

The Laws of the Game
Questions and Answers
2004

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Questions and Answer 2004 – Laws of the Game

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LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY

1. *If the crossbar breaks during a match played under the rules of a competition and there are no available means of repairing or replacing it, should the match be abandoned?*
Yes. The crossbar is a part of the goal and must always be in place.
2. *Is it necessary for flags to be placed at the halfway line?*
No. Such flags are optional.
3. *Is it permissible to mark the field of play with broken lines or furrows?*
No.
4. *A goalkeeper or another player draws unauthorised marks on the field of play with his foot. What action does the referee take?*
If the referee notices this before the match starts, the offending player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour.
If the referee notices this being done during the match, he cautions the offending player for unsporting behaviour when the ball next goes out of play.
5. *Is it permitted to have additional marks made on the field of play to assist the goalkeeper?*
No.
6. *What are the properties of the lines that mark the field of play?*
They must be clearly visible, and be not more than 12 cm (5ins) wide.
The goal lines are the same width as that of the goalpost and the crossbar.
7. *Can additional lines not approved in Law 1 be marked on the field of play?*
No. Only lines approved in Law 1 can be marked on the field of play.

8. *When a corner kick is about to be taken, can the players of the defending team be closer than the marks painted off the field of play 9.15 m. (10 yds) from the corner arc and at right angles to the touch line and the goal line?*

These marks are optional and are used to assist the referee. All players of the defending team must be at least 9.15 metres (10 yards) from the ball until it is in play.

9. *Can a mark be made off the field of play, 9.15 m. (10 yards) from the corner arc, at right angles to the touch line and similar to the mark made near the goal line?*

Yes, but it must be off the field of play.

10. *Is the area enclosed by the goal line and the goal nets part of the field of play?*

No. This area is outside of the field of play.

11. *Are the goal nets compulsory?*

No. They are recommended whenever possible and may be required under competitions rules.

12. *Law 1 International F.A. Board Decision 4 states that it is not permitted for any kind of commercial advertising to be nearer than 1m. from the touch line. Is this measurement compulsory for commercial advertising placed off the goal line?*

Yes. Commercial advertising must be at least 1m. from the boundary lines of the field of play.

LAW 2 – THE BALL

1. *After a corner kick has been taken, an outside agent enters the field of play and catches the ball without any player having previously played it. What action does the referee take?*

The referee stops play. Play is restarted by a dropped ball at the place where the outside agent touched the ball*.

2. *May additional balls be placed around the field of play for use during a match?*

Yes. Provided they meet the requirements of Law 2 and their use is under the control of the referee.

3. *Is the ball considered as an object when it is used to strike an opponent?*

Yes.

4. *During the match, another ball enters the field of play. Should the referee stop play immediately?*

The additional ball should be treated as an outside agent and the referee will stop the match if the additional ball interferes with play. Play is restarted by a dropped ball at the place where the ball was at the time the match was stopped. *

Otherwise the referee will have the extra ball removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. *A player accidentally passes over one of the boundary lines of the field of play. Is he considered to have left the field of play without the permission of the referee?*

No.

2. *A player in possession of the ball passes over the touch line or the goal line without the ball in order to beat an opponent. What action does the referee take?*

Play continues. Going outside the field of play may be considered as part of a playing movement, but players are expected, as a general rule, to remain within the playing area.

3. *When does a substitute become a player?*

Immediately after he enters the field of play in accordance with the substitution procedure.

4. *If, before the start of a match played under the rules of a competition, a player is replaced by a named substitute without the referee having been notified, may this substitute be permitted to continue to participate in the game?*

Yes. The player will be cautioned for entering the field of play without the permission of the referee. The referee will apply the advantage or stop play. If play is stopped to administer a caution, it will be restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

5. *A substitute, who is not participating in the match, runs onto the field of play and kicks an opponent. What action does the referee take?*

The referee stops the match, sends off the substitute for violent conduct, shows him the red card and restarts the match by dropping the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped*.

6. *A player who is about to be replaced refuses to leave the field of play. What action does the referee take?*

He allows play to continue.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

7. *The referee allows a substitute who has not been nominated to enter the field of play and the latter scores a goal. What action does the referee take?*
- 7.1. *If he realises his mistake before the match is restarted:*
The goal is not awarded. He should instruct the player to leave the field of play. The player who has been substituted may return to the field of play or be replaced by another nominated substitute. Play will be restarted with a dropped ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball passed into the goal.
- 7.2. *If he realises his mistake during the match*
He should instruct the player to leave the field of play. The player who has been substituted may return to the field of play or be replaced by another nominated substitute. He continues the match and reports the situation to the appropriate authorities. If the play was stopped to do so, it will be restarted with a dropped ball*.
- 7.3. *If he only realises his mistake after the match*
He should report the situation to the appropriate authorities.
8. *A substitute enters the field of play without having obtained the permission of the referee, and his team plays with an extra player. While the ball is in play, an opponent punches him. What action should the referee take?*
The referee stops play, sends off the player guilty of violent conduct, cautions the substitute for entering the field of play without the permission of the referee and instructs him to leave the field of play. The match is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped. *
9. *Player no. 8 is to be replaced by player no. 12. Player no. 8 leaves the field of play. Before entering the field of play, player no. 12 strikes an opponent who is standing on the touch line. What action does the referee take?*
Substitute no. 12 is sent off for violent conduct and shown the red card. Player no. 8 may be replaced by another eligible substitute or may continue as a player since the substitution has not been completed.

10. *A player changes places with the goalkeeper during half-time without informing the referee. The new goalkeeper then touches the ball with his hand in his own penalty area during the second half. What action does the referee take?*
- He allows play to continue and cautions both players for unsporting behaviour when the ball next goes out of play.
11. *A player being substituted leaves the field of play and the referee signals to the substitute to enter the field. Before entering, however, he takes a throw-in ignoring the substitution procedure stated in Law 3, regarding entering the field of play. Is this procedure permitted?*
- No, the substitution procedure stated in Law 3 must first be completed. The player must enter the field of play at the halfway line during a stoppage in play
12. *During the half-time interval, a player is replaced by a named substitute. What conditions must be observed?*
- The referee will be informed and the player will enter the field of play at the halfway line.
13. *A substitute, warming up behind his own goal, enters the field of play and prevents the ball entering the goal. What action does the referee take?*
- The referee stops play, cautions the substitute for entering the field of play without the permission of the referee and the match is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped. *
14. *A substitute, who is not the goalkeeper, plays from the beginning of the match replacing a team-mate. The referee is not informed. This player plays the ball deliberately with his hand. What action will the referee take?*
- The referee stops play and cautions the substitute for entering the field of play without his permission. The player is instructed to leave the field of play for the substitution procedure to be completed correctly. The match is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped. *

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

15. *A substitute plays from the beginning of the match, replacing a team-mate. The referee is not informed. An opponent commits a foul against the substitute. What action will the referee take?*

The referee stops play and cautions the substitute for entering the field of play without his permission. The player is instructed to leave the field of play for the substitution procedure to be completed correctly. He can also caution or send off the other player for his offence. The match is restarted with a dropped ball, at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped.*

16. *A player, who has been substituted, enters the field of play without the permission of the referee. What action will the referee take?*

If the advantage clause is not applicable, the referee will stop play. He will caution the player for entering the field of play without his permission and will instruct the player to leave the field of play. Play will be restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was when play was stopped*.

17. *A substitute who has joined the game without the permission of the referee scores a goal. The referee realises this before restarting play. What action will the referee take?*

The goal is not awarded. The player will be cautioned and instructed to leave the field of play for the substitution procedure to be completed correctly. The match is restarted with a dropped ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball passed into the goal.

- 17.1. *What action will the referee take if the opposing team scores the goal?*

The goal will be awarded. The offending player is cautioned for entering the field of play without the referee's permission and is instructed to leave the field of play for the substitution to be completed correctly. The match will be restarted with a kick-off.

18. *Must a player, who is being substituted, leave the field of play at the halfway line?*

No.

19. *Is it permissible for a goalkeeper to take a throw-in, corner-kick, penalty kick etc.?*
Yes. He is a player of his team.
20. *During a match, the goalkeeper sprints from the goal to stop an opponent. He kicks the ball out of the field of play and a throw-in is awarded to the opposing team. The momentum of the goalkeeper takes him off the field of play and before he can return, the throw-in is taken and a goal is scored. What action, if any, should the referee take?*
A goal is awarded since no offence has been committed.
21. *May a player who has been sent off stay in the technical area?*
No. He must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.
22. *A competition rule states that all players must be named before kick-off. A team lists only nine players and the match begins. May two other players who arrive after play has started take part?*
No.
23. *If no substitutes have been named and a player is sent off before play has begun, may the affected team complete the side with a player who subsequently arrives?*
The team may be completed with this player provided this is allowed by the rules of the competition.
24. *A team reports the substitutes' names to the referee before the start of the match, but they arrive after the kick-off. Should the referee admit them?*
Yes. Substitutes who arrive after play has started, and who have not been named, however, are not permitted to play.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

25. *A team with only seven players is penalised by the award of a penalty kick and as a result, one of their players is sent off, leaving only six in the team. Should the referee allow the penalty kick to be taken or should he abandon the match before the kick is taken?*

The match must be abandoned without allowing the penalty kick to be taken unless the member association has decided otherwise with regard to the minimum number of players.

In the opinion of the International F.A. Board, a match should not be considered valid if there are fewer than seven players in either team.

26. *A player, from a team with only seven players, leaves the field of play to receive medical attention. What action does the referee take?*

The match is allowed to continue. A player receiving treatment is not considered to have left the field permanently.

If he is unable to return, the match is abandoned, unless the member association has decided otherwise with regard to the minimum number of players.

27. *The Board is of the opinion that a match should not continue if one of the teams is playing with fewer than 7 players. In a competition where such a limitation applies, a team consisting of 11 players is playing against a team with only 7. When the team consisting of 11 players is about to take a shot at goal, one of the players of the team of 7 deliberately leaves the field of play.*

- 27.1. *Does the referee have to stop play immediately?*

No. The advantage clause should be considered.

- 27.2. *If a goal is scored must he allow it?*

Yes.

- 27.3. *What further action should the referee take?*

If the player who has left the field of play fails to return for the kick-off after the goal is scored, the player is cautioned, the match is abandoned and a report is sent to the appropriate authorities.

28. *During the game, the goalkeeper no. 1 changes places with player no. 7 without notifying the referee. The ball is in play and the player no. 1 scores a goal for his team. What action does the referee take?*
The goal is allowed. The referee sanctions both players before the restart of the match.
29. *The goalkeeper no. 1 changes places with player no. 7 without notifying the referee, just before the end of the match. The ball is in play and the player no. 1 scores a goal for his team just as the normal time runs to an end. Immediately after the goal is scored, the referee blows the final whistle, without having been able to carry out the kick-off and without having been able to caution the offending players. What action does the referee take?*
The goal is allowed. As the referee was unable to administer the sanctions before the end of the match, he informs a team official about the misconduct of the two players and includes details in his report to the appropriate authorities.
- 29.1. *What action does the referee take if one or both of these players had previously been cautioned?*
The goal is allowed. As the referee was unable to administer the sanctions before the end of the match, he informs a team official about the misconduct of the two players and includes details in his report to the appropriate authorities.
30. *A team playing with twelve players scores a goal and the referee notices it before the restart of play. What action does he take?*
The goal is not awarded. Play is restarted by a dropped ball on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the ball passed over the goal line to enter the goal. The twelfth player is cautioned for entering the field of play without the referee's permission and is instructed to leave the field of play.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

31. *A team playing against a team with twelve players scores a goal and the referee notices it before the restart of play. What action will the referee take?*

The goal will be awarded. The offending player is cautioned for entering the field of play without the referee's permission and is instructed to leave the field of play.

32. *Can a player deliberately leave the field of play to take liquid refreshment?*

Players are entitled to take liquid refreshments during a stoppage in the match but only at the touch line.

33. *How many people may give tactical instructions from the technical area?*

Only one official at any one time may give instructions, He can move forward to give instructions but must then return to the designated seated area. He can stand beside this area if he wishes, but must behave at all times in a responsible manner.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

1. *If the colour of the shirts of the two goalkeepers is the same, what should the referee do if neither has another shirt to change into?*

The referee allows play to begin.

2. *According to Law 4, the players of each team and their goalkeepers must wear jerseys or shirts of different colours to distinguish them from the other players. Must the referee and the assistant referees wear clothes with different colours to the players?*

Yes. The players and goalkeepers must wear clothing that distinguishes them from the referee and assistant referees.

3. *When should a player be cautioned for removing his shirt while celebrating a goal?*

He must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour when he removes his shirt over his head, or covers his head with his shirt.

4. *What action should the referee take if a player removes his shirt to reveal a similar shirt underneath?*

The referee must caution the player for unsporting behaviour.

5. *May players wear a one-piece playing suit in place of shirts and shorts?*

No.

6. *May a player wear equipment designed to protect him against injury during a match?*

Players may wear protective equipment such as knee or arm pads, face masks or padded headbands provided the equipment meets the requirements of Law 4 – The Players’ Equipment (i.e. it is not dangerous to either the player himself or to other players).

7. *May a player wear spectacles during a match?*

Modern sports spectacles, made of plastic or similar material, are not normally considered to be dangerous and referees would in such circumstances be expected to allow them to be worn.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT

8. *The referee requests a player to remove jewellery. After a number of minutes, the referee realises that the player is still wearing the jewellery. What actions should the referee take?*

The player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour. The player is instructed by the referee to leave the field of play to remove the jewellery.

9. *Are players allowed to use tape to cover jewellery that is considered to be dangerous?*

No.

10. *A player accidentally loses his footwear and immediately scores a goal. Is this permitted?*

Yes. The player did not intentionally play barefoot, because he lost his footwear by accident.

11. *Is radio communication between player and/or technical staff permitted?*

No.

12. *Are member associations allowed to introduce modifications to Law 4?*

No. Law 4 is not included in the permitted modifications described in the Notes on the Laws of the Game.

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

7. *The referee applies advantage but the anticipated advantage does not develop. May he penalise the original offence?*
Yes, but only if the anticipated advantage does not ensue immediately (as a guideline within 3 seconds).
8. *A player is guilty of a cautionable or sending off offence, but the referee allows play to continue to give an advantage to the opposing team. When should the player be cautioned or sent off?*
He should be cautioned or sent off whenever the ball next goes out of play.
9. *A referee allows the match to continue when a player is guilty of a cautionable offence. Play is then stopped to award a free kick in favour of the team against whom the initial offence was committed. A player takes the free kick quickly to gain an advantage. Is this permitted?*
No. The referee does not allow the kick to be taken quickly. A caution is administered to the initial offending player before play is restarted.
10. *Can the referee show yellow or red cards during the half-time interval?*
Yes.
- 10.1. *Can the referee show yellow or red cards after the match is finished?*
No. The referee would report the misconduct to the appropriate authorities.
11. *What should a referee do if the two captains agree to forego the half-time interval but one of the players insists on his right to take an interval?*
Players have a right to an interval and the referee must grant it.
12. *Is the referee empowered to order team officials away from the boundary lines of the field of play?*
Yes. The referee has the right to take such measures even if the match is being played on public ground.

13. *A team official is guilty of irresponsible behaviour. What action does the referee take?*
He will send the official from the technical area and its vicinity, behind the boundary fences (where such a fence exists). The referee will report his conduct to the appropriate authorities.
14. *An assistant referee signals that the ball has passed over the touch line, but before the referee has declared the ball out of play, a defending player inside the penalty area strikes an attacking player. What action should the referee take?*
The defending player is sent off for violent conduct and shown the red card. The referee restarts the match with a throw-in since the ball was out of play when the offence occurred.
15. *What action should a referee take against a player who lights a cigarette or uses a mobile phone during the game?*
He cautions the player for unsporting behaviour.
16. 17. *How should a referee react if, during the course of a match, he realises that one of the teams is deliberately trying to lose? Should he draw the attention of the team in question to the fact that if they continue to play in that way, he will terminate the game in accordance with the provisions of Law 5?*
The referee has no right to stop the match in this case.
18. *While the ball is in play, two opposing players commit offences at the same time. What action does the referee take?*
He stops the play, and depending on the offences, cautions or sends off the players, or takes no disciplinary action. The match will be restarted by a dropped ball, from the place where the ball was when the offences were committed.

LAW 6 – THE ASSISTANT REFEREES

1. *May a referee ask an assistant referee to give an opinion as to whether or not the ball crossed the goal line between the posts?*
Yes.
2. *A player is in an offside position and an assistant referee raises his flag. The referee does not see the signal and a defending player denies an opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity. The referee stops play and only then sees the signal of the assistant referee. What action does the referee take?*
 - a) If he accepts the signal for offside from the assistant referee, he does not send off the defender, since no obvious goalscoring opportunity has occurred. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick to the defending team.
The player may be sanctioned however if, in the opinion of the referee, his action on its own was a cautionable or sending-off offence.
 - b) If he does not accept that an offside offence has occurred, the defending player is sent off for denying an obvious goalscoring opportunity and play is restarted with a direct free kick to the attacking team.
3. *A player is in an offside position and an assistant referee raises his flag. The referee does not see the signal and a defending player punches an opponent. The referee stops play and only then sees the signal of the assistant referee. What action does the referee take?*
 - a) If he accepts the signal for offside from the assistant referee, he sends off the defender for violent conduct and restarts play with an indirect free kick for the defending team.
 - b) If he does not accept that an offside offence has occurred, the defending player is sent off for violent conduct and play is restarted with a penalty kick or a direct free kick for the attacking team.

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

1. *Is it left to the referee's discretion to decide whether time lost through injuries or other causes is to be added or not?*
No, the referee must add time in each half of the game for all time lost. However, the amount of such time is at the discretion of the referee.
2. *Extra time is to be played to determine the winner of a match. Are players entitled to an interval at half-time of extra time?*
It is generally accepted that players are entitled to an interval between the end of normal play and the start of extra time. It is not normal for there to be another interval between the two periods of extra time.
3. *Does the announcement of the minutes of time allowed at the end of a period of play express the exact time left in the match?*
No. It is only an indication of the minimum time to be added at the end of each half of the match, but it can be increased if the referee considers it appropriate.
4. *Can the referee compensate an error in the timekeeping during the first half, adding or subtracting time in the second half?*
No..

LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

1. *May the kick-off be taken by a person other than one of the players taking part in the match?*
No. If, in certain matches (e.g. charity or exhibition matches) a ceremony is arranged for a person not taking part in the game to kick the ball, it must be brought back to the centre of the field and kicked off in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
2. *When extra time is played, which team kicks off?*
A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of extra time. The other team takes the kick-off.
3. *If the ball is kicked straight into the opponents' goal from the kick-off, what decision does the referee give?*
A goal.
4. *What action does the referee take if, at kick-off, the ball is not played forward?*
The kick-off is retaken.
5. *May a goalkeeper join other players at a dropped ball situation?*
Yes. Any player may take part.
6. *When play is about to be started with a dropped ball, the players of one team refuse to take part. What action does the referee take?*
He restarts play by dropping the ball. It is not necessary for each team to be present for the restart with a dropped ball.
7. *When the ball is dropped to restart play, it bounces out of play without having been touched by a player. What action does the referee take?*
He restarts play with a dropped ball at the same position as before.

LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

1. *Is the ball out of play if any part of the ball overlaps either the goal line or the touch line?*

No, the whole of the ball must cross the line.

2. *A player asks to leave the field of play and, as he is walking off, the ball comes towards him and he kicks the ball into the goal. What action does the referee take?*

The player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour. The game is restarted by an indirect free kick, taken by a player of the opposing team, from the place where the infringement occurred. *

3. *A spectator blows a whistle and a defender inside his own penalty area picks up the ball with his hands, assuming that play has been stopped. What action does the referee take?*

The referee should consider the whistle to be outside interference, stop the match and restart it with a dropped ball *.

4. *The referee fails to see an assistant referee signal an offside offence and the ball enters the goal. Play is restarted with a kick-off and only then does the referee see the assistant referee's signal. What action does the referee take?*

He allows play to continue since he cannot change the decision to award a goal after play has restarted.

5. *The ball accidentally hits the referee on the field of play and rebounds into the goal. Is a goal scored?*

Yes, provided there is no infringement of the Laws of the Game.

LAW 10 – METHOD OF SCORING

1. *If a referee signals a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line and immediately realises his error, what action should he take?*

Play is restarted with a dropped ball*.

2. *An assistant referee signals that a player is guilty of violent conduct. The referee sees neither the offence nor the signal and the offending player's team scores a goal. He then sees the assistant referee's signal. What action does the referee take?*

As long as play has not restarted, the goal is disallowed, the guilty player is sent off and the match is restarted with a direct free kick*.

3. *After a goal is scored, the referee notices a signal from his assistant referee. The assistant referee tells the referee that before the ball entered the goal, the goalkeeper of the team that scored the goal punched an opponent inside his own penalty area. What action does the referee take?*

The goal is disallowed, the goalkeeper is sent off for violent conduct and a penalty kick is awarded to the opposing team.

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

1. *A player moving quickly towards his opponent's goal is penalised for an offside offence. From what position is the resulting indirect free kick taken?*

The kick is taken from his position when the ball was last played to him by one of his team-mates *.

2. *Does a referee penalise a player who is in an offside position and moves off the field of play to show the referee that he is not involved in active play?*

No. It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position and there is no need for the player to leave the field of play.

However, if the referee considers that he has left the field for tactical reasons and has gained an unfair advantage by re-entering the field of play, the player should be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

3. *A defending player moves beyond his own goal line in order to place an opponent in an offside position. What action does the referee take?*

The referee allows play to continue and cautions the defender for unsporting behaviour when the ball is next out of play.

4. *An attacking player's movement takes him between the goal posts into the goal net and at the same time, a team-mate kicks the ball into the goal. What action does the referee take if*

- a) *The player who is between the goal posts remains stationary as the ball enters?*

No action should be taken. A goal is awarded.

- b) *The actions of the player distract an opponent?*

The goal is disallowed and the player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

Since the offence was committed off the field of play, play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped*.

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

5. *Is a team-mate allowed to stand in an offside position when a penalty kick is being taken?*
No. Players must be behind the penalty mark.
6. *A player plays a corner to a team-mate. The team-mate touches the ball and the player who took the corner kick runs from an offside position and plays the ball once again. Should this player be penalised?*
Yes, he is penalised for offside. When the player who took the kick receives the ball from his team-mate, he is in an offside position and he is interfering with play.
7. *Player A plays the ball to a team-mate B in an onside position, although there is another attacker C in an offside position. Play continues, and afterwards, in the next phase of play, player B sends the ball to player C, who now is in an onside position. He scores a goal. What action does the referee take?*
The referee awards the goal; because when player C received the ball he was in an onside position. He would not be penalised for being in an offside position in the first phase since he was not involved in active play.
8. *The ball is played to a player in an offside position by a team-mate, but a defending player touches it deliberately with his hand. What action does the referee take?*
If, in the opinion of the referee, the player in the offside position should be penalised for being in an offside position, he will award offside and restart the match with an indirect free kick *. However, if in the referee's opinion, the player should not be penalised for being in an offside position, a direct free kick, or a penalty kick, will be awarded against the player who handled the ball.

9. *A player in an offside position but not interfering with any opponent runs towards the ball played by a team-mate. Must the referee wait until he touches the ball to penalise him?*

No, the referee may penalise him if there is no other team-mate (in an onside position) who can play the ball.

If there are other team-mates (in an onside position) who can get the ball, the referee must wait and see if the player in an offside position finally interferes with play by touching the ball.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

1. *An attacker in an offside position inside his opponents' penalty area but not involved in active play is violently struck by an opponent. What action does the referee take?*
The opponent is sent off for violent conduct and a penalty kick is awarded.
2. *When the ball is about to be dropped within the penalty area, a defending player violently strikes an opponent before the ball touches the ground. What action does the referee take?*
The player is sent off for violent conduct and play restarts with a dropped ball.
3. *While the ball is in play, two players of the same team commit unsporting behaviour or violent conduct towards each other on the field of play. What action does the referee take?*
The referee cautions them or sends them off and restarts play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team *.
4. *While the ball is in play, the goalkeeper strikes an opponent in the area enclosed by the goal line and the goal nets. What action does the referee take?*
The referee stops play, sends off the goalkeeper and restarts play with a dropped ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped. *
A penalty kick is not awarded, as the area in which the incident occurred is not part of the field of play.
5. *An attacker goes past the goalkeeper and kicks the ball towards the open goal. A defender throws a boot or similar object, which strikes the ball and prevents it entering the goal. What action does the referee take?*
The boot or similar object is considered as an extension of the player's arm. Play would be stopped, a penalty kick would be awarded and the offending player would be sent off for preventing a goal by deliberately handling the ball.

6. *An attacker goes past the goalkeeper and kicks the ball towards the open goal. A goalkeeper then throws a boot or similar object, which strikes the ball and prevents it entering the goal. What action does the referee take?*

The goalkeeper is cautioned for unsporting behaviour and the match is restarted by an indirect free kick to be taken from the place where the ball was when it was struck by the boot or similar object*.

7. *A player who has left the field of play to receive treatment trips an opponent inside the field of play. What action does the referee take?*

The player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour and play is restarted with a direct free kick.

8. *A player enters the field of play without receiving a signal from the referee and then deliberately handles the ball. What action does the referee take?*

The player is cautioned for entering the field of play without the permission of the referee. Play is restarted with a direct free kick or penalty kick to punish the more serious offence.

If, in the opinion of the referee, the player is also guilty of unsporting behaviour, by deliberately handling the ball, he is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match.

If, in the opinion of the referee, the player is also guilty of denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity, the player is sent off.

9. *A player leaves the field of play while celebrating a goal. What action if any, does the referee take?*

Celebrating a goal is an accepted part of football. A caution is only warranted if a player gives an excessive demonstration of jubilation (e.g. by removing his shirt, jumping over the boundary fence, gesticulating at his opponents or spectators, ridiculing them by pointing to his shirt, or a similar provocative action).

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

10. *A player running with the ball sees a defender immediately in front of him and runs off the field of play to continue playing the ball. The opponent holds him beyond the touch line to prevent him continuing his run. What action does the referee take?*
Play is stopped and the opponent is cautioned for unsporting behaviour. Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.
11. *A player, other than the goalkeeper, standing in his own penalty area holding a shinguard, hits the ball with his shinguard to prevent it entering the goal. What action does the referee take?*
The referee awards a penalty kick and the player is sent off for preventing a goal. The shinguard is regarded as an extension of the player's hand.
12. *What happens if, in a similar situation, the player in question is the goalkeeper?*
The referee stops play, cautions the goalkeeper for unsporting behaviour and play is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team*.
13. *While the ball is in play, a player standing inside his own penalty area throws an object at an opponent standing outside the penalty area. What action does the referee take?*
He stops play and sends off the player who threw the object for violent conduct. Play is restarted with a direct free kick to the opponents' team taken from the place where the offence occurred, e.g. where the object struck or would have struck the opponent.
14. *A player throws an object e.g. footwear at a person seated in the technical area. What action does the referee take?*
Play is stopped, the player is sent off for violent conduct and play is restarted with an indirect free kick taken from where the object was thrown*.

15. *While the ball is in play, a substitute throws an object e.g. footwear at a player of the opposing team. What action does the referee take?*
Play is stopped and the substitute is sent off for violent conduct. Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.
16. *A player standing in his own penalty area strikes the referee. What action does the referee take?*
Play is stopped and the player is sent off for violent conduct. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the offence occurred*.
17. *A goalkeeper standing inside his penalty area deliberately handles the ball just outside the penalty area. What action does the referee take?*
He awards a direct free kick to the opposing team. If, in the opinion of the referee, the goalkeeper is also guilty of unsporting behaviour or denying an opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity, he would receive further appropriate sanctions.
18. *The goalkeeper controls the ball with his hands in the penalty area, and passes it to a team-mate who is also within the penalty area. The latter mis-kicks the ball towards his own goal. The goalkeeper touches it with his hands but fails to stop it entering the goal. What action does the referee take?*
The referee awards a goal.
19. *The goalkeeper in his penalty area holds the ball in his hands then places it on the ground and takes it outside the penalty area. He then decides to re-enter the penalty area and touches the ball again with his hands. What action does the referee take?*
An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team*.
20. *A goalkeeper holding the ball bounces it before he kicks it upfield. Is it an offence to bounce the ball?*
No. In the spirit of the Law he would not be regarded as having released the ball from his possession.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

21. *If a goalkeeper is bouncing the ball, may an opponent play the ball as it touches the ground, provided he is not guilty of dangerous play?*
Yes
22. *After taking possession of the ball, a goalkeeper allows it to lie on his open hand. An opponent comes from behind him and heads the ball from his hand. Is this permitted?*
This is permitted since the goalkeeper does not have full possession of the ball and the action of the opponent is not dangerous.
23. *As a goalkeeper releases the ball to kick it into play, an opponent intercepts it before it touches the ground. Is this permitted?*
No. It is an offence to prevent a goalkeeper releasing the ball from his hands. The releasing of the ball from his hands and the kicking of the ball is considered to be a single action.
24. *A player of the defending team, other than the goalkeeper, standing outside the penalty area, deliberately handles the ball within the penalty area. What action does the referee take?*
A penalty kick is awarded. If, in the opinion of the referee, the player is also guilty of unsporting behaviour or denying a goalscoring opportunity, he would also receive further appropriate sanctions.
25. *A player other than the goalkeeper deliberately plays the ball with his arm in his own penalty area. What action does the referee take?*
The referee awards a penalty kick. The offence of deliberate handball includes the illegal use of either hand or arm.
26. *A throw-in is taken by the attacking team and the ball goes to the defending goalkeeper. The goalkeeper misses the ball and a teammate punches the ball over the bar. What decision would the referee give?*
A penalty kick would be awarded. The referee would normally caution the player for unsporting behaviour. The player does not prevent a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity since a goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in.

27. *A player tries to prevent the ball entering the goal by deliberately handling it. The ball, however, enters the goal. What action does the referee take?*
He awards the goal and cautions the player for unsporting behaviour.
28. *A player handles the ball deliberately, trying to prevent it reaching an opponent. Although he touches the ball, he fails to prevent his opponent receiving it. What action does the referee take?*
If advantage was allowed, the offending player will be cautioned for unsporting behaviour in the next stoppage in play.
29. *A goalkeeper takes a goal kick in very windy conditions. The ball leaves the penalty area but is then blown back into the penalty area before any other player has touched it. The goalkeeper handles the ball to prevent it entering the goal. What action would the referee take?*
An indirect free kick is awarded against the goalkeeper for touching the ball a second time before it has been played by another player. In this situation the goalkeeper is not considered to have prevented a goal, or an obvious goalscoring opportunity.*
30. *A player is charged in a fair manner but the ball is not within playing distance. What action should the referee take?*
If the referee considers the charge on the opponent to be careless, a direct free kick or a penalty kick will be awarded.
31. *A player stops the progress of an opponent by physical contact. What action does the referee take?*
The offending player is punished with a direct free kick for holding an opponent.

LAW 12 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

32. *Is it permitted for a referee to show a red card to a substitute to indicate he must leave the technical area and go to the changing room, whether or not he has taken part in the match, for his use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures?*
- Yes. All players, substitutes and substituted players come under the jurisdiction of the referee whether they are on the field of play or not. The use of the red card is to give a clear indication that a sanction is being issued.
33. *A player intentionally lies on the ball for an unreasonable length of time. What action does the referee take?*
- He stops play, cautions the player for unsporting behaviour and restarts play with an indirect free kick.
34. *A referee cautions a player who then apologises for his misconduct. Can the referee decide not to report the incident?*
- No. All cautions must be reported.
35. *An outfield player takes a goal kick in very windy conditions. The ball leaves the penalty area but is then blown back into the penalty area before any other player has touched it. The player handles the ball to prevent it entering the goal. What action would the referee take?*
- A penalty kick would be awarded against the player for handball. A second offence of touching the ball a second time before another has played it has also been committed but the referee must punish the more serious offence according to Law 5.
The player would be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, but he would not be sent off for preventing a goal or a goalscoring opportunity since an own goal cannot be scored by the team taking the goal kick.
36. *A player challenging for the ball makes contact with the opposing goalkeeper, who is within his own goal area.*
- Challenging the goalkeeper is permitted. A player would be only penalised if the challenge was a jump, a charge or a push on the goalkeeper, which was careless, reckless or with excessive force.

37. *Is it permitted for two or more players to challenge an opponent at the same time?*
Yes, provided the challenges were legal.
38. *A defender starts holding an attacker outside the penalty area but finishes inside the penalty area. What action should the referee take?*
He would award a penalty kick.
39. *A player plays in a dangerous manner raising his leg when the opponent tries to head the ball and makes contact with the opponent's head. What action should the referee take?*
He would award a direct free kick or penalty kick.

LAW 13 – FREE KICKS

1. *A player takes a free kick from outside his own penalty area and then touches the ball again by deliberately handling the ball before another player has played it. What action does the referee take?*
He punishes the more serious offence, by awarding a direct free kick or penalty kick if the offence took place inside the penalty area.
2. *A team is awarded a direct free kick in its own penalty area. The player taking the kick passes it directly to his goalkeeper who misses it and the ball enters the goal. What action does the referee take?*
The kick is retaken since the ball is not in play until it has passed outside the penalty area.
3. *A team is awarded an indirect free kick inside its own penalty area. The player taking the kick hits it against a team-mate who is inside the penalty area and the ball enters the goal. What action does the referee take?*
The kick is retaken since the ball is not in play until it has passed outside the penalty area.
4. *When a goal kick or a free kick is taken from within a player's own penalty area, when may opposing players enter the penalty area?*
The players may not enter until the ball has passed outside the penalty area.
5. *May a free kick be taken by lifting the ball with a foot or both feet simultaneously?*
Yes. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.
6. *When taking a free kick awarded to their team, may players use feinting tactics to confuse opponents?*
Yes. It is permitted and is part of football. However, if any opponents move nearer than 9.15m (10 yards) from the ball before it is in play, they are cautioned for failing to respect the required distance.

7. *An indirect free kick is awarded to the attacking team outside the opponents' penalty area. The referee fails to raise his arm to indicate that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal. What action does the referee take?*
He awards a goal kick because the initial offence, punished by an indirect free kick, is not nullified by the referee's mistake.
8. *A free kick is awarded and the player decides to take the kick quickly. An opponent who is less than 9.15 m. from the ball intercepts it. What action does the referee take?*
He allows play to continue.
9. *A free kick is awarded and the player decides to take the kick quickly. An opponent who is near the ball deliberately prevents him taking the kick. What action does the referee take?*
The player is cautioned and shown a yellow card for delaying the restart of play.

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK

1. *The referee orders a penalty kick to be retaken because the goalkeeper moves forward from his goal line. May a different player take the retaken penalty kick?*
Yes.
2. *When a penalty kick is being taken, the goalkeeper advances before the ball is kicked and intercepts it in front of the goal line. What action does the referee take?*
The penalty kick is retaken.
3. *A team-mate of a player taking a penalty kick enters the penalty area before the ball is in play. When the penalty kick is taken, the ball is deflected by the goalkeeper and crosses the goal line over the top of the crossbar. What action does the referee take?*
He awards a corner kick.
4. *A player takes a penalty kick before the referee has signalled. What action does the referee take?*
He orders the kick to be retaken.
5. *When a penalty kick is being taken, and after the referee has given the necessary signal, a team-mate of the player identified to take the kick suddenly rushes forward and takes it instead. What action does the referee take?*
 - a) If the ball leaves the field of play?
 - b) If the ball is pushed out by the goalkeeper?
 - c) If the goalkeeper deflects the ball, it rebounds into play and the player who took the kick scores a goal?

In all three cases the referee orders the penalty kick to be retaken, since the correct procedures for taking a penalty kick have not been followed. The referee may caution the team-mate of the identified kicker for unsporting behaviour.
6. *When a penalty kick is taken, the ball strikes the goalpost and/or crossbar and bursts. What action does the referee take?*
He stops play, obtains a replacement ball and restarts play with a dropped ball. * If this situation occurs during additional time, the match ends.

7. *After additional time has been allowed to enable a penalty kick to be taken or retaken at half-time or full time, or during "kicks from the penalty mark", the ball bursts or becomes defective before touching the posts, the crossbar or the goalkeeper, without having crossed the goal line. What decision will the referee take?*
- The penalty kick must be retaken with a new ball.
8. *The referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken. An attacking player then punches an opponent outside the penalty area. The referee notices the incident. What action does the referee take?*
- The referee sends off the offending player for violent conduct before allowing the penalty kick to be taken.
9. *A player taking a penalty kick back heels the ball to a team-mate who kicks the ball into the goal. What action does the referee take?*
- The penalty kick is retaken because the ball must be kicked forward.
10. *A player taking a penalty kick plays the ball forward for a team-mate to run on to it and score. Is this permitted?*
- Yes, provided the correct penalty kick procedures have been followed.
11. *A defender standing in his own penalty area strikes an opponent while the ball is in play in his opponent's penalty area. What action does the referee take?*
- Play is stopped. A penalty kick is awarded against the defender and he is sent off for violent conduct.
12. *On a waterlogged pitch, a player places the ball for a penalty kick to the side of the penalty mark. Is this permitted?*
- No.
13. *A match is extended to allow a penalty kick to be taken. May the goalkeeper be replaced before the kick is taken?*
- Yes. He may be replaced by another eligible player on the field or by a substitute, provided the permitted number of substitutions is not exceeded.

LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK

14. *A player taking a penalty kick feints before kicking the ball. Is this permitted?*

Yes.

KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH

- a) Does taking kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match form part of the match?

No.

- b) The captains of both teams mutually agree to refuse to take kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match, despite the fact this is stipulated in the regulations of the competition. What action does the referee take?

The referee reports the situation to the appropriate competition authorities.

- c) Who is responsible for selecting which players will take the kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match?

Each team is responsible for selecting the players from those on the field of play at the end of the match and the order in which they will take the kicks.

- d) When kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match are being taken the ball bursts after touching the posts or the crossbar, without having crossed the goal line. Should this kick be retaken?

No.

- e) May an injured player be excused from taking part in kicks from the penalty mark to determine the result of the match?

Yes, but he cannot be replaced by another player.

- f) At the end of a match, some players leave the field of play and fail to return for kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match. What action does the referee take?

All players who are not injured must participate in the taking of kicks from the penalty mark. If they do not return to the field of play, the kicks will not be taken and the referee will report the incident to the appropriate authorities.

KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH

- g) *May a player be cautioned or sent off during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark?*

Yes.

- h) *Kicks from the penalty mark are about to be taken to decide the winner of a match. May one of the teams, which has not used a substitute, replace one or more of its players with the substitute(s) prior to the kicks being taken?*

No. Only those players who are on the field of play at the end of the match may take part.

- i) *The floodlights fail in the stadium after extra time but before or during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark. What action does the referee take?*

The referee allows a reasonable amount of time for the lights to be repaired but if matters do not improve, the result is decided according to competition rules.

- j) *During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, a goalkeeper is sent off. May he be replaced by a nominated substitute?*

No.

- k) *During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, a goalkeeper is injured and is unable to continue. May he be replaced by any named substitute?*

Yes. Provided that the number of eligible substitutes has not already been used.

- l) *During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, a team has fewer than seven players. Should the referee abandon the kicks from the penalty mark?*

No. Kicks from the penalty mark are not part of the match

m) During the kicks from the penalty mark, one or several players are injured or sent off. Must a referee ensure that an equal number of players from each team remain within the centre circle and that they shall take the kicks?

No. The equal number in each team applies only to the start of taking kicks from the penalty mark.

LAW 15 – THE THROW-IN

1. *The ball is out of play over the touch line, but before it is thrown in, a player deliberately kicks an opponent. What action does the referee take?*
He sends him off for violent conduct and restarts play with a throw-in.
2. *A player takes a throw-in. The ball does not enter the field of play but remains outside the touch line. What action does the referee take?*
The throw-in is retaken.
3. *A player, while correctly taking a throw-in, intentionally throws the ball at an opponent's head. What action does the referee take?*
Play is stopped if in the opinion of the referee, the player is guilty of unsporting behaviour or violent conduct. Depending on the action, he is cautioned or sent off. Play is restarted with a direct free kick to the opposing team, from the place where the offence occurred, i.e. the place where the ball struck the opponent.
4. *Is there a maximum distance away from the touch line from which a throw-in may be taken?*
No. A throw-in should be taken from the place where the ball left the field of play.
5. *An opponent stands in front of a player at a throw-in to impede him. What action does the referee take?*
He allows the throw-in to be taken if the opponent remains stationary and inside the field of play. If he moves or gesticulates to distract the thrower, he is cautioned for unsporting behaviour.
6. *A player takes a throw-in with part of each foot on or behind the touch line or with part of his feet inside the line and his heels on the touch line. Is this permitted?*
Yes, provided that part of each foot is on or behind the touch line and on the ground.

7. *After an incorrectly taken throw-in, the ball goes directly to an opponent. Is play allowed to continue by applying the advantage clause?*
No. A player of the opposing team retakes the throw-in.
8. *Is a player allowed to take a throw-in kneeling or sitting down?*
No. A throw-in is only permitted if the correct procedures in the Laws of the Game are followed.
9. *Is a player allowed to take a throw-in acrobatically, by rolling with the ball?*
Yes, provided that the correct procedures in the Laws of the Game are followed.
10. *A player takes a throw-in. He throws the ball directly to his goalkeeper who touches the ball in attempting to stop it entering the goal. The ball enters the goal, however. What action does the referee take?*
A goal is awarded.
11. *The thrower deliberately delays taking a throw-in. What action does the referee take?*
The player must be cautioned for delaying the restart of play. Play restarts with a throw-in for this player's team.

LAW 16 – THE GOAL KICK

1. *A player, who has taken a goal kick correctly, deliberately plays the ball with his hand when the ball has left the penalty area but before another player has touched it. What decision does the referee give?*
A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team. The player could also be punished by a disciplinary sanction according to the Laws of the Game.
2. *A player other than the goalkeeper takes a goal kick and the ball passes out of the penalty area into play but is blown back by a strong wind without any other player having touched it. A player of the defending side other than the goalkeeper plays the ball with his hands within the penalty area. What decision does the referee take?*
A penalty kick is awarded. The player could also be punished by a disciplinary sanction according to the Laws of the Game.
3. *A goalkeeper takes a goal kick and the ball passes out of the penalty area into play but is blown back by a strong wind without any other player having touched it. The goalkeeper tries to stop the ball entering the goal by touching it with his hands, but is unsuccessful. What decision does the referee give?*
He awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team *.
4. *After a goal kick has been taken, but before the ball has left the penalty area, an opponent enters the penalty area and is fouled by a defending player. What action does the referee take?*
The offending player may be cautioned or sent off according to the nature of the offence and the goal kick is retaken.
5. *When a player takes a goal kick, the ball strikes the referee inside the penalty area and continues in play. What action does the referee take?*
No action is necessary. The ball remains in play after it rebounds from the referee in the field of play.

6. *A player takes a goal kick and the ball passes over the goal line without having passed out of the penalty area. What action does the referee take?*

The goal kick is retaken.

LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK

- When a corner kick is taken, what is the correct way to place the ball in the quarter circle?

The diagram illustrates some correct and incorrect positions.

