

AMATEUR FOOTBALL

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TO: All AFA Registered Referees

The Penalty Kick
Law Amendment season 2005/06

Dear Colleague,

For some reason the amendment to Law 14, The Penalty Kick, contained in the amending document issued by the Football Association, dated May 2005, over the signature of Brian Barwick which reproduces FIFA Circular No. 968, is causing referees difficulties and has resulted in 4 appeals by Clubs for matches to be replayed. The circumstances, identical in each case occurred when, after awarding a penalty a colleague of the kicker was guilty of encroachment, **and the ball entered the goal**, the referee stopped the game and awarded an indirect free kick. The Law in this case is very clear when this happens and reads

- The referee allows the kick to proceed
- If the ball **enters** the goal, the **kick is retaken**
- If the ball **does not** enter the goal, the referee stops play and **restarts the match with an indirect free kick to the defending team.**

Regrettably the referees were challenged, vociferously in some cases, by both players and managers after the incident and after the game, which resulted in cautions and dismissals being issued. Obviously the award of an indirect free kick to their opponents instead of retaking the penalty kick could have a significant effect on the match result. The referees justified their actions by claiming that a further document had been issued, after May 2005 giving credence to the action they had taken. I have confirmed with the F.A. that no such document has been issued by them or FIFA.

A further illegal interpretation has crept into the game whereby when a penalty is missed and the ball crosses the goal line and goes out of play, some referees have got into the habit of awarding a goal kick, instead of the indirect free kick as the Law requires. At first glance this may not seem important but please remember

- A goal may be scored direct from a goal kick, in the opponents goal
- A goal may not be scored direct from an indirect free kick
- A player may not be given offside when receiving a ball direct from a goal kick
- A player may be given offside from an indirect free kick
- A goal kick can only be taken from within the goal area, ie a maximum of 6 yards from the goal line, whereas the indirect free kick should be taken from where the incident occurred, which could well be 15/16 yards from the goal line, a significant consideration where distance upfield is required.

I do ask that all referees acquaint themselves with Laws as and when they are amended and do not take a great deal of notice from so called experts on T.V.

Yours sincerely,

T.W. Syms

Referee Development Officer