



MEMORANDUM 2012



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Law and Interpretation Changes for 2012/2013
June 2012



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FIFA

**International Football Association Board
126th Annual General Meeting
(Surrey, England, 3 March 2012)**



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Amendments to the Laws of the Game Instructions and Directives

The purpose of this presentation is to indicate what changes in the Laws of the Game and their interpretations were made and to explain how they should be implemented in the US.



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Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

Present text

stockings

New text

stockings – **if tape or other similar material is applied externally it must be the same color as that “part” of the stocking it is applied to**



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Reason

An increasing number of players are using excessive amounts of tape externally on their socks.

This can be a multitude of colors and completely changes the look of the sock.

This can cause confusion, particularly ARs who may need to look at the sock to determine who last played the ball before it went out of play.



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USSF Advice to Referees:

This new requirement applied to player socks is similar to restrictions on the visible color of clothing a player might wear under the shorts or the jersey.

Team socks can come in many different patterns and colors, some of which may make enforcing this change difficult.

Referees are advised to understand the underlying purpose of the change (excessive tape and tape colors which change the look of the sock) and implement it accordingly.



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Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Present text

Infringements / Sanctions

The ball is dropped again:

- *If it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground*
- *If the ball leaves the field of play after it makes contact with the ground, without a player touching it*



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Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Infringements / Sanctions

Added New Text (following the present text)

If the ball enters the goal:

- *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*



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Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

This is a significant modification to Law 8, even though the situations for which it applies are generally fairly rare.

This change only applies to the first touch of the ball after the ball is legally in play.

Once a second touch of the ball occurs by any player from either team, including by either GK or by the same player himself, this portion of Law 8 no longer applies.



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USSF Advice to Referees:

Referees must clearly understand what was changed, as regards dropped balls, and what was not.

It remains the case that the dropped ball restart must be retaken from the original location if, directly from the drop, the ball enters either goal with **no player** having made contact with the ball.



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USSF Advice to Referees (continued):

The purpose and effect of this revision was to not allow a goal to be counted if, after the ball is in play after being dropped by the referee, the first player kicks or otherwise plays the ball directly into the goal.

If the ball enters the player's own goal, the restart is a corner kick: if it goes into the opposing team's goal, it is a goal kick.



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USSF Advice to Referees (continued):

The change covers only those situations where the ball is played directly into a goal: if the play involves more than one action, it was therefore not kicked “one touch into” a goal and the goal would then be counted.

Examples of this scenario would include (but are not limited to) a player receiving the ball from a drop and taking two or more touches on the ball before the ball goes into the net; or receiving the ball from a drop, flicking the ball up from the foot to the head, and then heading the ball into the net.



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Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

FIFA Interpretations Handling the Ball

Present text:

Disciplinary sanctions

There are circumstances when a **caution** for unsporting behavior is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g., when a player:

- deliberately and blatantly handles the ball **to prevent an opponent gaining possession**



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Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

FIFA Interpretations Handling the Ball

New text:

Disciplinary sanctions

There are circumstances when a **caution** for unsporting behavior is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g., when a player:

- deliberately ~~and blatantly~~ handles the ball **to prevent an opponent gaining possession**



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Reason

It is more important to punish the consequences that the handling created rather than the fact that it was blatant.

In fact, the handling could be inconspicuous but certainly very important.

It is also difficult to define what is meant by “blatantly” and difficult to have a uniform interpretation, especially by referees from different countries and different experiences.

By deleting the word “blatantly” it provides that, if the handling prevented the opponent from gaining possession, he must be cautioned and it makes the interpretation easier.



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BRAIN TEASER #1

At a dropped ball restart, the ball hits the ground and is played by Red #5 by flicking the ball off the top of her foot to her head and then heading the ball back to her goalkeeper.

The goalkeeper makes no contact with the ball, which then enters the Red team's goal.

The correct restart is a corner kick.

TRUE

FALSE



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BRAIN TEASER #2

Players have occasionally used tape to keep their socks and shinguards up. In such cases, which statement or statements below are correct?

- A. The tape must be the same color as the main color of the sock
- B. The tape must be the same color as the sock color where the tape is being applied
- C. The tape can be any color, but all the tape must be the same color.
- D. The tape can be any color or a mixture of colors.
- E. Players are no longer permitted to tape their socks.



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Implementation:

These changes to the Laws of the Game are effective as of July 1, 2012.

In Ohio South these changes to the Laws of the Game will not take effect until the beginning of the Fall Season or September 1, 2012, whichever comes first.