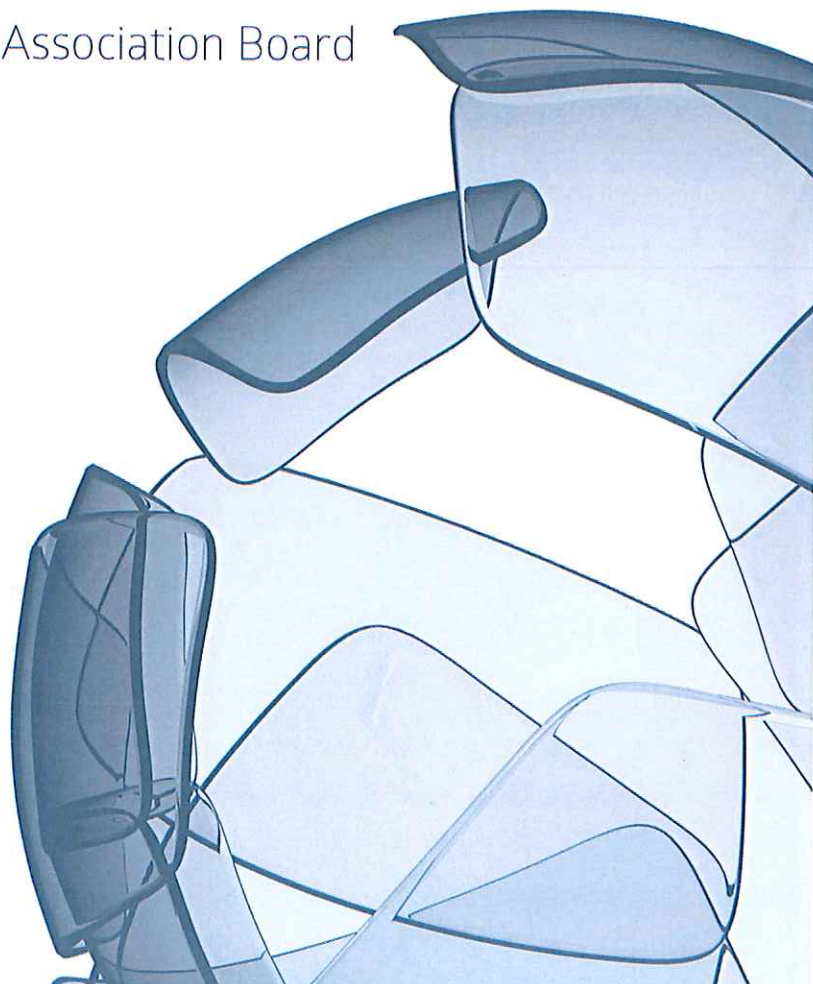


# Laws of the Game 2018/19

## Summary of Law Changes - Law by Law

The International Football Association Board  
May 2018



## **Introduction**

The 132<sup>nd</sup> AGM of The International FA Board (The IFAB) held at the Home of FIFA in Zurich on 3 March 2018 approved a number of amendments to the Laws of the Game for 2018/19. A significant change, following an extensive 2-year worldwide experiment, is the inclusion of Video Assistant Referees (VARs) into the Laws of the Game as an option for competitions, subject to full compliance with the VAR protocol, implementation requirements and completion of a rigorous approval process; the use of VARs is only permitted with written permission from The IFAB and FIFA.

The AGM also approved competitions being able to include in their rules teams having the option to use an additional substitute if a match goes to extra time, even if not all permitted substitutes have been used. There were a number of other amendments and clarifications most following on from the recent major revision of the Laws of the Game.

This document contains a summary of the main Law changes in Law order, including those relating to VARs, which relate to the organisation of competitions/matches.

An electronic version of the Laws of the Game 2018/19 can be downloaded from The IFAB's website ([www.theifab.com](http://www.theifab.com)) which also contains other Law summary documents:

*All changes come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. Competitions starting before that date may apply the changes from the start of their competition, at an agreed point during the competition (e.g. after the mid-season break) or may delay them until no later than the start of the next competition.*

## **Reminders**

The IFAB and FIFA would like to remind everyone of two very important aspects of the game:

### **Captains**

- The Laws of the Game state that the captain has 'a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of their team' - captains are expected to use this responsibility to help calm/positively influence the behaviour of their players, especially in controversial/confrontational situations involving opponents or match officials

### **Respect for Referees**

- Players must respect all decisions made by the referee and other match officials, even when they may appear to be wrong.

Respect for the Laws of the Game and the match officials who apply the Laws is paramount to the fairness and image of football

### **Key**

YC = yellow card      RC = red card

## **Summary of Law changes for 2018/19 – Law by law**

The following summarises the main Law changes, Law by Law. VAR-related additions to the Laws are shown in *italics*. The exact wording of the Law can be found on The IFAB website: [www.theifab.com](http://www.theifab.com)

### **Modifications to the Laws**

- Youth football competitions have freedom to decide on the number of substitutes

### **Temporary dismissals – System B**

- A player who receives 2 temporary dismissals and a non-temporary dismissal caution (YC) may not be substituted/replaced

### **Law 1 – The Field of Play**

- *Reference to the Video Operation Room (VOR) and Referee Review Area (RRA)*
- *Commercial advertising is not permitted on the ground in the Referee Review Area (RRA)*

### **Law 3 – The Players**

- Competition rules may allow an additional substitute in extra time (even if not all permitted substitutes have been used)
- A maximum of 12 substitutes can be named for international 'A' friendly matches

### **Law 4 – The Players' Equipment**

- Small, hand-held electronic or communication devices are permitted in the technical area but only if used for coaching/tactics or player welfare
- FIFA has designed a Quality Programme for EPTS equipment which must have a minimum safety standard mark; data from EPTS may be received in the technical area during the match
- Law 4 now has detailed guidelines for what is allowed to appear on players' equipment
- A player who has left the field because of an equipment issue and returns without permission and interferes is penalised with a direct free kick (or penalty kick)

### **Law 5 – The Referee**

- Match officials are not permitted to wear/use cameras
- *References to video assistant referees (VARs) and assistant VARs (AVARs) and the ability of a referee to use video replays for decision making as part of VAR system*
- *Distinction between 'on-field' match officials and 'video' match officials*
- *Some sending-off offences can be VAR reviewed even if play has restarted*

- *Inclusion of the referee 'check' and 'review' signals used in the VAR process*

#### **Law 6 – The Other Match Officials**

- *Details of the main duties of the video assistant referee (VAR) and assistant VAR (AVAR)*

#### **Law 7 – The Duration of the Match**

- Drinks breaks should not exceed one minute (this does not apply to approved medical 'cooling' breaks)
- Allowance must be made for time 'lost' for drinks breaks and VAR checks/reviews

#### **Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match**

- Kicks from the penalty mark – a replacement for a goalkeeper can not take a kick in that 'round' if the goalkeeper has already taken a kick

#### **Law 11 – Offside**

- The first point of contact with the ball when it is 'played/touched' is the moment when offside position is judged

#### **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct**

- Biting is included as a direct free kick and sending off offence
- Throwing an object at the ball or hitting the ball with a held object are separate direct free kick offences and not a form of handball
- If the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper this does not prevent the goalkeeper handling the ball a second time even if the first attempt to catch/holds the ball was deliberate
- If the referee plays advantage for a DOGSO offence, the offender is cautioned (YC) whether or not a goal is scored
- If a player commits an offence outside the field of play (ball in play) against someone from their own team (including a team official) it is an indirect free kick on the boundary line
- Where 2 separate cautionable (YC) offences are committed in quick succession, both cautions (YCs) must be issued; same principle if one is a sending off offence
- *Entering the referee review area (RRA) or excessively showing the TV signal are cautionable (YC) offences*
- *Entering the video operation room (VOR) is a sending-off (RC) offence*

#### **Law 15 – Throw-in**

- The thrower must stand (not sit, kneel etc..) when taking a throw-in

For further information or for a specific question, please e mail [lawenquiries@theifab.com](mailto:lawenquiries@theifab.com)