

New Zealand Football has advised on the following law changes for 2010...

At its 123rd Annual General Meeting the International Football Association Board (IFAB) approved the following amendments to the Laws of the Game

*As from January 1, 2010 in all New Zealand Competitions
2009-10 New Zealand Football Championship
2009 National Women's League*

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

At its meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the International Football Association Board (IFAB) approved the following amendments, instructions and directives.

LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY

Field Surface

Matches may be played on natural or artificial surfaces according to the rules of the competition.

The colour of artificial surfaces must be green.

Where artificial surfaces are used in either competition matches between representative teams of member associations affiliated to FIFA or international club competition matches, the surface must meet the requirements of the FIFA Quality Concept for Artificial Football Turf or the International Artificial Turf Standard,, unless special dispensation is given by FIFA.

NZF Advice to Referees-

The phrase "Artificial Turf" has been replaced with "Football Turf".

LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees

Infringements

(new wording)

Any defending player leaving the field of play for any reason without the referee's permission shall be construed to be on his own goal line or touch line for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage of play. If the player leaves the field of play deliberately, he must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.

NZF Advice to Referees-

The IFAB has explicitly defined a player's location for the purpose of offside.

- This has always been a part of the body of law, which referees are expected to know and apply and is not therefore a change in the way Law 11 is to be applied.

- A defender who has run off the field in the normal course of play, or fallen off the field, is deemed to be on the goal line or touch line closest to where the defender left the field and must be considered as still on the field.

- If a defender left the field other than in the normal course of play, the defender is to be cautioned for the misconduct.

- A defender who is off the field with the referee's permission (and who cannot freely return) is not included in determining where the last and second last defenders are located.

- An attacker who has left the field in the normal course of play is also considered to be on the goal line or touch line if they re-enter the field and interfere with play, an opponent or gain an advantage.

PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH OR HOME-AND-AWAY

If at the end of the match and before the kicks start to be taken from the penalty mark, one team has a greater number of players than their opponents, they must reduce their numbers to equate with that of their opponents and the team captain must inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. Any player thus excluded may not participate in kicks from the penalty mark.

NZF Advice to Referees-

The change emphasizes that player(s) excluded under the "reduce to equate" principle may not participate at all in the kicks from the penalty mark.

- Such players are no longer permitted to be on the field with their teammates.

- They remain under the authority of the referee.

- This is not a change in the interpretation and application of the way the procedure to determine the winner of a match is found.

THE TECHNICAL AREA

Only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical instructions from the Technical Area

NZF Advice to Referees

- The change removes the requirement for the person giving tactical instructions from within the Technical Area (usually from the front of the Technical Area) to return to the area where the rest of the substitutes etc. are seated.

- It is hoped that the change will reduce unnecessary conflicts between fourth officials and coaches.

REMINDER TO REFEREES

Referees are reminded that Law 5 states that the referee must stop the match, if in his opinion, a player is seriously injured.

NZF Advice to Referees-

This statement reinforces a guideline issued previously concerning the habit of teams kicking the ball out of play when there is an apparent injury, so detracting from the referee's responsibility.

- Referees must quickly assess the condition of any injured player and whether or not play should continue.

OTHER ITEMS•

Further experiments using additional assistant referees (behind the goal line) will be conducted in a professional league

• FIFA withdrew its proposal to extend the maximum duration of the half-time interval to 20 minutes

• Further discussion will be held on the proposal to increase the number of substitutes in the event that extra time is played

• The FIFA Technical sub-committee will discuss the procedure that applies when players leave the field of play for treatment

• The concept of "sin bins" will not be pursued further

• The IFAB agreed to hear a report on goal-line technology from adidas and Cairns Technology