



2003 vs 2001 ATR Comparison

Thanks to Joe Cohen for the following computer comparison of the 2001 and 2003 editions of the ATR was performed. Here are the substantive changes, plus two changes in nomenclature.

1.7 SUPERSTRUCTURE ON GOALS

New section.

If ball hits superstructure (e.g., football uprights above crossbar), it's out of play.

1.8 DEALING WITH APPURTENANCES TO THE FIELD AND OUTSIDE AGENTS

New section.

If ball contacts "non-regulation appurtenance" (e.g., goal superstructure) it's out of play. [Doesn't this sound like it was written by a real-estate lawyer?] But if it hits pre-existing condition (e.g., overhanging tree) it's in play. Interference by outside agent results in stoppage, and DB where ball was when play was stopped.

3.3 MORE THAN THE ALLOWED NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Repeats that, if play is stopped for this, restart is IFK, but:

"If the same person had been discovered immediately when entering the field without the referee's permission, the restart would be a dropped ball. It is a matter of timing."

3.5 PREVENTING DELAY DURING SUBSTITUTION

Adds: "Note: The Laws of the Game do not require that a player agree to be substituted even then the substitution has been requested by a team official or team captain. If the player refuses to leave the field, the substitution request must be denied."

3.14 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE GAME

Adds: "There can be no "temporary expulsion" of players who have been cautioned, nor may teams be forced to substitute for a player who has been cautioned."

Adds emphasis to point that expelled players must leave the vicinity ("environs of the field").

3.16 NUMBER OF PLAYERS DURING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

Clarifies procedures: KFTPM phase starts at the same moment regulation play ends. Only GK may be substituted for injury, and only if team has a substitute left. Once the kicks start, no "reduction to equate".

3.19 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND THE REFEREE

New section.

Competition authority may require referee to check documentation like rosters, player passes. Where there is "obvious discrepancy" between documentation and player and referee can verify they do not agree, player will not play. Otherwise, referee allows player to participate and puts details in match report.

4.1 WEARING UNIFORMS

Adds: "The details of the uniform are governed by the competition authority and can vary widely from one match to another. The referee must know and enforce the rules of each competition worked.

5.6 ADVANTAGE

Adds:

"The referee must remember that the advantage applies to the team of the fouled player and not just to the fouled player. Soccer is a team sport and the referee is expected to apply advantage if the fouled player's team is able to retain or regain control of the ball."

"Referees must understand that advantage is not an absolute right. It must be balanced against other issues."

"A common misconception about advantage is that it is about deciding if a challenge is a foul. On the contrary, that decision has already been made because advantage cannot be applied to anything which is not a foul (meaning a violation of Law 12). Advantage, rather, is a decision about whether to stop play for the foul. Accordingly, giving the advantage is "calling the foul" and thus it must be as obvious to the players as signaling to stop play.

"Inconspicuous advantage signals are as much to be avoided as a whistle which cannot be heard.

Likewise, however, using the advantage signal to indicate that something is not a foul is equally wrong."

"In determining whether there is persistent infringement, all fouls are considered, including those to which advantage has been applied."

5.13 CHANGING A DECISION AFTER PLAY HAS RESTARTED

This formerly said that the only decision that could not be changed after a restart is a goal. It now makes clear that cards cannot be cancelled after play restarts. (But if you gave a second yellow card, and forgot to expel the player, you may later show the red card and expel.)

5.15 REPORTING MISCONDUCT

If a player commits two forms of misconduct simultaneously, you may card only for one, but you must report both.

8.1 COIN TOSS

On coin toss for KFTPM, winning team decides whether to kick first or second.

11.15 BECOMING "ON-SIDE"

Adds:

"Further regarding point number (4): If there was a valid offside infringement but the ball left the field in favor of the defense, the referee would not call the offside but would award the throw-in or goal kick restart as appropriate. (If the player in the offside position was not involved in play, there would be no offside and the restart would be for the reason the ball went out of play.) On the other hand, if there was a valid offside infringement but the ball left the field in favor of the attacking team, the referee would ignore the reason the ball left the field, call the offside infringement, and restart with an indirect free kick in favor of the defending team."

12.2 Formerly called "THE PENAL FOULS"; renamed "THE DIRECT FREE KICK FOULS"

(This is a nomenclature change. Other rules that referred to Penal Fouls have been changed to refer to Direct Free Kick Fouls.)

12.8 MAKING CONTACT WITH THE OPPONENT

Adds:

"A foul committed while tackling an opponent with little or no concern for the safety of the opponent shall be cause for the player to be sent from the field and shown the red card for serious foul play."

12.11 USE OF THE SHOULDER

Redefines "hand" to exclude top of shoulder; includes illustration.

12.12 Formerly called "THE TECHNICAL FOULS"; renamed "THE INDIRECT FREE KICK FOULS"
(Nomenclature change. See 12.2)

12.28.1 UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR

Adds (to list of cautionable offenses): "Makes unauthorized marks on the field."

12.28.3 PERSISTENT INFRINGEMENT

In discussing pattern of fouls by multiple players against a single opponent, adds:

"If the pattern is quickly and blatantly established, then the warning should be omitted and the referee should take immediate action. In determining whether there is persistent infringement, all fouls are considered, including those to which advantage has been applied."

12.31 EVALUATING LANGUAGE

Adds:

"In evaluating language as misconduct, the referee must take into account the particular circumstances in which the actions occurred and deal reasonably with language that was clearly the result of a momentary emotional outburst."

"Referees must take care not to inject purely personal opinions as to the nature of the language when determining a course of action. The referee's primary focus must be on the effective management of the match and the players in the context of the overall feel for the Spirit of the Game."

12.38 CRITERIA FOR AN OBVIOUS GOALSCORING OPPORTUNITY (4 Ds)

Now lists four criteria (the 4 Ds) instead of five. The fifth one (no longer listed) was:

"5. There was a reasonable chance for a shot (not a definite goal, but at least a chance to shoot)."

Clarifies that relevant offense includes misconduct or fouls for which the restart is an IFK.

13.10 SIGNAL FOR INDIRECT FREE KICK

Repeats that when a referee decides to award an IFK, but fails to signal an IFK, the failure has no effect on the nature of the restart. But now clarifies that if the referee decides to award a DFK, but incorrectly signals for an IFK, and the ball goes directly into the goal, "the referee CANNOT award the goal." (Emphasis in original.) The referee awarded the correct restart, but gave a misleading signal. So the kick must be retaken.

19.1 LAWS GOVERNING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

The only requirement for order of kicks (within a team) is that each player kick before someone kicks twice. There's no requirement for a list. If a kick must be retaken, another player can do it (if he hasn't already kicked in that round).

19.2 PLAYERS LEAVING THE FIELD DURING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

After KFTPM start, if a player is (a) injured and can't return, or (b) can't return, the KFTPM continue without him.

19.5 WATER

Adds:

"Players who wish to drink water while play continues may do so only from the touchline and without leaving the field. If water containers are left along the touchline outside the field, they must not interfere with the movement of the assistant referee or block his view of the length of the touchline. Under no circumstances may water containers of any sort be thrown onto the field, either during play or at stoppages (including the halftime break)."