [IFAB website](#) or on the downloadable [app](#) from the App or Play Store.

Some links to video examples are included in this document. Please note the explanation of each clip in the video description.

LAW	EXPLANATION	APPLICATION
Substitution Procedure (Law 3 – The Players) - A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee.	 - To stop a player who is being substituted wasting time by leaving slowly at the halfway line. Unless the player can leave quickly at the halfway line or the referee indicates otherwise for safety reasons.	 Substitution
Yellow and Red Cards (Y/R) (Law 5 – The Referee) - The referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident (i.e. if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick the referee may delay showing the Yellow/Red card until the next stoppage). - Coaches and managers in the technical area may be shown Yellow and Red cards. If the offender (Team official OR player) cannot be identified, the "senior coach" in the technical area will receive the YC/RC.	 - While previously we would have stopped the free kick being taken quickly in order to show the yellow card, we now recognise that in some cases it is more of an advantage to the team who has been fouled to play the free kick quickly. We allow this and issue the necessary sanction at the next stoppage. In all other cases the sanction must be issued before play restarts. - The senior coach is responsible for the discipline of their technical area.	 Delay Caution to Allow Quick Free-Kick

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<p>The Coin Toss (Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The team that wins the coin toss can decide which way to run OR choose to kick off. If the winning team chooses to kick-off, the opposing team may choose which way to run. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Captains often ask to take the kick-off; the law now allows them to. 	
<p>Dropped Ball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All drop balls are now UNCONTESTED. If play is stopped inside the penalty area the ball will be dropped for the goalkeeper. In all other situations the ball will be dropped for a player of the team that last touched the ball. All other players must be at least 4m away. (Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play) - The ball is out of play when it touches a match official, remains on the field of play and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A team starts a promising attack, - The ball goes directly into the goal, - The team in possession of the ball changes. <p>(Law 9 – Ball in and out of Play)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The old drop ball procedure often led to a manufactured restart which was exploited unfairly (e.g. passed back to the GK, kicking ball out deep in the opponent’s half) or an aggressive confrontation. - It can be very unfair if a team gains an advantage because the ball has hit a match official. 	<p><u>Drop ball inside the Penalty Area</u></p> <p><u>Ball hits referee – Drop ball restart</u></p>
<p>Handball (Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is always an offence if the player touches the ball with their hand/arm and then scores or creates a goal-scoring opportunity, even if accidental. - It is usually an offence if the player touches the ball with their hand/arm when the arm makes the body 	<p>Handball text has been re-written for greater consistency/clarity with clear guidelines for when a ‘non-deliberate’ handball should and should not be penalised.</p> <p>As a result of these changes the handball law now applies differently to different players in different areas of the field, for</p>	<p><u>No Handball 1 – Arm close to body</u></p> <p><u>No Handball 2 - Deliberately played</u></p> <p><u>No Handball 3 - Supporting arm</u></p>



<p>unnaturally bigger or the hand/arm is above shoulder level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not usually an offence if the player touches the ball with their hand/arm when their hand/arm is close to the body or if it has come from a very short distance. - A deliberate handball is still an offence. 	<p>example the ball touching the hand of an attacker in the penalty area will always be penalised while a defender may not.</p> <p>This has become a complex law and those wishing to gain a better understanding should refer to Law 12 of the Laws of the Game 2019/20.</p>	<p>Handball 1 - Attacker gains possession</p> <p>Handball 2 - Attacker gains possession</p> <p>Handball 3 - Extension of the arm</p> <p>Handball 4 - Unnaturally bigger</p>
<p>Goalkeepers (Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If, after a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When the goalkeeper clearly kicks or tries to kick the ball into play, this shows no intention to handle the ball so, if the 'clearance' attempt is unsuccessful, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball without committing an offence. 	<p>Goalkeeper Miss-kick</p>
<p>Free Kicks (Law 13 – Free Kicks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where there is a defensive wall of 3 or more players, all attacking team players must be at least 1m from the wall. If when a free-kick is taken, an attacking player is less than 1m from the wall, an Indirect Free-kick is awarded to the defending team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attackers standing in the defensive wall at a free-kick often cause management problems and waste time. There is no legitimate tactical justification for attackers in the wall and their presence is against the 'spirit of the game'. 	<p>Defensive Wall</p>
<p>Penalty Kicks (Law 14 – Penalty Kicks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowing the goalkeeper to have one only one foot touching the goal line when the penalty kick is taken is a more practical approach as it is easier to identify and is in line with football expectation. 	<p>Penalty Kick</p>



<p>Goal Kicks (Law 16 – The Goal Kick)</p> <p>- The ball is in play once it is kicked and moved, it does not have to leave the penalty area. All opposition players must be outside the penalty area when the kick is taken. The same now applies to free kicks to the defending team in the penalty area</p> <p>(Law 13 – Free Kicks).</p>	<p>- Creating a faster and more dynamic restart to the game.</p>	<p>The Goal Kick</p>
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Any questions or clarification regarding the 2020 Laws of the Game can be directed to the CRA Secretary, Anthony Mansour to secretary@canterburyreferees.org.au.

