



Amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game - 2006

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In collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and the FIFA Refereeing Department, the FIFA Futsal Committee has further updated the Futsal Laws of the Game. A summary of the approved amendments to the Laws and Decisions is provided below:

Laws 7 and 8 – Time-out and a team official

The current text stating that only team coaches are authorized to request the timekeeper for a time-out has been changed to allow any team official to take this step in the event that the coach is prevented from doing so himself/herself.

Law 1 – THE PITCH

The goals - Safety

Current text

The goals may be portable but they must be anchored securely to the ground during play.

New text

The goals must have a stabilizing system that prevents them from overturning. Portable goals may be used as long as they are as stable as fixed goals.

Reason:

There are various systems for anchoring goals to the ground to improve safety and ensure that the goal does not overturn while allowing some mobility, and thus avoiding serious injury to players if they collide with the posts.

Decision 2

Current text

A mark may be drawn outside the pitch, 15 feet (5m) from the corner arc and at right angles to the goal line to ensure that this distance is observed when a corner kick is taken. The width of this mark is 3 inches (8 cm).

New text

A mark **must** be drawn outside the pitch, 15 feet (5m) from the **corner arc** and at right angles to the goal line to ensure that this distance is observed when a corner kick is taken. The width of this mark is 3 inches (8 cm).

Reason:

This will help both players and referees observe the mandatory distance when a corner kick is taken.

New Decision 3

Current text

New text

Two additional marks, each at a distance of 15 feet (5 m) on either side of the second penalty mark, must be made on the pitch to indicate the distance to be observed when a penalty is being taken from the second penalty mark. The width of this mark is 2 inches (6 cm).

Reason:

This will help both players and referees observe the mandatory distance when a penalty kick is taken from the second penalty mark.

Law 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

Basic equipment

Current text

The basic compulsory equipment of a player is:

New text

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

Reason:

Change approved by IFAB.

Jersey or shirt

Current text

- Numbers between 1 and 15 must appear on the back of the shirts.
 - The colors of the numbers must contrast clearly with the colors of the jersey.
- For international matches, the number on the back must also appear on the front of the shirt or shorts in a smaller size.

Text deleted

Reason:

This is a technical provision to be included in competition regulations and not the Laws of the Game.

Law 5 – THE REFEREE

Duties

Current text

- stops, suspends or terminates the match for any infringement of the Laws or as a result of any kind of outside interference;

New text

- stops, suspends or terminates the match for any infringement of the Laws **when he/she considers it appropriate**;
- **stops, suspends or terminates the match as a result of any kind of outside interference**;

Reason:

To distinguish between the options open to referee with regard to stopping, suspending or terminating the match.

Current text

New text

- **takes action against team officials who are guilty of misconduct and, if necessary, dismisses them from the pitch and surrounding area**;

Reason:

To include in the Laws the option of taking disciplinary action against officials.

Law 7 – THE TIMEKEEPER AND THE THIRD REFEREE

The third referee

Current text

The third referee assists the timekeeper. He/She:

- [...]

New text

In addition to assisting the timekeeper, the third referee:

- [...]
- **monitors the replacement of balls at the request of the referees**;
- **if necessary, checks the substitutes' equipment before they enter the pitch**;
- **signals 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 decides on any facts connected with play**;
- **monitors the conduct of those persons seated on the substitutes' benches and informs the referees of any inappropriate behavior**;
- provides any other information relevant to the game (*last point in previous text remains unchanged*).

Reason:

To incorporate the duties that the third referee was already carrying out at the referees' request.

New Decision 3

Current text

New text

If the third referee is absent, the timekeeper will also assume the third referee's specific duties.

Reason:

To clarify the timekeeper's duties whenever the third referee is unavailable.

Law 8 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

Time-out

Current text

- When time-out is granted the players must remain on the pitch. If they wish to receive instructions from a team official, this may only be done at the touch line at the level of the team-bench but they must not leave the pitch. The official issuing the instructions may not enter the pitch.

New text

- When time-out is granted, the substitutes must stay off the pitch. Players may only be substituted at the end of a time-out. The official issuing the instructions may not enter the pitch.

Reason:

To allow players to rest by sitting on the benches during time-outs and to avoid problems for the referees, who are obliged to ensure that the teams comply with this rule.

Law 10 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

Decisions

Current text

New text

- The minimum height of ceilings must be 12 feet (4 m) and is stipulated in the competition regulations.

Reason:

The minimum height of ceilings must be specified to ensure a smooth flow of play.

Law 11– THE METHOD OF SCORING

Competition regulations

Current text

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time or kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match.

New text

If the competition regulations state that a match must end with a winning team or if a play-off ends in a draw, only the following procedures are taken into account;

- the number of goals scored away from home,
- extra time,
- kicks taken from the penalty mark.

Reason:

To adapt the Laws to the modern form of futsal and the various competitions played around the world.

Decision

Current text

New decision

Decision

Only the procedures stipulated by FIFA in these Laws of the Game may be stated in the competition regulations to determine the winner of a match or play-off.

Reason:

As futsal must be played in compliance with the Laws of the Game published by FIFA, it is necessary to specify that the winning team may be determined only in accordance with the officials rules.

Law 12– FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

Direct free kick

Current text

- charges an opponent, even with the shoulder;

New text

charges an opponent;

Reason:

Bumping into an opponent with the shoulder is sometimes regarded as unavoidable physical contact and is not cautionable. If it is not reckless, foolish or excessively forceful, it counts as a sporting kind of physical contact.

Law 13– FREE KICKS

Signals – Indirect Free Kick

Current text

- One of the referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising his/her arm above his/her head. He/She keeps that arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

New text

- **The referees indicate** an indirect free kick by raising **one arm above their head**, maintaining the arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

Reason:

As such fouls occur less frequently and may lead to confusion among the public, a simultaneous signal from both referees would enable the public, players and coaches to understand the situation better.

Law 14 - ACCUMULATED FOULS

Accumulated fouls

Current text

- If they apply the advantage rule, the referees must indicate an accumulated foul to the timekeeper and the third referee as soon as the ball is out of play.

New text

- **When applying** the advantage rule, the referees must **use the mandatory signal** to indicate an accumulated foul to the timekeeper and the third referee as soon as the ball is out of play.

Reason:

The new signal, which will be included in the new Laws, must be used to indicate an accumulated foul after applying the advantage rule so that the public understand the situation.

Law 16 – THE KICK-IN

The kick-in

Current text

- from the place where it crossed the touch line;

New text

- **and kicked-in** from the place where it crossed the touch line;

Reason:

The text was unclear.

Offenses / sanctions

Current text

New text

If an opponent interferes with or hinders a kick-in from being taken properly:

- He/she is cautioned for unsporting behavior and shown the yellow card.

Reason:

To ensure that the kick-in can be taken properly and to explain the sanction to be given if this Law is infringed.

Law 18 - THE CORNER KICK

Procedure

Current text

- Opponents remain at least 15 feet (5 m) from the ball until it is in play.

New text

- Opponents remain at least 15 feet (5 m) **from the corner arc** until it is in play.

Reason:

To specify the exact distance at which the opponents must stand during a corner kick and adapt it to Law 1.

PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH

Current text

Extra time and taking of kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

New text

Away goals, extra time and taking of kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Reason:

To adapt the text to the changes in Law 11.

New: Away goals

Current text

New text

Away Goals

Competition regulations may stipulate that if the teams' score is level after playing one home and one away game, the goals scored in the away match count as double.

Reason:

To adapt the text to the changes in Law 11.

Extra time

Current text

- If no goals are scored during the two periods of extra time, the match is decided by kicks taken from the penalty mark.

New text

- **Where a team does not score more than the opposition team,** the winner of the match is decided by kicks taken from the penalty mark.

Reason:

The new wording clarifies any confusion.

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

Delaying the restart of the match

Current text

New text

- Deliberately provoking a confrontation by interfering with the ball after the referee has stopped play.

Reason:

An amendment approved by IFAB to curb time-wasting and player confrontations.

The new amendments to the Futsal Laws of the Game will come into force immediately. They are to be applied in their entirety by all of the member associations.