
INTRODUCTIONⁱ

Below is a summary of the changes/clarifications to the 2016-17 LOTG as published by US Soccerⁱⁱ. Some administrative changes that are not listed here.

Law 03 – The Players (new title)

- ✓ The Referee awards a Direct FK (or penalty) if a substitute/team official interferes with play.
- ✓ If something/someone (other than a player) touches a ball as it goes into the goal, the Referee can award the goal if the touch had no impact on the defenders.
- ✓ If a goal is scored with an extra person on the field and Referee restarted play, the goal stands and match continues.

Law 04 – The Players" Equipment

- ✓ Player losing footwear/shin guard accidentally can play on until next stoppage.
- ✓ Player can return during play after changing/correcting equipment, after any of the game officials checks the equipment, and after the referee signals.

Law 05 – The Referee

- ✓ Decision cannot be changed if play restarted or referee has left the field.
- ✓ If several offences occur at the same time, Referee punishes the most serious one.
- ✓ Referee can send a player off from pre-match pitch inspection onwards.
- ✓ Referee can only use Red Card + Yellow Card after entering the field at start of the match.
- ✓ Player injured by Red Card/Yellow Card foul can be quickly assessed/treated and stay on field.

Law 08 – The Start and Restart of Play

- ✓ Ball must clearly move to be in play for all kicked restarts.
- ✓ Ball can be kicked in any direction at kick-off (previously had to go forward).
- ✓ Referee cannot "manufacture" outcome of a dropped ball.

Law 11 – Offside

- ✓ Halfway line "neutral" for offside; player must be in opponents" half.
- ✓ Players" arms not considered when judging offside position (including goalkeeper).
- ✓ Offside FK always taken where offence occurs (even in own half).

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

- ✓ Foul with contact is a Direct FK.
- ✓ In an advantage for a Red Card, the Referee awards an Indirect FK if offender then gets involved in play.
- ✓ Attempted violent conduct is a Red Card, even if no contact.
- ✓ Striking on head/face when not challenging an opponent is a Red Card (unless negligible).
- ✓ Offence against substitutes, team officials, match officials etc. is now a Direct FK.
- ✓ Foul off the field penalized with a Direct FK on boundary line (penalty in own penalty area).
- ✓ When a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a deliberate handball offence, the player is sent off wherever the offence occurs.
- ✓ When a player commits an offence against an opponent within their own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity and the referee awards a penalty kick, the offending player is cautioned unless:
 - The offence is holding, pulling or pushing or

- The offending player does not attempt to play the ball or there is no possibility for the player making the challenge to play the ball or
 - The offence is one that is punishable by a red card (e.g. serious foul play, violent conduct, spitting, etc.)
 - In all the above circumstances, the player is sent off.
- ✓ Any other DOGSO within the players own penalty area, while attempting to play the ball, including but not limited to, charging, jumping at, kicking, tackling, tripping, and/or impeding (no contact) could be a caution.

Law 14 –The Penalty Kick

- ✓ Indirect FK + Yellow Card if wrong player deliberately takes the penalty.
- ✓ Indirect FK if ball kicked backwards.
- ✓ If "illegal" feinting occurs, it is always an indirect FK (and Yellow Card).
- ✓ Goalkeeper Yellow Card if infringes and PK is retaken.

Law 15 – The Throw-in

- ✓ New wording makes it clear that ball must be thrown with both hands.

ⁱ The information contained in this document was compiled from the FIFA LOTG 2016-2017 (pages 111-114), the US Soccer 2016-2017 IFAB LOTG Changes Presentation.pdf, and MSRC instruction material

ⁱⁱ **US Soccer LOTG** - Navigate to <https://ussoccer.app.box.com/s/ruqcsf0671k1bcf6dzwf/1/7594344289>

You can download the LOTG the files below.

2016-17 Laws of the Game .pdf

2016-2017 IFAB LOTG Changes Presentation.pdf