

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION



MEMORANDUM 2002

Memorandum 2002

United States Soccer Federation's annual memorandum summarizing the changes to the Laws of the Game approved at the 116th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board, held in Zermatt, Switzerland on 16th March 2002, can be found herein.

The first part of the memorandum covers the changes to the current Laws of the game in these areas:

- Law 4 – The Players' Equipment
- Law 5 – The Referee
- Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

These changes become effective on July 1, 2002.

The second part of the memorandum titled "Information, Instruction and Directives" deals with the following:

1. Simulation
2. Players delaying the restart of play
3. Temporary expulsions
4. Celebration of a goal
5. Additional instructions to referees, assistant referees and fourth officials
6. Artificial surfaces

The directives outlined in the second section are to be employed immediately.

State Referee Administrators and State Directors of Referee Instruction should relay this information to all referees in their state organization. The Memorandum can be downloaded from our web site, www.ussoccer.com. Administrators who have any questions should consult Alfred Kleinaitis, Manger of Referee Development and Education (akleinaitis@ussoccer.org) or Julie Ilacqua, Managing Director of Federation Services (jilacqua@ussoccer.org). Referees should direct their questions to the State Director of Instruction in their area.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

LAW 4 -- THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

New Decision of the International F.A. Board

Decision 1

- Advertising is permitted only on the players' jerseys. It may not be worn on shorts, stockings or footwear.
- Players must not reveal undershirts, which contain slogans or advertising. A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer.
- Jerseys must have sleeves.

USSF Advice to Referees: "Advertising" is not meant to include simple displays of a manufacturer's name or trademark. Referees are not authorized to sanction players who violate this Decision, only the competition organizer may do so. In order for this to occur, however, referees are advised to include information about any such violations in their game reports. The requirement that "jerseys must have sleeves" precludes player efforts to alter the jersey in any way.

LAW 5 -- THE REFEREE

New Text

Stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play. **An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted.**

Reason:

This clarifies the procedure to be followed when a player returns to the field of play following injury.

USSF Advice to Referees: The permission of the referee is still required before a player who has been removed from the field after a stoppage for a serious injury is allowed to return. If a player has requested permission from the referee to leave the field temporarily to have an injury attended to while play is continuing, the referee's permission to return is required but it is not necessary for this player to wait for a stoppage and then a resumption of play.

LAW 12 -- FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

New Text

Indirect Free Kick

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following four offenses:

Reason:

This is a minor alteration to the text to recognize that there are now four offenses instead of five as before.

USSF Advice to Referees: The actual change in the Law occurred in 2001/2002 when "wastes time" was dropped as a separate technical offense committed by the goalkeeper. Although this resulted in there being only four offenses, the introductory text continued to refer to five.

INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS AND DIRECTIVES

SIMULATION

There was unanimous support for a high profile publicity campaign to be organized by FIFA against players guilty of this offense. Referees are instructed to take strong action against simulation and players guilty of simulation must be cautioned for unsporting behavior.

PLAYERS DELAYING THE RESTART OF PLAY

Serious concern was expressed at the number of players who delay the restart of play. The Laws of the Game are very clear on this matter and the Board insists that referees must apply them.

USSF Advice to Referees: The Board has emphasized the importance of handling properly these two areas of misconduct. Referees must not permit the game to be brought into disrepute by allowing players to fake fouls or injuries or to fake the seriousness of a foul or injury. Referees are reminded that, just as players who delay restarts (particularly free kicks) should be dealt with appropriately, so also referees themselves must not unnecessarily delay restarts through their own actions.

TEMPORARY EXPULSIONS

The Board strongly supports FIFA's concern that some national associations continue to use temporary expulsions in lower leagues. The Board confirmed in the strongest terms that this procedure must cease immediately, otherwise disciplinary sanctions will be applied against the offending federation.

USSF Advice to Referees: USSF has not authorized nor will authorize any state association or local league, competition, or tournament to adopt a "temporary expulsion" rule. The Laws of the Game may not be modified in this regard.

CELEBRATION OF A GOAL

The Board expressed its concern at the common practice of players removing their shirts while celebrating a goal to reveal slogans and advertising.

It was agreed that when time wasting occurred referees would continue to take actions in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

It was also agreed that when slogans and advertising were displayed on an undershirt, the matter could be dealt with by the disciplinary procedures of the competition.

USSF Advice to Referees: Referees are reminded that they must take action against goal celebrations which incite, are provocative, or take an excessive amount of time. Referees must report to the competition authority incidents involving players who uncover slogans or advertising on clothing worn under their uniform but may not take action against players for this reason alone.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES, ASSISTANT REFEREES AND FOURTH OFFICIALS

The Board approved that the Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials would now be printed in the Laws of the Game book.

USSF Advice to Referees: USSF will include these Additional Instructions in the 2002/2003 Laws of the Game.

ARTIFICIAL SURFACES

The Board endorsed its support at last year's meeting for the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Surfaces.

The amendments to the Laws of the Game take effect from 1st July 2002 and Instructions and directives are introduced with immediate effect.