

2009 vs. 2008 FIFA IFAB LOTG Comparison

This document summarizes the changes in the 2009/2010 edition of the FIFA / IFAB “Laws of the Game” as compared to the previous 2008/2007 edition. Any text samples extracted and included are done solely for fair-use educational purposes and are still bound to the original copyright holder (FIFA / IFAB).

While every attempt is made to make this document accurate, this comparison has no official approval nor review by FIFA, IFAB, the rules committee(s), nor any other official interpreters. Purely “in the opinion of the referee” that authored this comparison, **true changes** to the LOTG are in **bold** while *minor changes* are *italicized*.

Unlike the previous two years, there truly were minor to no changes this year. We really did not need to issue the document. But we have just to be able to prominently state that. No future documents will be generated unless the need arises again.

Just to keep to last year's format, there are two sections (a summary of major changes and then the detailed comparison) but no appendices needed

Randy Harr, USSF Referee, July 2009. Original posted at <http://socref.net/>

Section 1: Summary of major changes

- The coach or person giving instructions in the technical area does not have to return to the bench after giving the instructions.
- Defenders off the field of play (purposely or not) must be considered on the nearest goal or touch line for purposes of determining offside.

Section 2: Detailed Comparison

General Cleanups

There was a general re-theming of the document in the way it is presented – styles of section headings, format on the page, etc. These are not indicated further here except to comment that it is more difficult to notice the law you are in (text is smaller for page title on even pages).

Change bars are indicating just the actual row of text they designate (aggressive change bars) – yeah. But not all changes are marked – boo.

Lost a few images added for “color” in the document (Laws 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 17, Technical Area; Laws 4, 7, 8, 12 (2x) of Instructions section). On the second Instructions Law 14 diagram, photoshop'ed out the prominent ad for a razor manufacturer behind the goal.

Capitalization and punctuation changes are not mentioned in this document unless deemed significant in some way.

Title, Notes and Contents

Removed month/year of publication from title page.

Preface page removed.

The “Notes” page changed the reference from “males and females” to “men and women” in the last sentence.

Law 1

Under “Field Surface”, changed “Artificial Turf” to “Football Turf”.

Law 2-17

none

Procedures to Determine the Winner of a Match ...

*Under “Procedures” subsection of “Kicks from the Penalty Mark” section:
Second to last bullet describing the reduce to equate principle was reworded:
(a) by replacing *they/their* with *it/its* (note: changes not marked)*

(b) Added sentence: “Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark.”

Technical Area

Changed end of 5th bullet from “and he must return to his position after giving these instructions.” to “from the technical area.” -- thus indicating that **THE person giving instructions no longer has to return to the bench.**

Fourth Official

none

Interpretations and Guidelines (I&G)

I&G Law 1-5

none

I&G Law 6

Unmarked change of word “*defender*” to “*opponent*” in descriptions associated with first and second Assistant Referee proper positioning diagrams.

I&G Law 7-10

none

I&G Law 11

Second paragraph under infringements rewritten to clarify that any (*and all?*) defending players leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission “**shall be considered to be on his own goal line or touch line for purposes of offside until the next stoppage of play**”. (*note: they have not applied this “still on the field” to other cases such as a player off the field who then commits misconduct while off the field. This only applies to offside.*)

I&G Law 12-17

none

I&G Procedures to determine ...

none

Rules of the IFAB

none