



**INFORMATION ON THE
AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME
AND INSTRUCTIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL F.A. BOARD**

2004/2005

**For the attention of players, referees, coaches, officials
and all interested in Association Football**

Attention is drawn to the following: -

1. At its annual meeting this year, the International Football Association Board made a small number of amendments to the Laws of the Game and the decisions thereon. However, all concerned with the game are urged to ensure that they do obtain a copy of the revised "Laws of Association Football and Guide for Players and Referees, 2004/2005", containing full details.

In accordance with earlier practice, the contents of the relevant FIFA Circular (No 907, issued 14th May 2004), with the amendments, are printed in this Information Booklet.

All amendments and decisions must be enforced from 1 July 2004.

2. **Players** are reminded again that they should ensure that they do not wear anything that is dangerous to themselves or other players (including any kind of jewellery). Taping up of rings is only permitted if this renders them entirely safe. There is growing evidence of players being injured by opponents' studs and blades on footwear. Referees have been instructed to carry out inspections prior to every match in order to reduce this danger.
3. Players and referees are reminded that **racist remarks** constitute a **dismissal offence** in accord with Law 12 (the use of offensive, insulting or abusive language) and **must** be punished accordingly.
4. Players, managers, coaches, referees and administrators **all** have a responsibility to ensure that the image of the national game is not tarnished either by the use, or the acceptance, of offensive language likely to incite, insult or provoke others.
5. The FA has revised its disciplinary processes at the highest level of the game. It recognises the impact that conduct within the professional game has at lower levels. The image of the game can be improved by increasing the respect shown towards referees' decisions and by removing practices such as simulation. The FA Disciplinary Committee will use its new procedures to support these principles.
6. Players bleeding from wounds have always been required to leave the field of play until the bleeding has stopped. Players are not allowed to wear blood stained clothing, as this constitutes continuing danger to participants.

7. Finally, a reminder is given that it is a decision of the Council of The Football Association that instructions regarding the Laws of the Game will be given only by The Football Association. **No other Association or League is permitted to do so.**



Mark Palios
Chief Executive

May 2004



To the member associations of FIFA

Circular no. 907

Zurich, 14 May 2004
GS/jmg/ftr/jya

Amendments to the Laws of the Game – 2004

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in London, England on 28 February 2004. The amendments to the Laws of the Game made at the meeting and the various instructions and directives are listed below.

1.- AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

LAW 1 - The Field of Play

Present Text

New text

Field surface

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces, according to the rules of the competition.

New International FA Board Decision 7

Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of 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.



Reason:

Advances in artificial surface technology have created high quality surfaces, which are fully acceptable at all levels of the game. This proposal recognises the surface of the field in the Laws of the Game for the first time and also the fact that artificial surfaces in identified levels of international competition must meet recognised FIFA standards.

New International FA Board Decision 8

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

Reason:

This new International FA Board Decision gives formal recognition to the text on the technical area, which is published as an appendix to the Laws in the Laws of the Game booklet.

Law 3 – The Number of Players

Present Text

Other matches

In other matches, substitutes may be used, provided that:

- The teams reach agreement on a maximum number
- The referee is informed before the match

If the referee is not informed, or if no agreement is reached before the start of the match, no more than three substitutes are allowed.

New Text

Other matches

In other matches, up to six substitutes may be used.

Reason:

The practice of making large numbers of substitutions in friendly matches devalues the game and creates a farcical situation. The number of substitutes used in friendly matches must be controlled.



Law 5 – The Referee

Present Text

International FA Board Decision 2

In tournaments or competitions where a fourth official is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the International FA Board.

New Text

International FA Board Decision 2

In tournaments or competitions where a fourth official is appointed, his role and duties must be in accordance with the guidelines approved by the International FA Board, which are contained in this publication.

Reason:

This additional text using the phrase 'which are contained in this publication' is to provide consistent wording with other IFAB Decisions and to formally recognise the guidelines on the fourth official published in the Laws of the Game booklet.

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

Present Text

Extra Time

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

New Text

Reason:

This text will now be included in 'Procedures to determine the winner of a match'.

Law 10 – The Method of Scoring

Present Text

Competition Rules

For matches ending in a draw, competition rules may state provisions involving extra time, or other procedures approved by the International F.A. Board, to determine the winner of a match.

New Text

Competition Rules

When competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn, only the following procedures, which have been approved by the International FA Board, are permitted:

- Away goals rule
- Extra time
- Kicks from the penalty mark



New International FA Board Decision 1

Only procedures to determine the winner of a match, which are approved by the International FA Board and contained in this publication, are permitted in competition rules.

Reason:

These texts confirm the decision taken at the Annual Business Meeting of the IFAB in September 2003 that competition rules to determine the winner of a match may only include procedures that have been approved by the International FA Board.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

New International FA Board Decision 6

A player who removes his jersey when celebrating a goal must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

Reason:

The removal of the jersey after a goal has been scored is unnecessary and players must avoid such excessive displays of celebration.

Procedures to determine the winner of a match

Present Text

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

New Text

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

Away Goals

Competition rules may provide that where teams play each other home and away, if the scores are equal after the second match, any goals scored at the ground of the opposing team will count double.

Extra Time

Competition rules may provide for two further equal periods, not exceeding 15 minutes each, to be played. The conditions of Law 8 will apply.

Kicks from the penalty mark

Text unchanged

Reason: This text confirms the procedures proposed earlier.



2. - INFORMATION

Radio communication system

It was recognised that this technology could make a positive contribution to match control but it was also recognised that such a system must only be used for communication between the match officials and must not be used for broadcasting purposes.

Radio communication between players and technical staff

The Board supported FIFA's opposition to the use of radio communication between players and technical staff.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

The Board agreed that the use of a one-piece playing suit was contrary to the Laws of the Game.

The amendments to the Laws of the Game take effect as from 1 July 2004 and instructions and directives are introduced with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Urs Linsi'.

Urs Linsi
General Secretary

cc: FIFA Executive Committee
FIFA Referees and Assistant Referees Committee
FIFA Referees and Assistant Referees
FIFA Referee Instructors and FIFA Assistant Referee Instructors
Confederations