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## Memorandum



**TO:** MLS General Managers  
MLS Coaches  
MLS Team Administrators  
MLS Team Operations  
MLS Referees

**FROM:** MLS Game Operations

**DATE:** 9/30/03

**SUBJECT:** Unauthorized Field Markings

In a recent MLS game, a goalkeeper placed a piece of white athletic tape on the field prior to each half. The marking ran perpendicular to the goal line at the top, center of the penalty area he was defending. The piece of tape was approximately ten inches in length. The game was played on a turf field where football lines were visible. Although football lines on our playing fields may, at times, cause some confusion and the tape was used to assist the goalkeeper in his positioning, producing such unauthorized marks is a violation of the Laws of the Game and a cautionable offense under the category of Unsporting Behavior.

Game officials have been reminded to look for any instances of unauthorized marks that appear on natural or synthetic fields that are not in concert with the dimensions prescribed in the FIFA Laws of the Game and MLS Game Operations Manual. Players who make unauthorized marks on the field of play may be cautioned accordingly. Additionally, repeated violations of this rule may be subject to sanctions by the League.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.