

## 2008 vs. 2007 ATR Comparison

This document summarizes the sections changed or added to the July 2008 edition of the USSF "Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game" (ATR) as compared to the previous August 2007 edition. Any text samples extracted and included are done solely for educational purposes and are still bound to the original copyright holder. While every attempt was made to make this accurate, this comparison document has not been reviewed or approved by the USSF, its referee committee, nor the ATR document writer(s). Purely "in the opinion of the referee" that authored this comparison, **major changes to the ATR philosophy are bolded** while *reordering of text, title and minor changes are italicized*. *Specific changes are also italicized blue and can be skipped if not looking for these minutia details*. Changes of pronouns or formatting are generally not even mentioned (trifling).

This year proved interesting yet again. It appears the changes are based on the IFAB memo and minutes from the March meeting but not a review of the major rewording that occurred in the FIFA LOTG book. So some terminology and conflicts are introduced.

USSF included the change bars applied to whole paragraphs or major sections when only minor word changes in one place occurred. There are a few places where changes occurred but were not noted with change bars. And some places where whole paragraphs were deleted but no indication of such. So this comparison document clarifies more precisely what changed where. Any ATR paragraphs with a change bar are noted here with the extent of the change, if any.

This document is in the same style as the last four "ATR Comparison" documents. Included in this edition is an appendix of likely errata to reflect issues with the document or where in apparent conflict with the 2008 FIFA LOTG seems to occur. They should serve to illuminate apparent conflicts the author or others have noticed.

The changes of note are as follows:

### ADVICE TO REFEREES (Introduction Page)

**The third paragraph was updated to reflect based on the 2008-2009 FIFA LOTG edition and the (renamed) "Interpretation of the LOTG and Guidelines for Referees" section.**

*Bullet reworded to reflect change of section name from "Additional Instructions" to "Interpretation..."*.

### 1.3 GOALS

Added a new second sentence into the only paragraph to describe that if the goal posts are a different size than the lines, then the back of the post should be lined up with the outside of the goal line – a practice often taught but missing from material to date.

### 1.5 FIELD MARKINGS

Added a last sentence to the second paragraph to indicate the area enclosed by the penalty arc is not part of the penalty area.

## 1.8 DEALING WITH APPURTENANCES TO THE FIELD AND OUTSIDE AGENTS

### (d) Outside Agent

**The third sentence of the first paragraph removed “Substitutes” from being an outside agent.** The list of sections reference in the 4<sup>th</sup> sentence was changed to add 3.3 and 9.2 and changed 3.17-3.20 to 3.19. The last sentence in this first paragraph was updated to insert the clause “removed from the field of play” when talking about the procedure to caution a substitute illegally on the field.

*A new paragraph format was inserted to start the Note:. So the first paragraph was effectively split into two.*

## 3.9 LEAVING THE FIELF IN THE COURSE OF PLAY

A new sentence was added to start the first paragraph to describe that players are normally expected to remain on the field of play.

## 3.10 ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE GAME

**Changed back the restart for an illegal person entering the field (not a player, substitute, or substituted player though) to be a dropped ball.** Had been this but was changed to IFK in 2007. Now changed back. Also created a new paragraph, by moving some previous text out of the first paragraph, to clarify that a substituted player illegally entering is still cause for an IFK restart.

*Specifically, the previous third and fourth sentence of the first paragraph were copied down to form a new second paragraph (and comprise that first and third sentence. Some words and phrases were updated. A new second and fourth sentence were introduced to this second paragraph. The first paragraph had the third sentence removed and fourth sentence modified to indicate dropped ball. The third to last sentence of the first paragraph was shortened and the removed phrase expanded on to a new sentence inserted before – describing that you restart for the reason you stopped play if the illegal person is not the reason for stopping play.*

## 3.16 MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Inserted a new second sentence to reflect updates in the FIFA document. It indicates the competition authority may allow fewer than seven players to continue play but that the minimum to start play remains seven (unless small-sided games are being played).

## 3.17 MORE THAN THE CORRECT NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Inserted a new second sentence to indicate that if the referee stops play to deal with too many players on the field, they restart play as specified in the Law (LOTG); otherwise they restart with the reason they stopped play.

## 3.19 OFFENSE COMMITTED WHILE PERSON ILLEGALLY ON THE FIELD

**Added a new table at the end of the section (actually on the adjoining page) that summarizes the various types of restarts depending on who entered or re-entered the field without permission.** *Note: a change bar is there but essentially masked by the table border.* Key is it indicates that a player, substitute or substituted player who enters or re-enters without permission will result in an IFK restart. But a sent-off player, substitute,

**or substituted player (or any other person) who enters without permission will result in a dropped ball restart. This of course unless the player who entered without permission committed a foul first; then you would restart in accordance with the foul.**

#### 4.6 INCORRECT UNIFORM OR EQUIPMENT

Added a new 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph starting with an asterisk (\*) that indicates Commercial means “commercial statement” advocating the use of a product; as opposed to a logo of the team or similar.

#### 5.1 REFEREE UNIFORM

Added “green/black striped” as an alternate jersey style to the list in the first sentence. Inserted a new second and third sentence in parenthesis that indicates the primary gold jersey is the jersey all referees must have but not the preference to all other colors.

**Added a new third paragraph that seems to be extracted from Jim Allens’ “Ask A Referee” [responses](#) (oft repeated each year) about referees and head gear, sunglasses, etc.**

#### 5.4 REFEREE SIGNALS

**Added a new second paragraph about use of the whistle to support and extend the new page on whistle use in the “Interpretations and Guidelines” section of the FIFA document (introduced by FIFA in 2007).**

#### 5.6 ADVANTAGE

**The previously two-sentence paragraph 6 was reworded and expanded to five long sentences. They indicate that Advantage is still only applied to infringements of Law 12. The new language mentions that a referee can apply “doubtful” and “trifling” to infractions outside of Law 12 and that this is an application of the old IBD8 of Law 5 from 1996 and before (and now included in ATR 5.5).**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph was lengthened by adding a 4<sup>th</sup> sentence at the end that says “In particular, referees should generally avoid a decision to allow advantage for fouls which happen very early in the match, for fouls performed in front of the team areas, or for misconduct involving violence unless the change for a goal is immediate.”**

#### 5.9 INJURIES

*The first two sentences were expanded and rewritten to five sentences in length with a new paragraph format inserted in the middle.* **The rewording adds a second condition a player MUST leave the field of play when injured and “the referee signals approval for anyone (team official, medical personnel, etc) to enter the field ...”. Goes on to indicate that goalkeepers are exempt from this requirement as are players injured by a collision with the goalkeeper. Then clarifies that medical treatment is not meant to occur on the field but that an exemption is made for severe injuries where movement would do harm or when goalkeeper treatment is needed.**

### 5.13 CHANGING A DECISION AFTER PLAY HAS BEEN RESTARTED

**This whole section should be read and studied carefully. Specific, listed reasons for changing decisions or showing a card after restarting play to indicate previous misconduct are now introduced. Previously, the ATR simply stated that once play restarted, the misconduct cannot be later given or altered.**

*Specifically, the first sentence was rewritten and expanded to five sentences with a paragraph format inserted after. The second sentence now ends the second paragraph and was shortened from “no card may be displayed for any prior misconduct, but the facts must be recorded in the match report” to “any cards shown must be reported”. The expansion of the first sentence now gives specific criteria and procedures for possibly changing decisions regarding misconduct but advises that this should be rarely done.*

*The previous third sentence of the first paragraph now starts a new third paragraph and is reworded to indicate that a card may be shown for previous misconduct. This is further described in a new fourth and fifth paragraph. The inserted new second sentence of the third paragraph indicates there are circumstances to allow a card due to previous misconduct.*

**There is a brand new fifth paragraph, describing how if an assistant referee observes misconduct but the referee does not notice the flag and restarts play or allows play to continue, then the assistant referee should remain holding the flag and the referee can issue the misconduct once the flag is noticed. Adds that details should be discussed in the pre-game with priority given to serious forms of misconduct.**

*Specifically, the previous fourth and fifth sentence of the first paragraph now form the sixth paragraph in this text.*

*The seventh paragraph was the first two sentences in the previous second paragraph. The rest of the previous second paragraph forms the new fourth paragraph with the first two sentences rewritten and collapsed into one. “Incorrect” was changed to “wrong”.*

### 5.17 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE GAME

**A new fifth paragraph is inserted that indicates the referee may send off a player, substitute or substituted player for violent conduct after the game has restarted if the assistant referee signaled the offense before the restart. This is further emphasizing the change in 5.13.**

### 5.19 DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT

**This is a brand new section, one and one half pages long, that should be read carefully.**

*Specifically, the first two paragraphs cover the issue of applying a broader definition to the concept of “misconduct” to those that are not specifically mentioned in the laws but that the referee may need to report about and handle based on being affiliated with or under competition authority. Such people, such as team officials, should be treated and sanctioned by the referee as needed in a similar manner (including expulsion) with a full report given.*

*The rest of the material then serves to replicate a very similar table from ATR 12.35 but now here covering misconduct by anyone, including players, that is not a foul and serves to indicate how to determine the restart. (Note: ATR 12.35, although implied to only apply to Violent Conduct, seems to also include SFP, Spitting, DOGSO, and DOGSH as they have a DFK/PK restart shown in the table in addition to showing the punishment being a send-off. See errata at end of this document.)*

#### 6.5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFFSIDE

**Inserts a new second paragraph to describe that the AR should not give an offside signal if in doubt.** Also that they should be properly positioned, etc. to assist the referee.

#### 6.7 THE FOURTH OFFICIAL

*Updated the paragraph to reflect the reference to the renamed "Interpretation of the Laws and Guidelines ..." section in the FIFA Law Book. Adds two new sentences at the end to indicate the local rules of competition should be followed as to who the Fourth Official may replace with the default being any other official.*

#### 6.9 RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE

**This is a brief, new section and should be reviewed as it introduces the "fifth official" that FIFA has now added to the LOTG.**

#### 7.5 EARLY TERMINATION

This new, short section instructs the referee to report all information about a game terminated early. It is up to the competition authority to determine what to do when terminated early. This seems to follow some changes in the LOTG that are removing the distinction between abandoning a game (due to weather or other conditions) and terminating (due to fewer than required number of players, misconduct that prevents the game from progressing further, etc).

#### 8.3 THE START OF PLAY

(note: the previous title of this section was PLAYER COUNT.)

**This new first paragraph should be consulted for specifics on how to start the match (referee mechanics).**

*Specifically, the first sentence was removed and its meaning expanded on and changed to be a new first paragraph. It clearly describes a procedure for the assistant referee and referee to use to start each half. Key is they ask referees NOT to call out "ready" to goalkeepers and captains. The remaining old first paragraph was slightly updated with the key change being dropping the word "intelligent" before "referee" in that first sentence.*

#### 8.5 DROPPED BALL

**Note: not change bar marked.**

**A new third paragraph was added back after being deleted in the 2007 edition without notice. It concerns simultaneous fouls and the rare occurrence of using a dropped ball to restart after it.**

## 8.6 COMMON ELEMENTS OF THE EIGHT METHODS OF RESTARTING PLAY

*The table was rotated 180 degrees*

## 11.7 MAKING THE OFFSIDE DECISION

**Added a new sentence (second from the end) in the first paragraph: “To phrase it slightly differently: When in doubt, keep the flag down.”**

*Took italics off second paragraph beginning “Note:”.*

## 12.2 THE DIRECT FREE KICK FOULS

Reflecting the update in the laws, changed it from six to seven actions that require evaluation and added “tackle” into the list. Then reduced it from four to three actions that simply occur in the following bullet.

## 12.6 STRIKING

**Reflecting the updates in the LOTG, the simple single sentence fourth paragraph of before has been expanded to a 10 line, three sentence paragraph that seems to conflict with itself. (See errata.) Basically tries to indicate, as the laws now do and the interpretation we believe is correct, that striking of an on field player or official by an off the field substitute or substituted player causes an IFK restart where the ball was when play was stopped (subject to Law 13 on position). Striking by a team official or spectator in similar circumstances is a dropped ball restart. If the strike occurred by a player temporarily off the field, the restart would be a DFK/PK if the target was an opponent on the field or an IFK otherwise.**

**Two new paragraphs were added at the end. The first indicates that striking suggests some degree of force and is likely always misconduct as well. And that only a miss (attempt) should be considered a caution with it otherwise being a send-off. The last paragraph suggests seeing 15.8 about how to deal with striking by throwing the ball during a throw-in.**

## 12.7 TACKLING

(note: was previously named MAKING CONTACT WITH AN OPPONENT *and ordered before the HOLDING section*)

Added a new first sentence to the first paragraph to indicate the referee must judge if a tackle was fair or was a foul (careless, reckless, or use of excessive force).

## 12.8 HOLDING

*This section is change bar marked but no change was made other than to reorder it after the renamed TACKLING section.*

## 12.16 GOALKEEPER POSSESSION OF THE BALL

**This section was doubled in size and split into two paragraphs. The word “possession” was changed to “control” in only the first occurrence (although the FIFA LOTG changed it everywhere). The new section elaborates what constitutes control with his hands by the goalkeeper. It further elaborates that a challenge for the ball while in control with**

**the hands is a DFK foul. It urges referees to err on the side of safety in judging control and challenges; especially in youth games.**

#### 12.25 RESTARTS FOR MISCONDUCT

Major restructuring by introducing subsections and sub-subsections. The section headers introduced are:

- a. Offenses on the field of play
- b. Offenses off the field of play
  1. By players
  2. By substitutes or substituted players
  3. By team officials

*Moved a few sentences in the middle of the first paragraph related to misconduct by substitutes and team officials to form the body of b.2. and b.3. **Changed the restart for misconduct off the field of play by a substitute to a dropped ball (was IFK previously) in the sentence moved to b.2.** The former first paragraph forms the body of a. and has a sentence added to the end directing one to the new 5.19 and its table on restarts after misconduct. **Added a whole new 10 line paragraph to form the body of section b.1. that is regarding offenses committed by players while off the field of play. This new paragraph should be consulted for the two cases it covers.***

#### 12.28.1 UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR

Split the bullet into two concerning tobacco and cellular phones and now includes tobacco products. Added two new bullets at the end covering **using an artificial aid to unfairly assist play** and for a substitute or substituted player entering the field of play without the referee's permission.

#### 12.28.2 DISSENT

**Adds a new last sentence indicating that a substitute or substituted player may be cautioned for dissent.**

#### 12.28.3 PERSISTENT INFRINGEMENT

Pulled some text out of the center and created a new paragraph. Now distinguishes between PI by one player versus by a team. Mentions that **PI by a team against a single opponent has to be cautioned for Unsporting Behavior, not Persistent Infringement.**

*Specifically, added "certain other" before "infringements." to end the first sentence of the first paragraph. Dropped the tail end of that first sentence that used to say "or participates in a pattern of fouls directed against the same opponent." The second sentence of the first paragraph indicating persistent infringement by a player against multiple opponents was dropped. The former 3 line, italicized sentence in the middle of the first paragraph has been removed that described warning and cautioning for a pattern of fouls against a single opponent. Inserted a new second paragraph comprised of a rewrite of the removed sentences and clauses from the first paragraph. This new paragraph deals with fouls against a single opponent and the change in advice to calling it Unsporting Behavior instead of PI.*

#### 12.28.4 DELAYS THE RESTART OF PLAY

Ends the first sentence with “substituted players” now; completing that players, substitutes or substituted players can delay the restart of play.

#### 12.28.6 ENTERS OR RE-ENTERS THE FIELD OF PLAY WITHOUT THE REFEREE'S PERMISSION

Removed trailing clause “(mandatory caution)” in first bullet on being instructed to leave the field of play to correct equipment. Removed fourth bullet that had stated “Before receiving permission to enter as a substitute” (**change not marked**). Added two new paragraphs (and sentences) at the end stating that a player who enters the field without permission, and required such permission, is cautioned for entering/re-entering. But a substitute or substituted player must be cautioned for unsporting behavior in such a situation.

#### 12.35 RESTARTS

(see previous note on 5.19 DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT)

Slight update to table (*is change bar marked but line is masked by table*). Added “when play was stopped\*” to the IFK and Dropped Ball restarts.; as well as to notes 2, 4 and 5.

#### 13.5 BALL IN PLAY

Mostly, sentences removed in the second and fourth paragraphs. **Reversed position and indicates a ball dragged by the foot in a continuous motion can be considered a kick.** .

*Specifically, updated second sentence in second paragraph as follows. Changed “Being “kicked” does not, for example, include ...” to “Being “kicked” can include ...” to start the sentence about dragging the ball with the foot through continuous contact. The previous third sentence about “quivering, trembling or shaking as a result of light contact” was removed. The last sentence was also removed that had said “In all events, the ball must be put into play properly.” The last sentence of the fourth (last) paragraph was removed. It had started “The bottom line is that not everything that produces movement of the ball is a kick ...”.*

#### 13.9 SIGNAL FOR AN INDIRECT FREE KICK

**Clearly changes language to state that a kick taken with an incorrect signal from the referee must be retaken, even if a goal is scored.** That is, a Direct Free Kick taken with a hand raised by the referee or an indirect free kick taken with the hand not raised or not held for the required period of time.

*Specifically, changed the start of the first sentence from “The failure of the referee” to “If the referee fails”. Removed the last half of the first sentence starting with “does it change the ...” and replaced it with the clause “, the indirect free kick must be taken, regardless of the original outcome.” Added a new sentence to end this first paragraph: “In particular, if the kick results in a goal, either directly or indirectly, the goal cannot be counted.” **Changed the start of the second paragraph from “Note: this does not apply” to “Note: this also applies”.***

#### 14.8 THE PENALTY KICK

**Altered the referees authority to now allow them to remove players from the region around the penalty area when kicks are being taken in extended time (but not from the field). Adds a new second paragraph** detailing the only actions a referee may take following a penalty kick in extended time (signal for goal scored or not, signal for half to end, signal a retake for various reasons listed).

*Specifically, changed “or” to “, but may require them to leave” in the last sentence of the first paragraph. Added a new second paragraph.*

#### 14.9 INFRINGEMENTS OF LAW 14

*Removed bullets of indented descriptions of points or exceptions after the chart. (changes not marked)*

#### 14.10 CAUTIONING FOR SUBSEQUENT INFRINGEMENTS OF LAW 14

Shortened and reworded with the list of “such infringements include” being removed. *Specifically, the last (second) paragraph was removed. The last sentence of the first paragraph forms a new second paragraph and was changed to start with “In all cases” instead of “At all times”. The first sentence was reworded a little clearer but the same content. The second sentence listing types of infringements was removed.*

#### 14.13 WHEN IS THE PENALTY KICK COMPLETED

**This is a brand new, two paragraph, ½ page section that should be reviewed. Describes reasons that a team is not given a fair chance to take the penalty kick.**

#### 19.4 WATER

*Added the word “Field” to start the first sentence (“Players who wish to drink ..”)*

#### 19.6 OBJECTS THROWN ONTO THE FIELD

**This new one paragraph section should be reviewed. It covers how to determine trifling, harmful or otherwise consequential the appearance of objects on the field such as bottles, confetti, etc.**

#### Index

*Added “Objects thrown onto the field ..... 19.6” into list as this is a new section. (see errata).*

#### Front Page Acknowledgments

*The title page was added back in and the cover was updated to a single color photo.*

*Tom Frazee was added to the list of contributors on the acknowledgment page. The date was changed to 2008 everywhere there (and revised publication date to July 2008). The address was moved before the Copyright notice that was added in 2007. (No change bar.)*

*Randy Harr, USSF Referee, October 2008 (revision A1)*

### **Appendix A: Likely Errata or contradictions:**

A number of errors or inconsistencies are noted here as likely errata that need to be fixed. More will be added as a more thorough comparison of the new LOTG is made against this new ATR.

#### **INTRODUCTION AND TITLE PAGES:**

*Acknowledgment page left the wording at “seventh, updated” edition. Should be “eighth” as last year showed “seventh”?*

The last sentence in the Advice to Referees introduction (second page) should likely be updated. The 2008-2009 edition of the LOTG removed the asterisk (\*) and Special Circumstances reference language that they are still referring to here. This sentence was added to last years edition.

#### **1.5 FIELD MARKINGS**

Likely should have clarified in the last paragraph that the “optional line” drawn outside the field of play is indicated allowed near the touch line as well as the goal line now. A subtle change added everywhere to the 2008 edition of the FIFA LOTG but not otherwise announced.

#### **3.10 ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE GAME**

*Likely did not mean to remove the asterisk reference after changing the IFK to Dropped Ball restart in the first paragraph; as special circumstances still apply. Also, when copying a sentence down to form the new second paragraph, third sentence -- “stopped the game to deal with this person” was updated to “stopped play to deal with the matter”. This should likely have been updated in the original sentence still in the first paragraph.*

#### **3.16 MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

*Added misspelled word “sever” instead of “seven” as expected.*

#### **5.6 ADVANTAGE**

**USSF continues to clarify that Advantage is only applied to infringements of Law 12 and not other procedural (for example, throw in technique) or offenses (for example, offside). But FIFA specifically introduced a sentence this year (page 66, 2008 edition, Law 5 – Referee, Advantage) that says “The referee may play advantage whenever an infringement or offense occurs”. This seems in potential conflict although USSF works hard to clarify their position and does define the concept quite clearly.**

#### **5.19 DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT**

**The introduction of the table replicated from 12.35 but changed in key ways is quite confusing.** Specifically, table 12.35 indicates it is for violent conduct but then includes the SFP case in the table (DFK/PK entry in table). 12.33 indicates SFP will not apply to off-the-ball violence against an opponent by a player. So table 12.35 seems to apply to forms of VC where it could be a foul (i.e. DFK/PK restart) but still listed as VC because it was not while challenging for the ball. Now add that this new table in 5.19 implies it applies to all misconduct other than that mentioned in 12.45 (SFP/VC) and gives a “caution” as the punishment. What happened to Abusive Language and DOGSH? Spitting, DOGSH and DOGSO imply it may be

a foul as well and thus are not adequately covered. This all appears it needs to be thought through more and made consistent in language and more specific in applicability in each section. At least the new 5.19 entry has a trailing paragraph trying to point out the other places they discuss this and alerts the reader to the issue.

#### 8.5 DROPPED BALL

**Third paragraph was added in but not marked as a change.**

#### 8.6 COMMON ELEMENTS OF THE EIGHT METHODS OF RESTARTING PLAY

*Could use the asterisk in place of wording "(see special circumstances in Law 8)" in three places in the table.*

#### 12.6 STRIKING

**Fourth paragraph may have an error. Believe "team official, or spectator" should not appear in the first sentence describing the IFK restart.**

#### 12.8 HOLDING

*Change bar shown but no change other than a reorder of the section with the one now before it.*

#### 12.16 GOALKEEPER POSSESSION OF THE BALL

The LOTG have changed the word "possession" to "control" when related to the goalkeeper handling the ball.

#### 12.19 SECOND TOUCH BY THE GOALKEEPER

"Second touch" was changed to "touch again" (or "touched again") in the LOTG everywhere

#### 16.1 BALL PLACEMENT AT A GOAL KICK

Starts first sentence of first paragraph with "The ball is placed so that it touches the ground within the goal area , " but then the diagram goes to show that a ball resting on the field outside the goal area is allowed.

#### INDEX

Neglected to add the other new sections to the index (only 19.6 was added):

5.19 DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT

6.9 RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE

7.5 EARLY TERMINATION

14.3 WHEN IS THE PENALTY KICK COMPLETED

Still lists PLAYER COUNT ... 8.3 instead of new title THE START OF PLAY

Still lists HOLDING ... 12.7 instead of new section 12.8

Still lists MAKING CONTACT WITH AN OPPONENT ... 12.8 instead of change to TACKLING ... 12.7