



U.S. Soccer

## **Memorandum 2007**

# **Modifications and Instructions Regarding the Laws of the Game**

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There are relatively few changes in the Law this year, and most of those covered by this presentation would be encountered only rarely by most referees.



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game

### Law 1: The Field of Play

*USSF Advice to Referees: The change is likely to affect only matches played at the highest competitive level where advertising is more commonly seen. One practical effect of the change is to allow advertising to be displayed on the shelters or canopies which may be used to cover the team benches.*

#### **New Text**

**There should be no advertising of any kind on the ground within the technical area or within one meter from the touchline.** Further, no advertising shall be allowed in the area between the goal line and the goal nets.

No extra meaning should be read into the change in language from “shall” to “should”



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game

### Law 4: The Players Equipment

*USSF Advice to Referees: The general purpose of this change is to ensure that the visible color of any portion of a garment worn underneath the jersey or shorts is consistent with the main color of the jersey or shorts. Accordingly, the referee need not be concerned about the color or any portion of an undergarment which cannot be seen.*

#### **New Text**

- a jersey or shirt – if undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.
- shorts – if undershorts are worn, they are of the same main color as the shorts.

Emphasize to referees that they are not to be concerned with any undergarments that cannot be seen in the normal course of play. The target of this change in Law 4 are undergarments whose sleeves extend beyond the jersey sleeves or which extend below the lower hem of the shorts.



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game

### Law 4: The Players Equipment

#### IFAB Decision 1

##### Present Text

- Players must not reveal undershirts that 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.



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game

### Law 4: The Players Equipment

#### IFAB Decision 1

##### New Text

- Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising. **The basic compulsory equipment must not contain any political, religious or personal statements.**
- A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer. **The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment contains political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organizer or by FIFA.**
- Jerseys must have sleeves.

Although the new language retains the requirement that “jerseys must have sleeves,” prior USSF guidance remains in effect that the absence of jersey sleeves is not a matter of concern for referees and is a matter to be dealt with entirely by the competition authority. Referees need not take any note of jersey sleeves in match reports. Of course, the referee continues to be responsible for any questions involving the safety of anything worn by players.



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game

### Law 4: The Players Equipment

#### IFAB Decision 1

***USSF Advice to Referees:***

- *The issue is the content (personal, political, commercial, religious statements), not how it is displayed*
- *Wearing such statements directly and visibly on any uniform part or revealing such statements by removing any part of the uniform is prohibited*
- *Manufacturer's names and logos are excepted*
- *Sanctions are the responsibility of the competition organizer or FIFA, not the referee (but full details must be included in the match report)*
- *The referee retains authority to deal with such statements if they are abusive, insulting, or offensive (see prior guidelines on this subject)*

The points to be made here are that anything other than simple manufacturer's names and logos may need to be reported if they are visible or if they are made visible by the player removing or shifting any item of equipment.

Also, the restriction on slogans is not limited to anything that happens during a goal celebration. Despite the language of the Law change which focuses on jerseys, referees are reminded that the prohibition should be implemented regarding any uniform item and would apply even if the statement being revealed were written directly on the player's skin.



## Amendments to the Laws of the Game

### The Fourth Official

*USSF Advice to Referees: A competition authority may provide a more specific order of priority for a fourth official in a situation where an official is unable to continue (including the appointment of a reserve assistant referee). In the absence of such provisions, the fourth official may substitute for any of the three match officials.*

#### **New Text**

The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue, **unless a reserve assistant referee is appointed**. He assists the referee at all times.

**A reserve assistant referee may be also be appointed under competition rules. His only duty shall be to replace an assistant referee who is unable to continue or to replace the fourth official, as required.**

The competition authority may specify an order of replacement when any assigned official is unable to continue.



## Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials

### Celebration of a Goal

#### **New Text**

A player must be cautioned when:

- he covers his head or face with a mask or other similar item

*USSF Advice to Referees: This change in the Law is intended only to extend the existing provision that a player who removes the jersey or uses the jersey to cover the head as part of a goal celebration has committed misconduct and is to be cautioned.*



**Amendments to the Laws of the Game  
are in effect as of July 1, 2007**

**Additional Instructions are in effect  
immediately**

The 2007 edition of the Lawbook published in this country will not include the Additional Instructions and Guidelines section but all referees are responsible for knowing its contents and for implementing its directions. This material will likely be accessible through the USSF website as well as directly at the FIFA website. The Additional Instructions and Guidelines was significantly expanded in 2007 to include material previously published as the Additional Instructions as well as "Questions and Answers on the Laws of the Game" from FIFA.