



Highlights of the Memorandum 2011-2012

see

<http://www.montanaref.org/useruploads/docs/20117111324190.2011-12-Laws-of-the-Game-Memorandum.pdf>

for complete details

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Law 1 - The Field of Play Interpretation - Field markings

Present text

Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the field of play.

New text

Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the field of play. **Where artificial surfaces are used, other lines are permitted provided that they are of a different color and clearly distinguishable from the lines used for football [soccer].**

USSF Advice to Referees: The above is simply a practical adjustment to the growing number of fields which use the turf surface and which are marked for various sports other than soccer. The referee remains the final judge of whether the non-soccer markings interfere with the safe and enjoyable conduct of the game.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Law 1 - The Field of Play Interpretation - Goals

New text:

The position of the goalposts in relation to the goal line must be according to the graphics below:



Inside the
Field

USFF Advice to Referees: The size of the goal (measured from the inside of the goal framework) must be consistent across all permissible goalpost shapes as well as in conformity with the dimensions mandated in Law 1.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Law 2 - The Ball Replacement of a Defective Ball

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of the match:

- the match is stopped
- the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the original ball became defective, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the replacement ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the original ball was located when play was stopped

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during a penalty kick or during kicks from the penalty mark as it moves forward and before it touches any player or the crossbar or goalposts:

- the penalty kick is retaken

USSF Advice to Referees: The addition is not only a reasonable accommodation to the special circumstances of penalty kicks and kicks from the mark but also consistent with the general guideline that a penalty kick (or kick from the mark) must be retaken if anything illegally interferes with the movement of the ball on its path to the goal.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Law 4 - The Players' Equipment Basic equipment

Present text

shorts - if undershorts are worn, they must be of the same main color as the shorts

New text

shorts - if undershorts **or tights** are worn, they must be of the same main color as the shorts

USSF Advice to Referees: The modification merely extends to tights the same requirement that previously had been specified for undershorts. The general principle is therefore confirmed that anything worn by a player under the shorts which extends visibly below the shorts must be of the same main color as the shorts.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Laws 2 (The Ball) and 5 (The Referee) Interpretation

Law 2: Extra balls on the field of play (text removed)

If an extra ball enters the field of play during the match, the referee must stop the match only if it interferes with play. Play must be restarted by a dropped ball from the position of the ball when the match was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

If an extra ball enters the field of play during the match without interfering with play, the referee must have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Law 5: Powers and duties (text added)

If an extra ball, **other object or animal** enters the field of play during the match, the referee must stop the match only if it interferes with play. Play must be restarted by a dropped ball from the position of the ball when the match was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.

If an extra ball, **other object or animal** enters the field of play during the match without interfering with play, the referee must have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2011-2012

Other decisions of the International Board

The following decisions were taken which may affect officials in the U. S.

Law 4 - The Players' Equipment

Other equipment: wearing of "snoods"

The IFAB determined that items such as "snoods" and other similar clothing do not meet the definition of "other equipment" under Law 4 and was therefore not permitted.

USSF Advice to Referees: A "snood" (which is not a familiar item of clothing in the United States) is a type of scarf worn around the neck. An example is shown below of the most common variety of "snood" considered by the IFAB and determined to be not permissible.





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