



MACARTHUR DISTRICT FOOTBALL REFEREES ASSOCIATION INC

AFFILIATED TO FNSW & NSWSR

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CIRCULAR

MEMBERS 03.2008

28 JANUARY 2008

CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2007/2008

In July 2007, FIFA issued the updated Laws of the Game for 2007/2008 Season. The following pages highlight the amendments made. These amendments have been taken from "Laws of the Game 2007/2008" issued by FIFA in July 2007, as available on their website.

Key

Throughout the Laws of the Game the following symbols are used:

** Unless covered by the Special Circumstances listed in Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play*

Single line indicates new Law changes

Jason Robbins
Vice President
TSC Chairperson
28th January 2008

LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY

Decisions of the International F.A. Board

Decision 1

*If the crossbar becomes displaced or broken, play is stopped until it has been repaired or replaced in position. If a repair is not possible, the match is abandoned. The use of a rope to replace the crossbar is not permitted. If the crossbar can be repaired, the match is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped. * (see page 3)*

Decision 2

Goalposts and crossbars must be made of wood, metal or other approved material. Their shape may be square, rectangular, round or elliptical and they must not be dangerous to players.

Decision 3

No kind of commercial advertising, whether real or virtual, is permitted on the field of play and field equipment (including the goal nets and the areas they enclose) from the time the teams enter the field of play until they have left it at half-time and from the time the teams re-enter the field of play until the end of the match. In particular, no advertising material of any kind may be displayed on goals, nets, flagposts or their flags. No extraneous equipment (cameras, microphones, etc.) may be attached to these items.

Decision 4

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

Decision 5

The reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, member associations, leagues, clubs or other bodies, is forbidden on the field of play and field equipment (including the goal nets and the areas they enclose) during playing time, as described in Decision 3.

Decision 6

A mark may be made off the field of play, 9.15 metres (10 yds) from the corner arc and at right angles to the goal lines, to ensure that this distance is observed when a corner kick is being taken.

Decision 7

Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of member associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.

Decision 8

Where a technical area exists, it must meet the requirements approved by the International F.A. Board, which are contained in this publication.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Safety

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery).

Basic Equipment

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

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

- shorts – if undershorts are worn, they are of the same main colour as the shorts

- stockings

- shinguards

- footwear

Shinguards

- are covered entirely by the stockings
- are made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic, or similar substances)
- provide a reasonable degree of protection

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

Decisions of the International F.A. Board

Decision 1

- *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 organiser. The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment contains political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA*

- *Jerseys must have sleeves.*

THE FOURTH OFFICIAL

• 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.

- Prior to the start of the competition, the organiser states clearly whether, if the referee is unable to continue, the fourth official takes over as the match referee or whether the senior assistant referee takes over as referee with the fourth official becoming an assistant referee
- The fourth official assists with any administrative duties before, during and after the match, as required by the referee
- He is responsible for assisting with substitution procedures during the match
- He supervises the replacement footballs, where required. If the match ball has to be replaced during a match, he provides another ball, on the instruction of the referee, thus keeping the delay to a minimum
- He has the authority to check the equipment of substitutes before they enter the field of play. If their equipment does not comply with the Laws of the Game, he informs the referee
- He must indicate to the referee when the wrong player is cautioned because of mistaken identity or when a player is not sent off having been seen to be given a second caution or when violent conduct occurs out of the view of the referee and assistant referees. The referee, however, retains the authority to decide on all points connected with play
- After the match, the fourth official must submit a report to the appropriate authorities on any misconduct or other incident that has occurred out of the view of the referee and the assistant referees. The fourth official must advise the referee and his assistants of any report being made
- He has the authority to inform the referee of irresponsible behavior by any occupant of the technical area

• A reserve assistant referee may 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.