



For the Good of the Game

Futsal Laws of the Game

2005



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100 YEARS FIFA 1904 - 2004

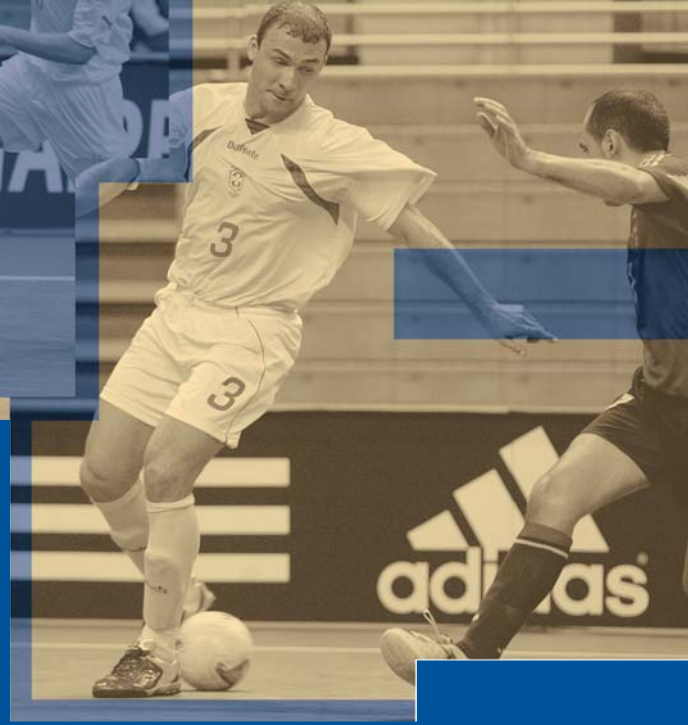


FIFA

For the Good of the Game

Futsal Laws of the Game

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This revised version of the Futsal Laws of the Game has been drawn up in collaboration with the Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board (IFAB), as agreed at the business meeting of the IFAB on 28 September 1999.

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Published by
Fédération Internationale de Football Association
Hitzigweg 11, CH-8030 Zurich, Switzerland.

In the event of a difference in interpretation between the various language versions of this text, the English version shall be deemed authoritative.

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Modifications

Subject to the agreement of the member associations concerned and provided that the principles of these Laws are respected, the Laws may be modified in their application for matches for players under 16 years of age, for female futsal players, for veteran players (over 35 years) and for players with disabilities.

Any or all of the following modifications are permissible:

- size of the field of play;
- size, weight and material of the ball;
- width between the goalposts and the height of the crossbar from the ground;
- duration of the periods of play;
- substitutions.

Further modifications are allowed only with the consent of the International Football Association Board.

Male and Female

References to the male gender in the Futsal Laws of the Game in respect of referees, players and officials are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

Key

The following symbols are used in the Futsal Laws of the Game:

- * Unless stipulated under "Special circumstances" in Law 9 – "The start and restart of play".
- | A single line indicates a change to a Law.

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1 – THE PITCH

Dimensions

The pitch must be rectangular. The length of the touch line must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length:	minimum	25m
	maximum	42m
Width:	minimum	15m
	maximum	25m

International matches

Length:	minimum	38m
	maximum	42m
Width:	minimum	18m
	maximum	25m

Pitch markings

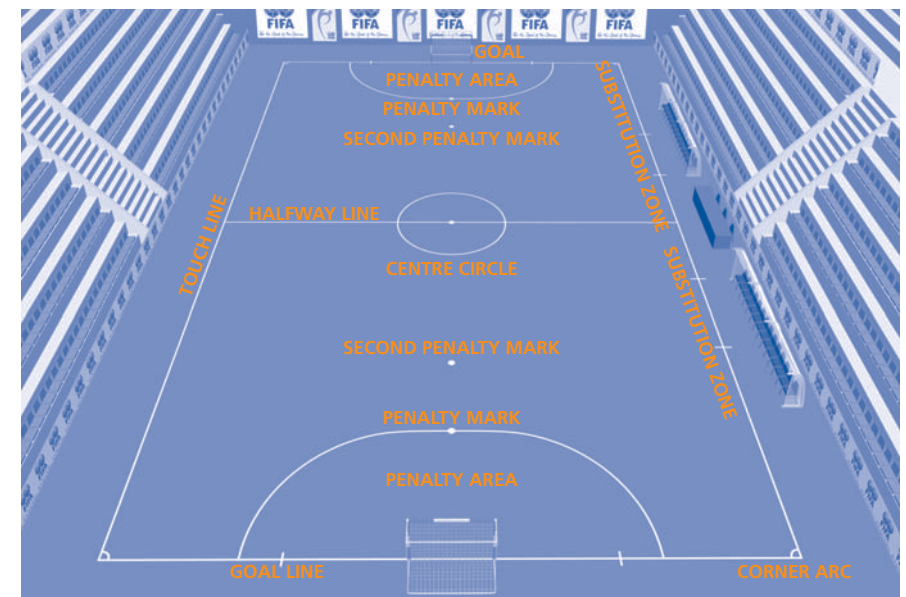
The pitch is marked with lines, which belong to the areas of which they are boundaries. The two longer boundary lines are called touch lines. The two shorter lines are called goal lines.

All lines are 8cm wide.

The pitch is divided into two halves by the halfway line.

The centre mark is indicated at the midpoint of the halfway line. A circle with a radius of 3m is marked around it.

The pitch and appurtenances are shown in the following illustration:



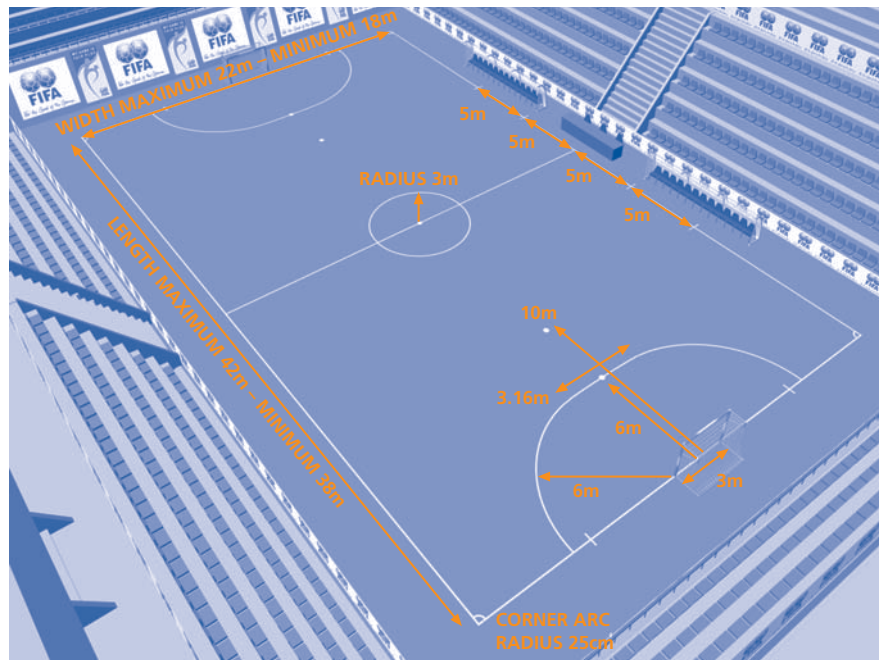
1 – THE PITCH

The penalty area

A penalty area is defined at each end of the pitch as follows:

Quarter circles, with a six-metre radius, are drawn centred on the outside of each goal post. The quarter circles are drawn from the goal line to meet two imaginary lines six metres in length drawn at right angles to the goal line from the outside of the goal post. The upper part of each quarter circle is joined by a 3.16-metre line running parallel to the goal line between the goal posts.

The curved line marking the outer limit of the penalty area is known as the penalty area line.



The penalty mark

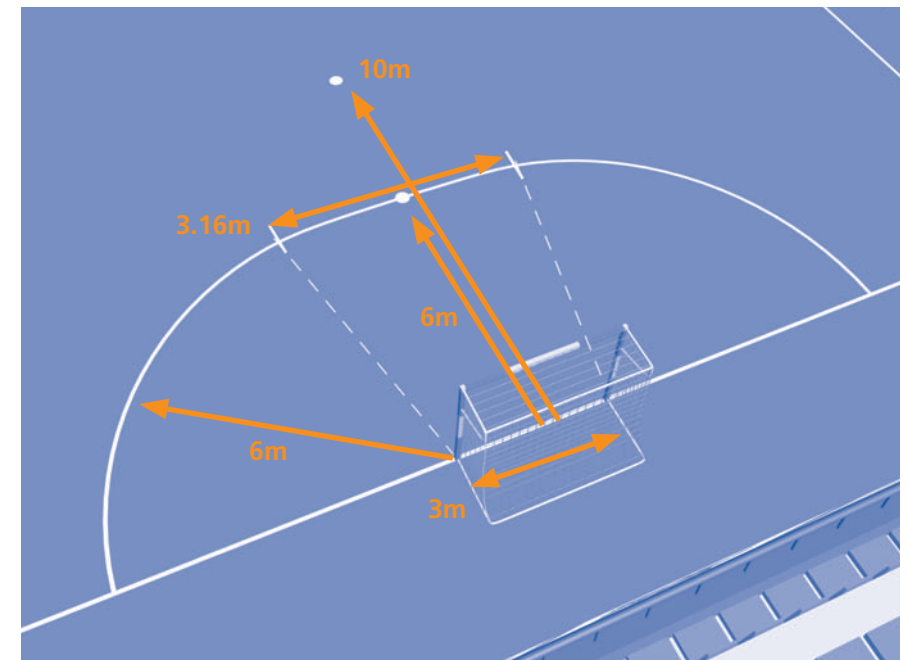
A penalty mark is drawn 6m from the midpoint between the goal posts and equidistant from them.

The second penalty mark

A second penalty mark is drawn on the pitch 10 metres from the midpoint between the goal posts and equidistant from them.

The corner arc

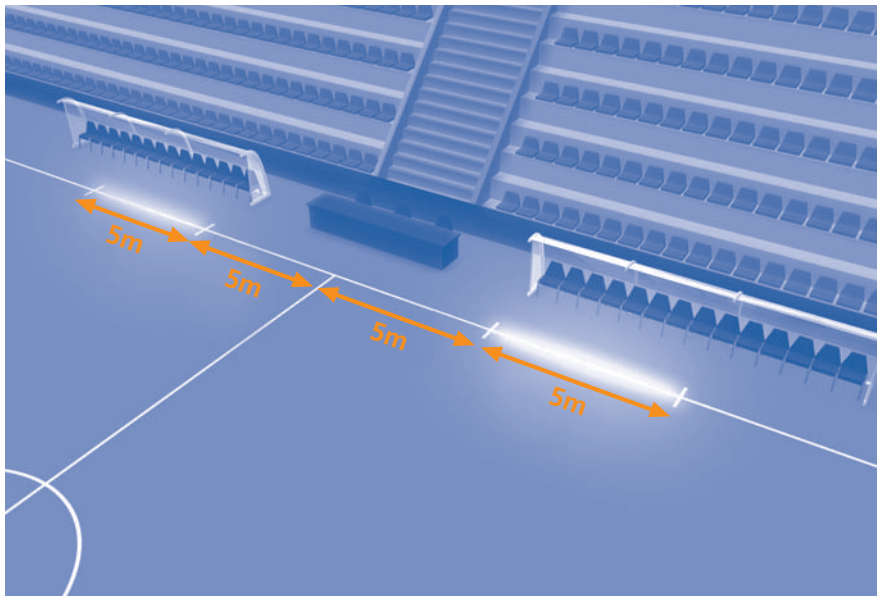
A quarter circle with a radius of 25cm from each corner is drawn inside the pitch.



Substitution zones

The substitution zones are situated on the same side of the pitch as the teams' benches and directly in front of them. This is where the players enter and leave the pitch for substitutions.

- The substitution zones are situated directly in front of the teams' benches and are five metres in length. They are marked on each side by a line, at right angles to the touch line, 8cm wide and 80cm in length, 40cm of which is drawn inside the pitch and 40cm outside the pitch.
- There is a distance of five metres between the closest end of each substitution zone and the intersection of the halfway line and the touch line. This free space, directly in front of the timekeepers' table, is to be kept clear.



The goals

Goals must be placed on the centre of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from each corner and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar.

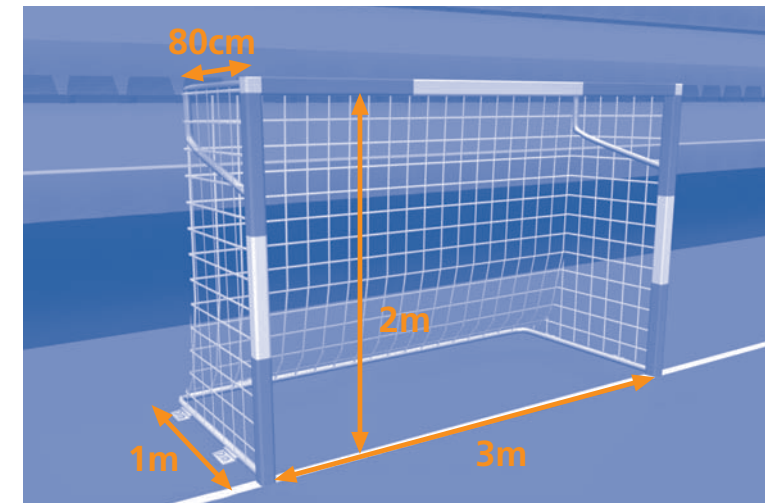
The distance (inside measurement) between the posts is three metres and the distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is two metres.

Both goal posts and the crossbar have the same width and depth of 8cm. Nets, made of hemp, jute or nylon, are attached to the posts and crossbar behind the goals. The lower part is supported by curved bars or another form of adequate support.

The depth of the goal, described as the distance from the inside edge of the goal posts towards the outside of the pitch, is at least 80cm at the top and 100cm at ground level.

Safety

The goals may be portable but they must be anchored securely to the ground during play.



1 – THE PITCH

Surface of the pitch

The surface shall be smooth and flat and non-abrasive. The use of wood or artificial material is recommended. Concrete or tarmac should be avoided.

Decisions

- 1 In the event that the goal lines measure between 15 and 16 metres, the radius of the quarter circle measures four metres. In this case, the penalty mark is no longer situated on the line defining the penalty area but remains at a distance of six metres from the midpoint between the goal posts and equidistant from them.*
- 2 A mark may be drawn outside the pitch, five metres from the corner arc and at right angles to the goal line to ensure that this distance is observed when a corner kick is taken. The width of this mark is 8cm.*
- 3 The teams' benches are situated behind the touch line directly next to the free space in front of the timekeepers' table.*

2 – THE BALL

Properties and measurements

The ball:

- is spherical;
- is made of leather or another suitable material;
- is of a circumference of not less than 62cm and not more than 64cm;
- is not less than 400 grams nor more than 440 grams in weight at the start of the match;
- is of a pressure equal to 0.4-0.6 atmospheres (400–600g/cm²) at sea level.



Replacement of a defective ball

If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a match:

- Play is stopped.
- The match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the first ball became defective* (see page 3).

If the ball bursts or becomes defective while not in play (at a kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, free kick, penalty kick or kick-in):

- The match is restarted according to the Futsal Laws of the Game.

The ball may not be changed during the match without the permission of the referee.

Decisions

- 1 *Felt balls are not permitted for international matches.*
- 2 *The ball may not bounce less than 50cm nor more than 65cm on the first rebound when dropped from a height of two metres.*

In competition matches, only balls that meet the minimum technical requirements stipulated in Law 2 are permitted for use.

In FIFA competition matches, and in competition matches organised under the auspices of the confederations, acceptance of a football for use is conditional upon the football bearing one of the following three designations:

The official "FIFA APPROVED" logo, the official "FIFA INSPECTED" logo or the "INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD" reference.

Such a designation on a football indicates that it has been tested officially and found to be in compliance with specific technical requirements, different for each category and additional to the minimum specifications stipulated in Law 2. The list of the additional requirements specific to each of the respective categories is to be issued by FIFA. The institutes conducting the tests are selected by FIFA.

Association competitions may require the use of balls bearing any one of these three designations.

In all other matches, the ball used must fulfil the requirements of Law 2.

In the event that an association imposes the use of balls bearing the "FIFA APPROVED" or the "FIFA INSPECTED" logos for its own competitions, that association must also permit the use of balls bearing the royalty-free "INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD" designation.

In FIFA competition matches and in competition matches organised under the auspices of the confederations and associations, no kind of commercial advertising on the ball is permitted, except for the emblem of the competition, the competition organiser and the authorised trademark of the manufacturer. The competition regulations may restrict the size and number of such markings.

Players

A match is played by two teams, each consisting of no more than five players, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

Substitution procedure

Substitutes may be used in any match played under the rules of an official competition at FIFA, confederation or association level.

The maximum number of substitutes permitted is seven.

The number of substitutions made during a match is unlimited.

A player who has been replaced may return to the pitch as a substitute for another player. A substitution is made when the ball is in or out of play and the following conditions are to be observed:

- The player leaving the pitch must do so from his own team's substitution zone.
- The player entering the pitch must also do so from his own team's substitution zone but not until the player leaving the pitch has passed completely over the touch line.
- A substitute is subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referees whether called upon to play or not.
- The substitution is completed when the substitute enters the pitch, from which moment he becomes an active player and the player whom he is replacing ceases to be an active player.

A goalkeeper may change places with any other player.

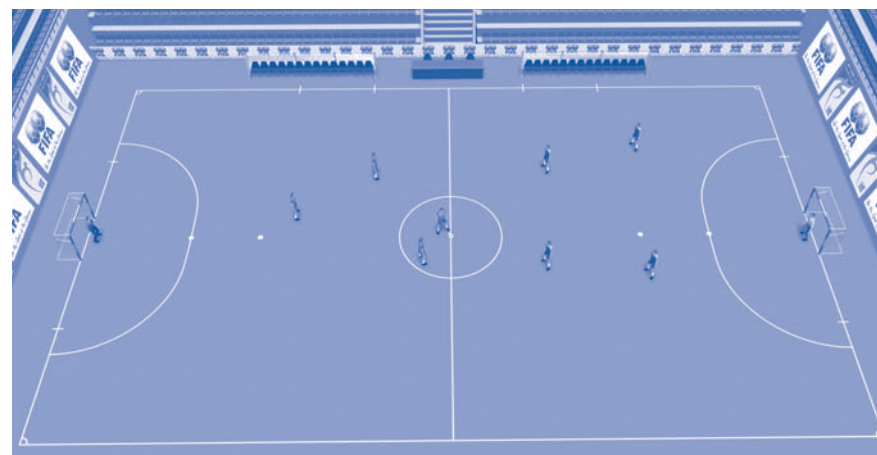
Offences/Sanctions

If, while a substitution is being made, a substitute enters the pitch before the player being replaced has completely left:

- Play is stopped.
- The player being replaced is instructed to leave the pitch.
- The substitute is cautioned, shown the yellow card and is ordered to leave the pitch to complete the substitution procedure.
- Play is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the ball was situated when the game was stopped* (see page 3).

If, while a substitution is being made, a substitute enters the pitch or a player being substituted leaves the pitch from a place other than his own team's substitution zone:

- Play is stopped.
- The offending player is cautioned, shown the yellow card and is ordered to leave the pitch to complete the substitution procedure.
- Play is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the ball was situated when the game was stopped* (see page 3).



Decisions

- 1 *At the start of a match, each team must have five players.*
- 2 *If, in the event of players being sent off, fewer than three players (including the goalkeeper) are left in either of the teams, the match must be abandoned.*
- 3 *A team official may give tactical instructions to players during a match. However, team officials must not interfere with the movements of the players and referees and they must always behave in an appropriate manner.*

Safety

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player, including any kind of jewellery.

Basic equipment

The basic compulsory equipment of a player is:

- a jersey or shirt;
- shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, these shall be of the same main colour as the shorts;
- socks;
- shinguards;
- footwear – the only types of footwear permitted are canvas or soft-leather training or gymnastic shoes with soles of rubber or a similar material.

Jersey or shirt

- Numbers between 1 and 15 must appear on the back of the shirts.
- The colours of the numbers must contrast clearly with the colours of the jersey.

For international matches, numbers must also appear on the front of the kit in a smaller size.

Shinguards

- must be entirely covered by the socks;
- must be made of a suitable material (rubber, plastic or similar substances);
- must provide a reasonable degree of protection.

Goalkeepers

- The goalkeeper is permitted to wear long trousers.
- Each goalkeeper shall wear colours that easily distinguish him from the other players and the referees.
- If an outfield player replaces a goalkeeper, the goalkeeper jersey worn by the player must be marked on the back with the player's own number.

Infringements/Sanctions

For any infringement of this Law:

- The player at fault is instructed by the referees to leave the pitch to correct his equipment or to obtain any missing item of equipment. The player may not return to the pitch without first reporting to one of the referees, who then checks that the player's equipment is now correct.

Restart of play

If the referees stop play to caution the offending player:

- Play is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was located when the referees stopped play* (see page 3).

Decisions

- 1 *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 organiser.*
- 2 *Jerseys must have sleeves.*

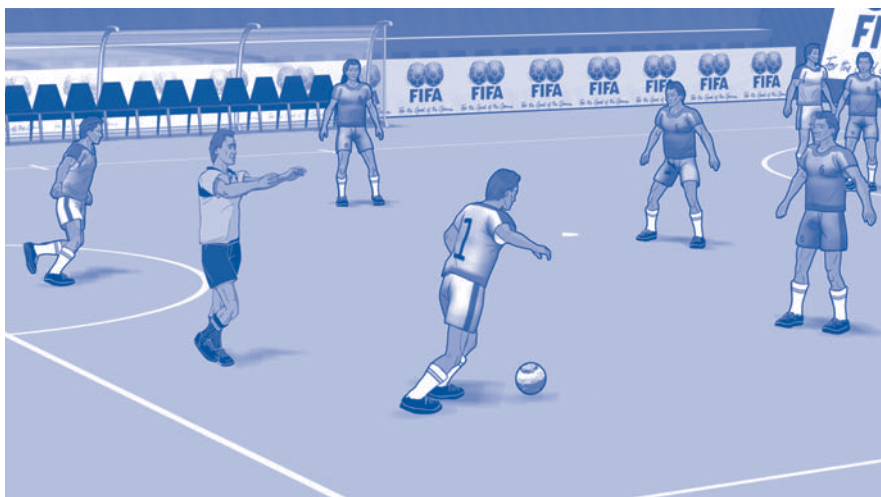
The authority of the referee

Each match is controlled by a referee, who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match for which he has been appointed, from the moment he enters the premises where the pitch is situated until he leaves.

Duties

The referee:

- enforces the Laws of the Game;
- allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed stands to benefit from such an advantage and must punish the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not accrue at that time;
- keeps a record of the match and provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, which includes information on any disciplinary action taken against players, and/or team officials as well as any other incidents that occur before, during or after the match;
- acts as a timekeeper in the event that this official is not present;
- stops, suspends or terminates the match for any infringement of the Laws or as a result of any kind of outside interference;
- takes disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and sending-off offences;
- ensures that no unauthorised persons enter the pitch;
- stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that this player is removed from the pitch;
- allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in his opinion, only slightly injured;
- ensures that any ball used meets the requirements of Law 2;
- punishes the more serious offence if a player commits more than one offence at the same time.



Decisions of the referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

The referee and the second referee may only change a decision if they realise that they have made a mistake or if they deem it necessary to do so, provided that play has not restarted or the match terminated.

Decisions

- 1 *If the referee and the second referee both signal a foul simultaneously and there is a disagreement as to which team is to be penalised, the referee's decision shall prevail.*
- 2 *Both the referee and the second referee have the right to caution or send off a player, but in the case of a disagreement between them, the referee's decision shall prevail.*

Duties

A second referee is appointed to operate on the opposite side of the pitch to the referee. He is also permitted to use a whistle.

The second referee helps the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game. The second referee also:

- has discretionary powers to stop the game for any infringement of the Laws;
- ensures, together with the referee, that substitutions are carried out properly.

In the event of undue interference or improper conduct, the referee will relieve the second referee of his duties, arrange for his replacement and submit a report to the appropriate authorities.



Decision

The use of a second referee is compulsory for international matches.

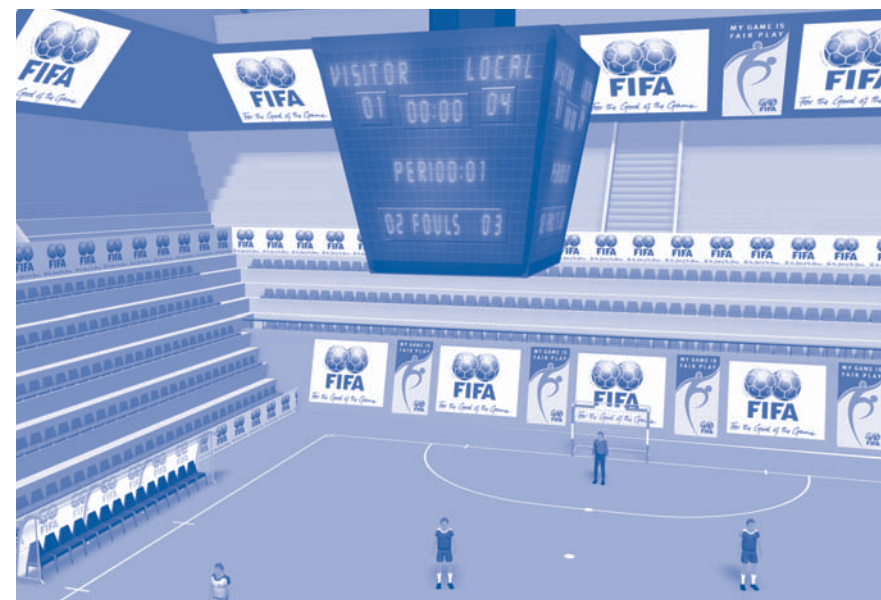
Duties

A timekeeper and a third referee are appointed. They are seated outside the pitch at the halfway line on the same side as the substitution zones.

The timekeeper and the third referee are equipped with a suitable clock (chronometer) and the necessary equipment to indicate accumulated fouls, to be supplied by the association or club on whose pitch the match is being played.

The timekeeper

- ensures that the duration of the match complies with the provisions of Law 8 by:
 - starting his clock (chronometer) when the match kicks off;
 - stopping the clock (chronometer) when the ball is out of play;
 - restarting it after a kick-in, a goal clearance, a corner kick, a free kick, kicks from the penalty mark or second penalty mark, a time-out or a dropped ball;
- checks the one-minute time-out;
- checks the two-minute effective time punishment period when a player has been sent off;
- indicates the end of the first half, the end of the match, the end of the periods of extra time and the end of time-outs with a whistle or another acoustic signal distinct from those used by the referees;
- keeps a record of all time-outs left to each team, keeps the referees and teams informed accordingly and indicates permission for a time-out when requested by the coach of either team (Law 8);
- keeps a record of the first five accumulated fouls committed by each team, registered by the referees, in each half of the match and signals when the fifth accumulated foul is committed by either team.



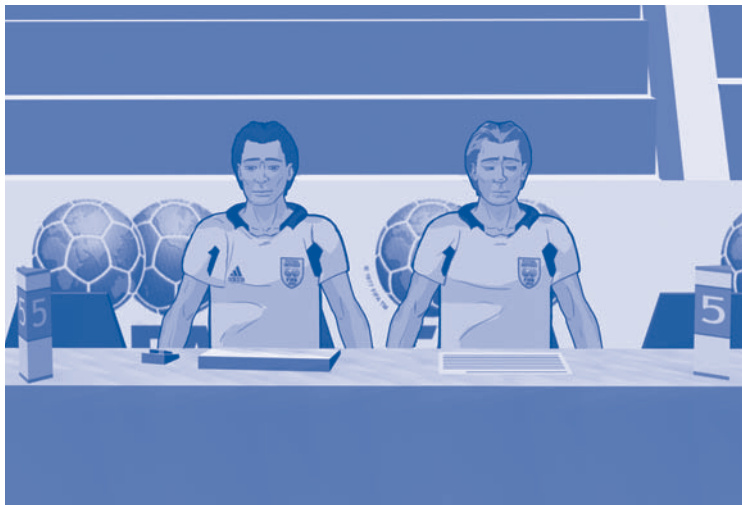
The third referee

The third referee assists the timekeeper. He:

- keeps a record of the first five accumulated fouls committed by each team, registered by the referees, in each half of the match and signals when the fifth accumulated foul is committed by either team;
- keeps a record of stoppages in the game and the reasons for them;
- takes note of the numbers of the players who score goals;
- records the names and numbers of the players cautioned or sent off;
- provides any other information relevant to the game.

In the event of undue interference by the timekeeper or the third referee, the referee will relieve either of his duties, arrange for his replacement and submit a report to the appropriate authorities.

In case of injury, the third referee may replace either the referee or second referee.



Decisions

- 1 For international matches, the use of a timekeeper and a third referee is compulsory.
- 2 For international matches, the clock (chronometer) used must incorporate all the necessary functions (precise timekeeping, a device to time the two-minute punishment period for four players simultaneously and to monitor the accumulation of fouls by each team during each half of the match).

Periods of play

The match lasts two equal periods of 20 minutes.

The timekeeping is undertaken by a timekeeper, whose duties are defined in Law 7.

The duration of either half may be prolonged to enable a penalty kick to be taken, or for a direct free kick to be taken against a team that has committed more than five accumulated fouls.



Time-out

The teams are entitled to request a one-minute time-out in each half.

The following conditions apply for a time-out:

- The team coaches are authorised to request the timekeeper for a one-minute time-out.
- A one-minute time-out may be requested at any time but is permitted only when the team requesting the time-out is in possession of the ball.
- The timekeeper indicates permission for a time-out when the ball is out of play using a whistle or another acoustic signal distinct from the ones used by the referee.
- When a time-out is granted, the players must remain on the pitch. If they wish to receive instructions from a team official, this may only be done at the touch line at the level of the team bench. The official issuing the instructions may not enter the pitch.
- A team that does not request a time-out in the first half of the match is still entitled to only one time-out during the second half.

Half-time interval

The half-time interval must not exceed 15 minutes.

Decisions

- 1 If a timekeeper is not available, the coach or captain makes a request for a time-out to the referee.
- 2 If the rules of the competition stipulate that extra time is to be played at the end of normal time, there is no time-out during extra time.

Preliminaries

A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of the match. The other team takes the kick-off to start the match.

The team that wins the toss takes the kick-off to start the second half of the match.

At the start of the second half of the match, the teams change ends and attack the opposite goals.

Kick-off

A kick-off is a way of starting or restarting play:

- at the start of the match;
- after a goal has been scored;
- at the start of the second half of the match;
- | • at the start of each period of extra time, where applicable.

A goal may be scored directly from the kick-off.

Procedure

- All players are in their own half of the field.
- The opponents of the team taking the kick-off are at least three metres from the ball until it is in play.
- The ball is stationary on the centre mark.
- The referee gives a signal.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.
- The kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

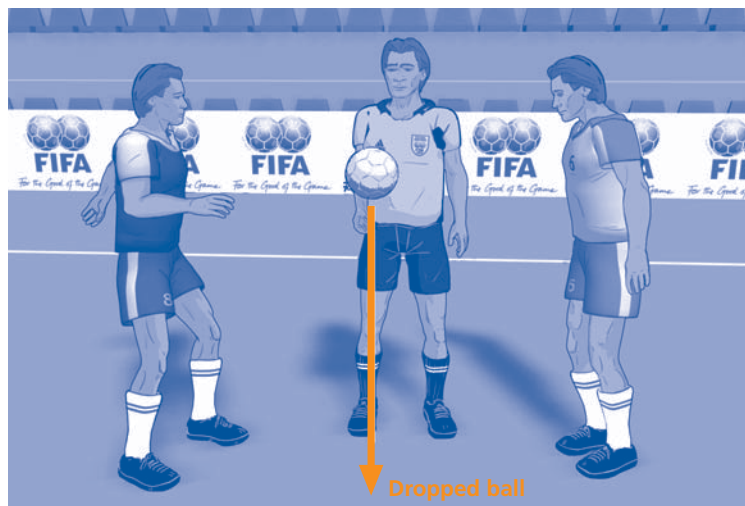
| After a team scores a goal, the kick-off is taken by the other team.

Offences/Sanctions

If the kicker touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player:

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

For any other infringement of the kick-off procedure, the kick-off is retaken.



The game restarts when the ball touches the floor.

Dropped ball

A dropped ball is a way of restarting the match after a temporary stoppage that becomes necessary while the ball is in play and provided that immediately preceding the stoppage, it has not passed over the touch line or goal line, for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the Laws of the Game.

Procedure

One of the referees drops the ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped* (see page 3).

Offences/Sanctions

The ball is dropped again:

- if it is touched by a player before it makes contact with the ground;
- if the ball leaves the pitch after it makes contact with the ground, without a player touching it.

Special circumstances

A free kick awarded to the defending team in its own penalty area may be taken from any point within that penalty area.

An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in the penalty area of the opposing team must be taken from the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the offence was committed.

A dropped ball to restart play in the penalty area must take place on the penalty area line at the point closest to where the ball was when play was stopped.

Ball out of play

The ball is out of play when:

- it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air;
- play has been stopped by the referees;
- it hits the ceiling.

Ball in play

The ball is in play at all other times, including when:

- it rebounds from a goal post or the crossbar onto the pitch;
- it rebounds from either of the referees while they are on the pitch.



Decision

When a match is played on an indoor pitch and the ball hits the ceiling, the game is restarted with a kick-in, awarded to the opponents of the team that last touched the ball. The kick-in is taken from a point on the touch line nearest to the place below which the ball hit the ceiling.

Goal scored

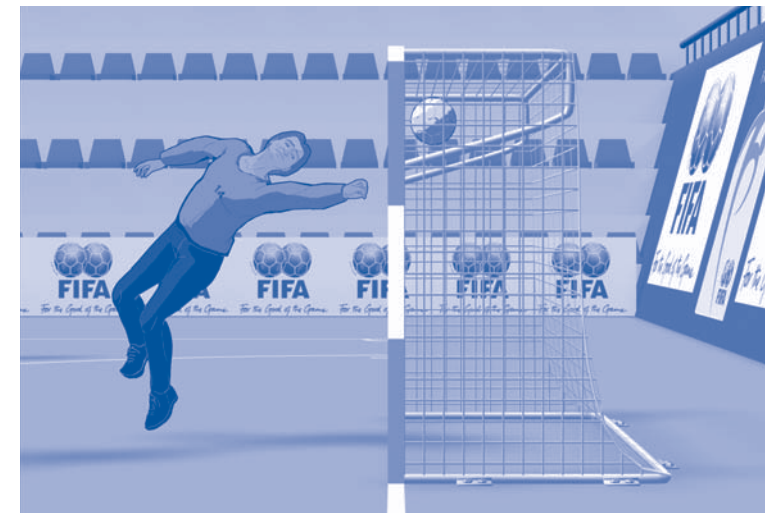
Unless otherwise provided for by these Laws, a goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, unless it has been thrown, carried or intentionally propelled by the hand or arm by a player of the attacking team, the goalkeeper included.

Winning team

The team that scores the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals or if no goals are scored, the match is drawn.

Competition regulations

For matches ending in a draw, competition regulations may state provisions involving extra time or kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match.



Fouls and misconduct are penalised as follows:

Direct free kick

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following six offences in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- tackles or attempts to tackle an opponent, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind an opponent,
- jumps at an opponent;
- charges an opponent, even with the shoulder;
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
- pushes an opponent.

A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following five offences:

- holds an opponent;
- spits at an opponent;
- slides in an attempt to play the ball when it is being played or is attempted to be played by an opponent (sliding tackle), except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area and provided that he does not play in a careless and reckless way or uses excessive force;
- touches the opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession,
- handles the ball deliberately, except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area.

A direct free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the free kick has been awarded to the defending team in its own penalty area, in which case, the free kick may be taken from any point within the penalty area.

The above-mentioned offences are accumulated fouls.

Penalty kick

A penalty kick is awarded if a player commits any of the aforementioned offences inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball but provided that it is in play.

Indirect free kick

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper commits one of the following offences:

- after releasing the ball from his possession, he receives it back from a team-mate without the ball first having passed beyond the halfway line or without it having been played or touched by an opponent;
- he touches or controls the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate;
- he touches or controls the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a kick-in taken by a team-mate;
- he touches or controls the ball with his hands or feet in his own half for more than four seconds.

An indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred, if, in the opinion of the referee, a player:

- plays in a dangerous manner;
- deliberately impedes the progress of an opponent when the ball is not being played;
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;
- commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

Disciplinary sanctions

Yellow and red cards may only be shown to players or substitutes.

The referees have the authority to pronounce disciplinary sanctions on players from the moment they enter the pitch until they leave the pitch after the final whistle.

Cautionable offences

A player or a substitute is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following offences:

- he is guilty of unsporting behaviour;
- he shows dissent by word or action;
- he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
- he delays the restart of play;
- he fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, kick-in, free kick or goal clearance;
- he enters or re-enters the pitch without the referees' permission or infringes the substitution procedure;
- he deliberately leaves the pitch without the referees' permission.

Sending-off offences

A player or a substitute is sent off and shown the red card if he commits any of the following offences:

- he is guilty of serious foul play;
- he is guilty of violent conduct;
- he spits at an opponent or any other person;
- he denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (with the exception of a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
- he denies an opponent moving towards the player's goal an obvious goalscoring opportunity by committing an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- he uses offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures;
- he receives a second caution in the same match.

Decisions

1 A player who has been sent off may not re-enter the game in progress, nor may he sit on the substitutes' bench as he must leave the vicinity of the field of play.

A substitute player may enter the pitch two complete minutes after a team-mate has been sent off, unless a goal is scored before the two minutes have elapsed, and provided he has the authorisation of the timekeeper. In this case the following apply:

- if there are five players against four and the team with the greater number of players scores a goal, the team with only four players may be completed by a fifth player;
- if both teams are playing with four players and a goal is scored, both teams remain with the same number of players;
- if there are five players playing against three, or four against three and the team with the greater number of players scores a goal, the team with three players may be increased by one more player only;
- if both teams are playing with three players and a goal is scored, both teams remain with the same number of players;
- if the team scoring the goal is the one with fewer players, the game continues without changing the number of players.

2 Subject to the terms of Law 12, a player may pass the ball to his own goalkeeper using his head, chest or knee, etc. provided that the ball has already crossed the halfway line or has been touched or played by an opponent. If, however, in the opinion of the referees, a player uses a deliberate trick while the ball is in play in order to circumvent the Law, the player is guilty of unsporting behaviour. He is cautioned, shown the yellow card and an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

In such circumstances, it is irrelevant whether the goalkeeper subsequently touches the ball with his hands or not. The offence is committed by the player in attempting to circumvent both the letter and the spirit of Law 12.

3 A tackle that endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play.

4 Any act of simulation on the field that is intended to deceive the referees must be sanctioned as unsporting behaviour.

5 A player who removes his jersey when celebrating a goal must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

Types of free kick

Free kicks are either direct or indirect.

For both direct and indirect free kicks, the ball must be stationary when the kick is taken and the kicker may not touch the ball a second time until it has touched another player.

Direct free kick

If a direct free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal is awarded.

Indirect free kick

A goal may be scored only if the ball touches another player before it enters the goal.

Position of free kick

All opponents must be at least five metres from the ball until it is in play. The ball is in play after it has been touched or kicked. When a defending team is taking a free kick from within its own penalty area, all opponents must be outside this penalty area. The ball is in play immediately after it leaves the penalty area.

Offences/Sanctions

If, when a free kick is taken, an opponent is closer to the ball than the required distance:

- the kick is retaken.

If, after the ball is in play, the kicker touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player:

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

If the team taking the free kick takes more than four seconds to do so:

- the referees award an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

Signals

Direct free kick:

- One of the referees keeps one arm horizontal, pointing in the direction the kick has to be taken. The referee points to the ground with the index finger of the other arm to let the third referee, or any game official at the table, know that it counts as an accumulated foul.

Indirect free kick:

- One of the referees indicates an indirect free kick by raising his arm above his head. He keeps his arm in that position until the kick has been taken and the ball has touched another player or goes out of play.

Accumulated fouls

- Are those punished by a direct free kick mentioned in Law 12.
- The first five accumulated fouls committed by each team during each half are recorded in the summary of the match.
- The referees may allow play to continue by applying the advantage rule if the team has not yet committed five accumulated fouls and the opposing team is not denied an obvious goalscoring opportunity.
- If they apply the advantage rule, the referees must indicate an accumulated foul to the timekeeper and third referee as soon as the ball is out of play.
- If extra time is played, accumulated fouls from the second period remain valid. Any accumulated fouls during extra time are added to the team's total from the second period.

Position of free kick

For the first five accumulated fouls recorded for either team in each half, and provided the game has been stopped:

- The players of the opposing team may form a wall to defend a free kick.
- All opponents are at least five metres from the ball until it is in play.
- A goal may be scored directly in the opponents' goal from this free kick.

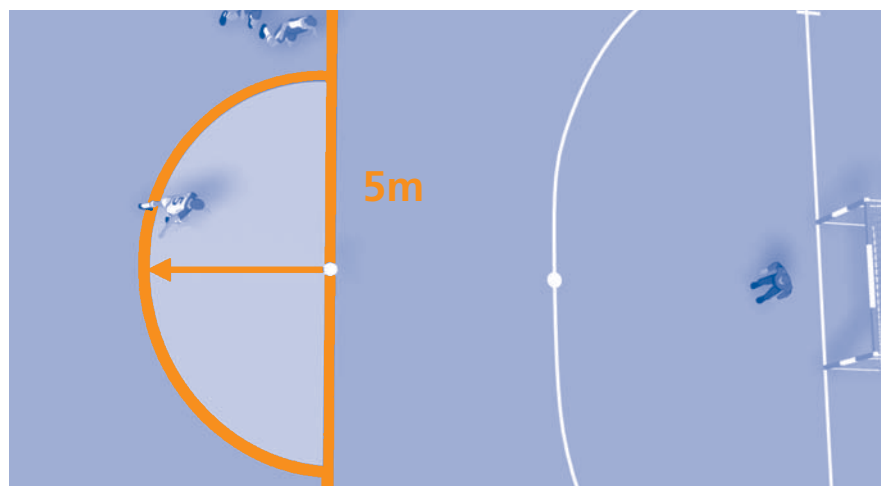


Beginning with the sixth accumulated foul recorded for either team in each half:

- The players of the opposing team may not form a wall to defend a free kick.
- The player taking the kick has to be identified properly.
- The goalkeeper must remain in his penalty area and be at least five metres from the ball.
- All the other players on the pitch must remain behind an imaginary line that is level with the ball and parallel to the goal line, and outside the penalty area. They must be five metres from the ball and may not obstruct the player taking the free kick. No player may cross this imaginary line until the ball has been touched or played.

Procedure (for the sixth and any subsequent accumulated fouls)

- The player taking the free kick must kick the ball with the intention of scoring a goal and may not pass the ball to another player.
- Once the free kick has been taken, no player may touch the ball until it has been touched by the defending goalkeeper, or has rebounded from the goalpost or crossbar, or has left the pitch.
- If a player commits the sixth foul of his team in the opposing team's half or in his own half in the area between the halfway line and an imaginary line passing through the second penalty mark 10 metres from the goal line, the free kick is taken from this second penalty mark. The second penalty mark is described in Law 1. The free kick is to be taken in compliance with the provisions stipulated under "Position of free kick".
- If a player commits the sixth foul of his team in his own half of the pitch between the 10-metre line and the goal line, but outside the penalty area, the team awarded the free kick may choose whether to take it from the second penalty mark or from the place where the infringement occurred.
- Additional time must be allowed for a direct free kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of each period of extra time.



Offences/Sanctions

- If a player of the defending team infringes this Law:
- The kick is retaken, but only if a goal is not scored.
 - The kick is not retaken if a goal is scored.

- If a player of the same team as the player taking the kick infringes this Law:
- The kick is retaken if a goal is scored.
 - If a goal is not scored, the referees stop play and restart the game with an indirect free kick to the defending team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when the infringement was committed* (see page 3).

- If the player taking the kick infringes this Law after the ball is in play:
- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

- If a player of the defending team and a player of the attacking team infringe this Law:
- the free kick is retaken.

- If a ball strikes an object after it has been played forward:
- the free kick is retaken.

- If the ball rebounds into play off a goalkeeper, the crossbar or the posts and then strikes an object:
- the referees stop play,
 - play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball struck the object* (see page 3).

The penalty kick

A penalty kick is awarded against a team that commits any of the offences for which a direct free kick is awarded, inside its own penalty area and while the ball is in play.

A goal may be scored directly from a penalty kick.

Additional time is allowed for a penalty kick to be taken at the end of each half or at the end of each period of extra time.

Position of the ball and the players

The ball:

- is placed on the penalty mark.

The player taking the penalty kick:

- is properly identified.

The defending goalkeeper:

- stays on his goal line, facing the kicker and between the goalposts until the ball has been kicked.

The players other than the kicker are located:

- on the pitch;
- outside of the penalty area;
- behind or to the side of the penalty mark;
- at least five metres from the penalty mark.



Procedure

- The player taking the penalty kicks the ball forward.
- He may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward.

When a penalty kick is taken during the normal course of play, or when time has been extended at half-time or full time to allow a penalty kick to be taken or retaken, a goal is awarded if, before passing the goalposts and under the crossbar:

- The ball touches either or both of the goalposts, and/or the crossbar and/or the goalkeeper.

Offences/Sanctions

If a player of the defending team infringes this Law:

- The penalty kick is retaken if a goal is not scored.
- The penalty kick is not retaken if a goal is scored.

If a team-mate of the player taking the kick infringes this Law:

- The penalty kick is retaken if a goal is scored.
- If a goal is not scored, the referees stop play and restart the game with an indirect free kick to the defending team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when the infringement was committed* (see page 3).

If the player taking the kick infringes this Law after the ball is in play:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

If a player of the defending team and a player of the attacking team infringe this Law:

- the penalty kick is retaken.

If a ball strikes an object after it has been played forward:

- the kick is retaken.

If the ball rebounds into play off a goalkeeper, the crossbar or the posts and then strikes an object:

- the referees stop play,
- play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball struck the object* (see page 3).

The kick-in

A kick-in is a method of restarting play.

A goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in.

A kick-in is awarded:

- when the whole of the ball passes over a touch line, either on the ground or in the air, or hits the ceiling;
- from the place where it crossed the touch line;
- to the opponents of the player who last touched the ball.

Position of the ball and the players

The ball:

- must be stationary on the touch line;
- may be kicked back into play in any direction.

The player taking the kick-in:

- has part of one foot either on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line at the moment of kicking the ball.

The players of the defending team:

- must be at least five metres from the place where the kick-in is taken.

Procedure

- The player taking the kick-in must do so within four seconds of taking possession of the ball.
- The player taking the kick-in may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.
- The ball is in play immediately after it has been kicked or touched.

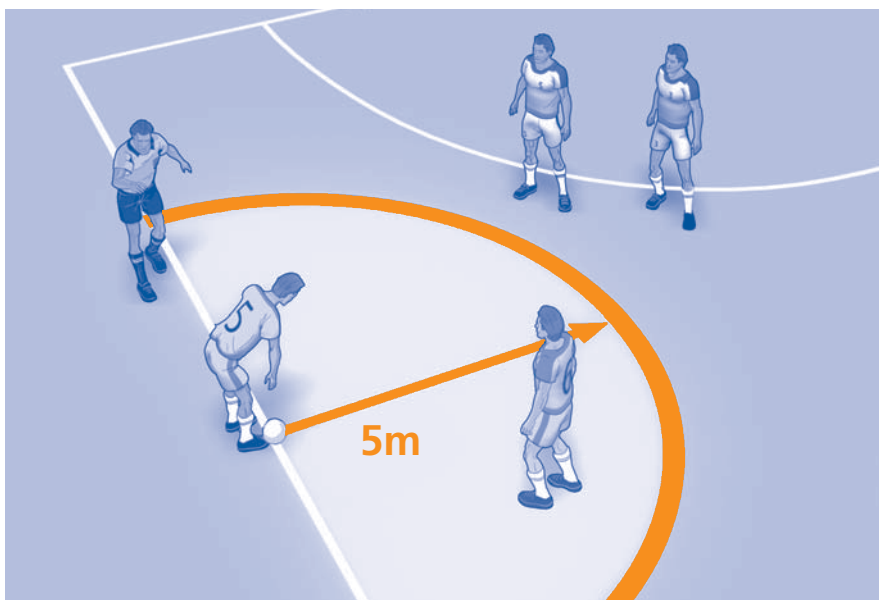
Offences/Sanctions

An indirect free kick is taken by the opposing team if:

- The player taking the kick-in plays the ball a second time before it has touched another player. The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

The kick-in is retaken by a player of the opposing team if:

- The kick-in is taken incorrectly.
- The kick-in is taken from a position other than the place where the ball passed over the touch line.
- The kick-in is not carried out within four seconds of the player taking possession of the ball.
- Any other infringement of the Law occurs.



The goal clearance

A goal clearance is a method of restarting play.

A goal may not be scored directly from a goal clearance.

A goal clearance is awarded when:

- The whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 11.

Procedure

- The ball is thrown from any point within the penalty area by the goalkeeper of the defending team.
- Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.
- The goalkeeper may not play the ball a second time until it has been played by an opponent or crossed the halfway line.
- The ball is in play when it is thrown directly beyond the penalty area.

Offences/Sanctions

If the ball is not thrown directly beyond the penalty area:

- The goal clearance is retaken.

If, once the ball is in play, the goalkeeper touches the ball a second time before it has been played by an opponent or crossed the halfway line:

- an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).

If the goal clearance is not taken within four seconds of the goalkeeper taking possession of the ball:

- An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the penalty area line from the place nearest to where the infringement occurred.

The corner kick

A corner kick is a method of restarting play.

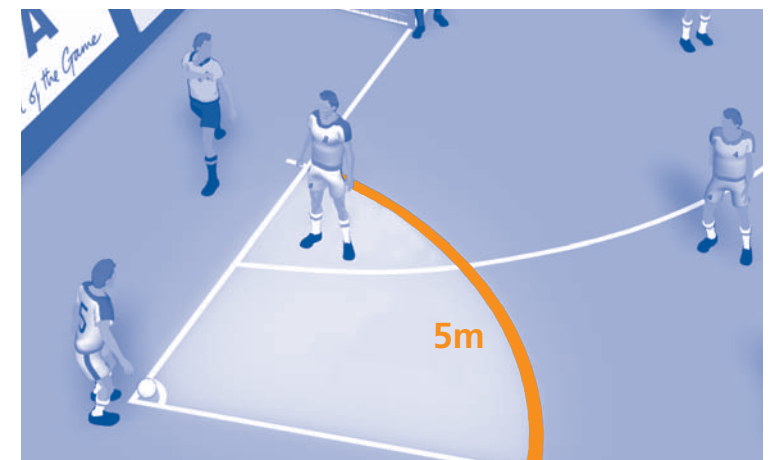
A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team.

A corner kick is awarded when:

- The whole of the ball, having last touched a player of the defending team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, and a goal is not scored in accordance with Law 11.

Procedure

- The ball is placed precisely inside the corner arc at the nearest corner.
- The opponents remain at least five metres from the ball until it is in play.
- The ball is kicked by a player of the attacking team.
- The ball is in play after it has been kicked or touched.
- The kicker may not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player.



Offences/Sanctions

An indirect free kick is taken by the opposing team if:

- The player taking the corner kick plays the ball a second time before it has touched another player. The indirect free kick is taken from the place where the infringement occurred* (see page 3).
- The corner kick is not carried out within four seconds of the kicker taking possession of the ball. The indirect free kick is taken from the corner arc.

For any other infringement:

- The corner kick is retaken.

Procedures to determine the winner of a match

Extra time and taking kicks from the penalty mark are methods of determining the winning team where competition rules require there to be a winning team after a match has been drawn.

Extra time

- Extra time consists of two equal periods of five minutes.
- If no goals are scored during the two periods of extra time, the match is decided by kicks taken from the penalty mark.

Kicks from the penalty mark

- The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken.
- The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- The referee and the timekeeper keep a record of the kicks being taken.
- Subject to the conditions explained below, both teams take five kicks.
- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
- If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken.
- If, after both teams have taken five kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, kicks continue to be taken in the same order until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks.
- All players and substitutes are eligible to take a penalty kick.
- Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.
- An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.
- Only the eligible players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.

- All eligible players, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain in the opposite half of the pitch with the third referee.
- The goalkeeper whose team-mate is taking the penalty must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area in which the kicks are being taken, and on the goal line where it meets the penalty area line.
- Unless otherwise stated, the relevant Laws of the Game and International F.A. Board decisions apply when kicks from the penalty mark are being taken.
- When a team finishes the match with a greater number of players and substitutes than their opponents, they shall reduce their numbers to equate with those of their opponents and inform the referee of the name and number of each player excluded. The team captain is responsible for ensuring that this is implemented.
- Before the start of the kicks from the penalty mark, the referee must ensure that only the same number of eligible players from each team remain in the opposite half of the pitch; these players will take the penalty kicks.



Indirect free kick

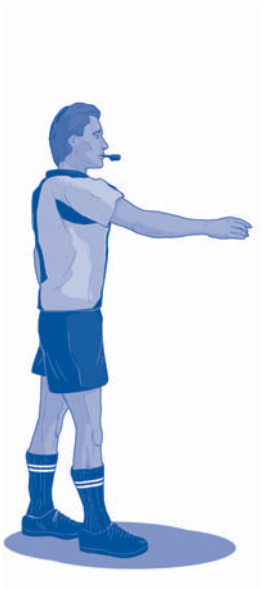


Fifth accumulated foul



Four seconds count

REFEREE SIGNALS



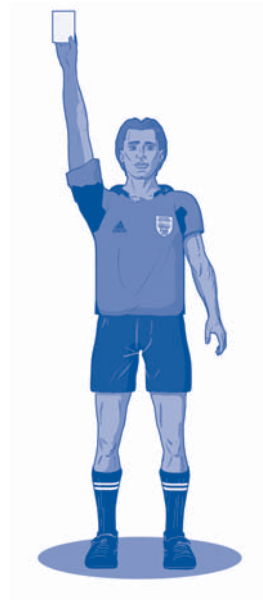
Start and restart of the game (kick-off)



Direct free kick



Advantage



Caution



Time-out



Sending-off

The aim of these additional instructions for referees, second referees, third referees and timekeepers is to ensure the correct application of the Futsal Laws of the Game.

Futsal is a competitive sport, and physical contact between the players is normal and an acceptable part of the game. However, players must respect the Futsal Laws of the Game and the principles of fair play.

Serious foul play and violent conduct are two offences that result in unacceptable physical aggression, which must be punished by expulsion from the pitch, as stated in Law 12.

Serious foul play

A player is guilty of serious foul play if he uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for the ball.

Any player who launches himself into an opposing player when challenging for the ball from the front, back or side, using one or both legs and with excessive force and putting the opponent's personal safety in danger, is guilty of serious foul play.

Violent conduct

Violent conduct can occur on or off the pitch, regardless of whether the ball is in play or not. A player is guilty of violent conduct if excessive force or brutality is used against an opponent, without either of them challenging for the ball.

The player is also guilty of violent conduct if excessive force or brutality is used against a team-mate or against any other person.

Offences against the goalkeeper

Referees are reminded that:

- It is an offence for a player to stop the goalkeeper from throwing, clearing or releasing the ball.
- A player must be punished for violent conduct if he plays or tries to play a ball with his feet when the goalkeeper is throwing, clearing or releasing the ball.
- It is an offence to restrict the goalkeeper's movements in an unsporting manner at a corner kick.

Shielding the ball

It is not an offence for a player to control a ball within playing distance by trying to shield it with his body without spreading his arms out.

However, if the player should stop the opponent taking the ball from him by using his hands, arms, legs or body in an unsporting manner, this will be punished with a direct free kick or penalty if the offence was committed in the penalty area.

Scissors kick

A scissors kick is allowed provided that it does not endanger the opponent, in the opinion of the referee.

Deliberate handball

Referees are reminded that deliberate handball is punishable with a direct free kick or penalty if the offence is committed in the penalty area. Under normal circumstances, deliberate handball should not result in a caution or sending off.

Denying an obvious goalscoring opportunity

A player will, however, be sent off if he intentionally prevents an obvious goalscoring opportunity by using his hand. This punishment is not for the deliberate handball, but rather for unacceptable and unsporting behaviour that prevented a goal from being scored.

Cautions for unsporting behaviour as a result of deliberate handball

There are circumstances which, in addition to being penalised by a direct free kick, will also result in the player being cautioned for misconduct, for example, when he:

- Touches or deliberately strikes the ball to stop the opponent receiving it;
- Tries to score a goal by deliberately touching or striking the ball with his hand.

Holding an opponent back

A common criticism levelled against referees is their inability to correctly identify and punish the offence of holding an opponent back. This inability to properly assess the action of holding a shirt or an arm can lead to controversy; referees are therefore urged to intervene immediately and firmly in these situations, according to the stipulations of Law 12.

Generally speaking, a direct free kick or penalty kick is a sufficient punishment, but under certain circumstances an additional sanction should be imposed. For example:

- A player will be cautioned for holding an opponent back to prevent him from reaching the ball or taking up an advantageous position.
- A player will be sent off for preventing an obvious goalscoring opportunity by holding back an opponent.

Advantage

When a team has committed five accumulated fouls and then commits an offence that is punishable with a direct free kick or penalty, except when there is an obvious goalscoring opportunity, referees must penalise the team for that offence.

However, if an offence is committed that is punishable with an indirect free kick according to Law 12, the referees must try to play advantage to ensure that play flows, provided that this does not lead to any retaliation or does not have a detrimental effect on the team against which the offence has been committed.

Free kicks

Referees are reminded that a player must be cautioned if:

- He fails to observe the regulation distance when play restarts.

The penalty kick

It is an infringement of the Laws of the Game for players to stand less than five metres from the penalty spot before the penalty kick is taken. The goalkeeper is likewise in breach of the Laws of the Game if he moves off his goal line before the ball is kicked.

The referees must ensure that the appropriate measures are taken if the players infringe this rule.

Kick from the second penalty mark and direct free kick without a wall

It is an infringement of the Laws of the Game for the goalkeeper to stand less than five metres from the ball before the kick is taken. The goalkeeper is also in breach of the Laws of the Game if he stands outside his penalty area before the ball is kicked.

All other players, with the exception of the player taking the kick, must stand behind an imaginary line level with the ball, parallel with the touch line, outside the penalty area and at least five metres from the ball until the ball has been played.

The referees must ensure that the appropriate measures are taken if the players infringe this rule.

Goalkeeping offences

Referees are reminded that goalkeepers may not keep possession of the ball in their hands or at their feet (within their half of the pitch) for more than four seconds. Any goalkeeper committing this offence will be penalised with an indirect free kick awarded to the opposing team* (see page 3).

Persistent offenders

Referees must always be alert to players persistently violating the Futsal Laws of the Game. It must also be noted that even if the player in question has committed different types of offences, he must be cautioned for persistently violating the Laws.

Behaviour towards the match officials

The team captains are not beneficiaries of special status or special treatment as far as the Futsal Laws of the Game are concerned, but they do have a certain degree of responsibility when it comes to their teams' behaviour.

Any player who is guilty of showing verbal dissent in respect of the referees' decisions must be cautioned.

Any player who attacks a match official or is guilty of using offensive, rude or obscene gestures or language must be sent off.

Simulation

Any player that tries to fool the referees by feigning injury or pretending to have suffered an offence will be guilty of simulation and will be punished for unsporting conduct. If the match has to be stopped as a result of this infringement, play will restart with an indirect free kick from where the offence took place* (see page 3).

Delaying the restart of the match

Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play by using the following tactics:

- Taking a free kick from the wrong place with the deliberate intention of having it retaken.
- Kicking the ball away or picking it up and holding it after the referee has stopped the game.

Goal celebrations

Even though players are allowed to express their joy when they score a goal, the celebration should not be excessive.

In FIFA circular no. 579, FIFA gave permission to celebrate the scoring of goals in a reasonable manner. However, choreographed celebrations should not be encouraged if this means that a substantial amount of time is lost. In such cases, referees should intervene.

Players will be cautioned, if, in the opinion of the referee, they do any of the following:

- Make provocative, derisory or impassioned gestures;
- Leave the pitch and enter an area in which fans are congregated in order to celebrate a goal;
- Remove their shirt or cover their head with it.

Leaving the pitch while celebrating a goal is not a punishable offence as such, but it is essential that the players return immediately.

The aim is for referees to act preventively and use common sense regarding goal celebrations.

Refreshments

Players have the right to consume refreshments during an interruption in the match, but only at the touch line. Throwing bags of water or any other type of receptacle containing water onto the pitch is not permitted.

Basic playing equipment

Goalkeepers

- Each goalkeeper shall wear colours that easily distinguish him from the other players and the referees.
- If the goalkeepers have shirts of the same colour and neither has a spare jersey to change into, the referee shall allow play to commence.

Non-basic playing equipment

- A player may not wear any piece of equipment that is dangerous to himself or another player.
- Modern protective equipment, such as headgear, face masks, shin-guards and arm protectors made of soft, light or padded material are not considered to be dangerous and are therefore permitted.
- New technology has ensured that sports glasses are safer for the player himself and for other players. Referees should therefore show tolerance and permit the use of such glasses.

Safety

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewellery).

Jewellery

All kinds of jewellery are potentially dangerous. Players may not use tape to cover items of jewellery.

Rings and ear-rings, as well as leather and rubber articles are not necessary and can only cause injuries.

The word “dangerous” can at times be ambiguous and controversial, but in the interests of uniformity and consistency, players, substitutes and match officials may not wear any type of jewellery or adornment.

Taping up jewellery does not offer sufficient protection.

To avoid last-minute problems, teams must inform their players in advance of this ban on such items.

Procedure for injured players

The referee must take into account the following instructions if a player is injured:

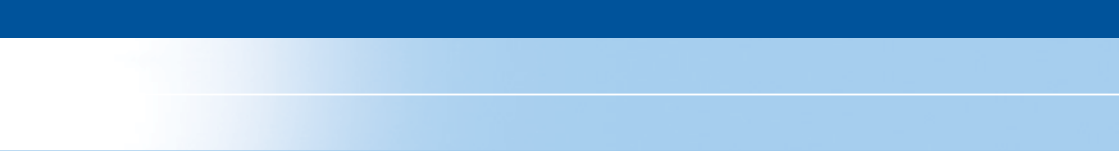
- Allow the match to continue until the ball is no longer in play if the injury is, in the referee’s opinion, a minor one.
- Stop the match if the referee considers the injury to be serious.
- After consulting the injured player, the referee will authorise one or more (maximum two) medical staff to enter the pitch to allow them to assess the injury and ensure that the player leaves the pitch safely and swiftly.
- If necessary, the stretcher-bearers will enter the pitch at the same time as the doctors to hasten the player’s departure from the pitch.
- The referee must ensure that the injured player is carried off the pitch safely and swiftly.
- The player may not be treated on the pitch.
- Any player with a bleeding wound must leave the pitch and may not return until the referee has ascertained that the wound has stopped bleeding. A player may not wear blood-stained clothing.

- As soon as the doctors have entered the pitch, the player must leave the pitch either on foot or carried off on a stretcher. If a player does not comply with this provision, he must be cautioned for deliberately delaying the restart of play.
- Assuming he has not been substituted, an injured player may return to the pitch only after the match has restarted.
- An injured player does not have to leave the pitch via the substitution zone, but over any line that marks the pitch boundaries.
- An injured player who has left the pitch or had to leave the pitch may be substituted, but the substitute must always enter the pitch via the substitution zone.
- When the ball is in play, the injured player may return to the pitch if he has not been substituted, but only from the touch line. When the ball is not in play, he may return via any boundary line on the pitch.
- Only the referees may allow an injured player who has not been substituted to return to the pitch, whether the ball is in play or not.
- If the match has not been interrupted for any other reason, or if the player’s injury is not a consequence of an infringement of the Futsal Laws of the Game, the referee will restart the match with a dropped ball from where the ball was when the match was interrupted* (see page 3).

Exceptions

Exceptions are made in the following cases only:

- Goalkeeper injury;
- When the goalkeeper and an outfield player collide with each other and require immediate treatment;
- When there is a serious injury, for example, a player has swallowed his tongue, is suffering from concussion or has broken his leg, etc.



**Futsal Laws of the Game
Questions and Answers
2005**

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Preamble

* Unless stipulated under "Special circumstances" in Law 9 – "The start and restart of play".

1. *If the crossbar breaks during a match and there are no available means of repairing or replacing it, should the match be abandoned?*
Yes. The crossbar is a part of the goal and must always be in place.
2. *Is it permissible to mark the field of play with broken lines?*
No.
3. *A goalkeeper or another player draws unauthorised marks on the field of play with his foot. What action does the referee take?*
If the referees notice this before the match starts, the offending player is immediately cautioned for unsporting behaviour.
If the referees notice this being done during the match, they caution the offending player for unsporting behaviour when the ball next goes out of play.
4. *What are the properties of the lines that mark the field of play?*
They must be clearly visible and 8cm (3ins) wide. The goal lines are the same width as that of the goalposts and the crossbar.
5. *Can additional lines not approved in Law 1 be marked on the field of play?*
It is not recommended, but as futsal is normally played in halls used for a number of sports, these lines may be accepted provided that they do not lead to mistakes by the players and referees.
6. *When a corner kick is about to be taken, can the players of the defending team be closer than the marks painted off the field of play five metres from the corner arc and at right angles to the goal line?*
These marks are optional and are used to assist the referee. All players of the defending team must be at least five metres from the ball until it is in play.
7. *Are goal nets compulsory?*
Yes.

8. *What is the minimum distance between advertising boards and the touch line?*

One metre.

9. *What are the seating arrangements for the teams on the benches?*

The officials and substitutes of a team must sit on the bench closest to the half that their team is defending. Consequently, during the half-time interval, the teams must switch benches.

10. *What is the minimum ceiling height allowed for indoor halls?*

For international matches played in halls, the minimum ceiling height allowed is five metres, with no obstacles between the playing area and the ceiling. For other matches, the regulations of the competition should stipulate the minimum height.

11. *What decision should the referees take if the ball hits the ceiling, or, for example, a basket attached to the ceiling?*

If the ball is in play, the referees must stop the match and restart it with a kick-in, to be taken by a player of the opposing team at the point where contact occurred and as close as possible to the place where the ball hit the ceiling or the object. If the ball was not in play, the game restarts according to the Laws of the Game.

12. *What distance must there be between the touch line and goal line and the spectator protection barriers?*

The regulations of each competition must stipulate the distance between these lines and the protection barriers, but the distance must be such that the safety of participants (players and spectators) is guaranteed.

1. *May additional balls be placed around the field of play for use during a match?*

Yes, provided they meet the requirements of Law 2 and their use is under the control of the referees.

2. *Is the ball considered to be an object when it is used to strike an opponent?*

Yes.

3. *During the match, another ball enters the field of play. Do the referees have to stop play immediately?*

The additional ball should be treated as an outside agent and the referees will stop the match if the additional ball interferes with play. Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was at the time the match was stopped*.

Otherwise the referees will have the extra ball removed at the earliest possible opportunity.

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS

1. *A player accidentally passes over one of the boundary lines of the field of play. Is he considered to have left the field of play without the permission of the referees?*

No.

2. *A player in possession of the ball passes over the touch line or the goal line without the ball in order to beat an opponent. What action do the referees take?*

Play continues. Going outside the field of play may be considered as part of a playing movement, but players are expected, as a general rule, to remain within the playing area.

3. *When does a substitute become a player?*

Immediately after he enters the field of play in accordance with the substitution procedure.

4. *If, before the start of a match played under the rules of a competition, a player is replaced by a named substitute without the referee having been notified, may this substitute be permitted to continue to participate in the game?*

Yes. The referees caution the player for entering the field of play without their permission. If the advantage rule cannot be applied, the referees stop play, which will be restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

5. *A player, who is not participating in the match, runs onto the field of play and kicks an opponent. What action do the referees take?*

The referees stop play, show the player the red card and send him off for violent conduct, and restart the match with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

6. *A player who is about to be replaced refuses to leave the field of play. What action do the referees take?*

They must allow play to continue as this does not fall under their jurisdiction.

7. *The match officials allow a substitute who has not been nominated to enter the field of play and he scores a goal. What action do the referees take?*

- 7.1. *If they realise their mistake before the match is restarted:*

The goal is not awarded. They should instruct the player to leave the field of play. The player who has been substituted may return to the field of play or be replaced by another nominated substitute in accordance with the substitution procedure. Play will be restarted with a dropped ball on the penalty area line at the point nearest to where the ball entered the goal.

- 7.2. *If they realise their mistake before the match is restarted:*

The goal is awarded. The referees should instruct the player to leave the field of play. The player who has been substituted may return to the field of play or be replaced by another nominated substitute in accordance with the substitution procedure. The match continues and the referee reports the situation to the appropriate authorities. If play was stopped to do so, it will be restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

- 7.3. *If they realise their mistake after the match:*

The goal is awarded. The referee should report the situation to the appropriate authorities.

8. *A substitute enters the field of play and his team plays with an extra player. While the ball is in play, an opponent punches him. What action should the referees take?*

They stop play, send off the player guilty of violent conduct, caution the substitute for entering the field of play without the permission of the referees and instruct him to leave the field of play. The match is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

9. *Player no. 4 is to be replaced by player no. 7. Player no. 4 leaves the field of play via the substitution zone. Before entering the field of play, player no. 7 strikes an opponent who is standing on the touch line. What action do the referees take?*

They show player no. 7 the red card and send him off for violent conduct. Player no. 4 may be replaced by another eligible substitute or may return to the field of play via the substitution zone since the substitution has not been completed.

10. 1. *A player changes places with the goalkeeper without informing the referees. What action should the referees take when they realise?*
10. 2. *The new goalkeeper touches the ball with his hand in his own penalty area. What action do the referees take?*

They allow play to continue in both cases. They should caution both players for unsporting behaviour when the ball next goes out of play.

11. *A player being substituted leaves the field of play via the substitution zone, and the substitute, before entering the pitch via the zone, takes a kick-in or a corner kick, ignoring the substitution procedure stated in Law 3 regarding entering the field of play. Is this permitted?*

No, the substitution procedure stated in Law 3 must first be completed. The player must enter the field of play from the substitution zone.

12. *During the half-time interval, a player is replaced by a substitute. What conditions must be observed?*

One of the match officials will be informed and the player will enter the field of play from the substitution zone.

13. *A substitute, while warming up behind his own goal, notices that his team is in danger of conceding a goal. He enters the field of play and kicks the ball, preventing it entering the goal. What decision must the referees take?*

The referees stop play, caution the substitute for entering the pitch without completing the substitution procedure, and award an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*. The substitute may not be sent off for preventing a goalscoring opportunity because he did not intentionally commit a foul on an opponent that would be punishable by a free kick.

14. *A named outfield substitute, who has not entered the pitch via the substitution zone, handles the ball intentionally. What decision must the referees take if they have seen the incident, or are informed of it by the third referee or the timekeeper?*

They must stop play if no advantage ensues for the opposing team and caution the player who entered the pitch as a substitute via an area that is not the designated one for substitutions. If the handball offence is deemed to be unsporting behaviour, the player must be sent off. If the player has simply been cautioned, he must leave the pitch to allow the correct substitution procedure to take place. If he has been sent off, he must leave the pitch for good. The match restarts with a direct free kick from where the handball incident occurred*, or with a penalty kick if the action occurred inside the offending team's own penalty area.

15. *A named substitute who has not entered the pitch via the substitution zone is fouled by an opponent while the ball is in play. What decision must the referees take?*

They must stop play and caution the substitute who entered the pitch via an area that is not the designated one for substitutions. The player must then leave the pitch and follow the correct substitution procedure. Depending on the nature of the incident, they must also caution, send off or not punish the player who fouled the substitute. The match restarts with an indirect free kick against the offending substitute's team, as this was the first offence committed; the free kick is taken at the place where the ball was when play was stopped*.

16. *A substitute, who has not entered the pitch via the substitution zone, scores a goal. The referees realise this before the match restarts and notify the third referee or the timekeeper. What decision must the referees take?*

The goal is not awarded. They must caution the player, who must then leave the pitch to allow the substitution to be executed correctly. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick from within the penalty area*.

17. *What action do the referees take if the opposing team scores the goal?*

The goal is awarded. They caution the offending player for entering the pitch without respecting the substitution procedure and order him to leave the pitch to allow the substitution to be executed correctly or to enable one of his team-mates to enter the pitch in his place.

18. *Does a player who is to be substituted have to leave the pitch via the substitution zone?*

Yes. As an exception, a player may be allowed to leave the pitch elsewhere if he is injured or for any other reason listed under Law 4. The substitute must follow the correct substitution procedure.

19. *Is it permissible for a goalkeeper to take a kick-in, corner kick, penalty kick etc.?*

Yes, he is a player of his team.

20. *During a match, the goalkeeper sprints from his goal to stop an opponent. He kicks the ball off the field of play and a kick-in is awarded to the opposing team. The momentum of the goalkeeper takes him off the field of play and before he can return, the kick-in is taken in accordance with Law 16 and a goal is scored. What action, if any, do the referees take?*

A goal is awarded since no offence has been committed.

21. *Competition regulations state that all players must be named before kick-off. A team lists only five players and the match begins. May other players who arrive after play has started take part?*

No.

22. *If no substitutes have been named and a player is sent off before play begins, may the affected team complete the side with a player who subsequently arrives?*

The team may be completed with this player provided this is allowed by the regulations of the competition.

23. *A team reports the substitutes' names to the referee before the start of the match, but they arrive after kick-off. Should the referee admit them?*

Yes. Substitutes who arrive after play has started, and who have not been named, however, are not permitted to play.

24. *A team with only three players is penalised by the award of a penalty kick and as a result, one of their players is sent off, leaving only two in the team. Does the referee allow the penalty kick to be taken or does he abandon the match before the kick is taken?*

The match must be abandoned without allowing the penalty kick to be taken. In the opinion of the International F.A. Board, a match may not continue if there are fewer than three players in either team.

25. *A player, from a team with only three players, leaves the field of play to receive medical attention. What action do the referees take?*

The match must be stopped until the player is substituted, or, if there are no more substitutes available, to allow him to receive treatment and return to the pitch. If he is unable to return to the pitch and there are no more substitutes available, the match is abandoned.

26. *The Board is of the opinion that a match should not continue if one of the teams is playing with fewer than three players. A team consisting of five players is playing against a team with only three. When the team consisting of five players is about to take a shot at goal, one of the players of the team of three deliberately leaves the field of play.*

a *Do the referees have to stop play immediately?*

No. They play advantage if possible.

b *If a goal is scored must they allow it?*

Yes.

c *What further action do the referees take?*

If the player who left the pitch does not return for the kick-off to restart play, or is not substituted, he must abandon the match and submit a report on the player's behaviour to the relevant authorities. If the player returns to the pitch, he must be cautioned for leaving the pitch deliberately without the permission of the referees. If this is his second caution of the match, the match is abandoned as his team will have fewer than three players.

27. *A team playing with six players scores a goal and the referees notice this before the restart of play. What decision must the referees take?*

The goal is not awarded. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken from within the penalty area*. The offending sixth player is cautioned for entering the field of play without the referees' permission and is instructed to leave the field of play.

28. *A team playing against a team with six players scores a goal and the referees notice this before the restart of play. What action do they take?*

The goal is awarded. The offending sixth player is cautioned for entering the field of play without the referees' permission and is instructed to leave the field of play.

29. *May a player deliberately leave the field of play to take liquid refreshment?*

Players are entitled to take liquid refreshments during a stoppage in the match but only at the touch line.

30. *Where may substitute players perform their warm-up exercises?*

If possible, behind the substitutes' benches. If this is not possible, the substitutes should warm up in an area that would not disturb the players or referees, but under no circumstances must they warm up behind the opponent's goal. Substitutes warming up must wear clothing that distinguishes them from the players on the pitch.

31. *How many persons may give instructions from the area surrounding the substitutes' bench?*

Only one official may give instructions from this area. He may stay on his feet in this area if he wishes, provided that he acts in an appropriate manner and does not impede either the players or the referees.

32. *A match is extended to allow a kick from the second penalty mark or a direct free kick without a wall to be taken. May the goalkeeper be substituted before it is taken?*

Yes. He may be substituted by another outfield player or by any eligible substitute; if he is replaced by an eligible substitute, the substitution procedure must be followed.

33. *A match is extended so that a penalty kick, a kick from the second penalty mark or a direct free kick without a wall can be taken. Can the referees allow the team taking the kick to make a substitution?*

No, only the goalkeeper of the defending team may be substituted.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

1. *If the colour of the shirts of the two goalkeepers is the same, what do the referees do if neither has another shirt to change into?*
The referees allow play to begin.
2. *According to Law 4, the players of each team and their goalkeepers must wear jerseys or shirts of different colours to distinguish them from the other players. Must the players and goalkeepers wear clothes with different colours to the players?*
Yes. The players and goalkeepers must wear clothing that distinguishes them from the match officials.
3. *When must a player be cautioned for removing his shirt while celebrating a goal?*
He must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour when he removes his shirt over his head or covers his head with his shirt.
4. *What action must the referees take if a player removes his shirt to reveal a similar shirt underneath?*
They must caution the player for unsporting behaviour.
5. *May players wear a one-piece playing suit in place of shirts and shorts?*
No.
6. *May a player wear equipment designed to protect him against injury during a match?*
Players may wear protective equipment such as knee or arm pads or face masks that meet the requirements of the Law, i.e. not dangerous to either the player himself or to other players.
7. *May a player wear spectacles during a match?*
Modern sports spectacles, made of plastic or similar material, are not normally considered to be dangerous and referees would in such circumstances be expected to allow them to be worn.
8. *The referees request a player to remove jewellery. After a number of minutes, the referees realise that the player is still wearing the jewellery. What decision must the referees take?*
They must caution the player for unsporting behaviour and instruct him to leave the pitch to remove the jewellery.
9. *Are players allowed to use tape to cover jewellery?*
No.
10. *A player accidentally loses his footwear and immediately scores a goal. Is this permitted?*
Yes. The player did not intentionally play barefoot, because he lost his footwear by accident.
11. *Is radio communication between the players and technical staff permitted?*
No.
12. *Are member associations allowed to introduce modifications or adaptations to Law 4 for their own competitions?*
No. Law 4 is not included in the permitted modifications described in the Notes on the Futsal Laws of the Game.

1. *If one of the referees, who is on the pitch, is struck in the face by the ball, which then enters the goal while he is temporarily incapacitated, should a goal be awarded?*

Yes, but only if, in the opinion of the second referee, the goal was properly scored.

2. *During a match, an object thrown by a spectator hits a match official (referee, second referee, third referee or timekeeper) or a player. Play is stopped for this person to receive medical attention. May the referee continue the match?*

Depending on the severity of the incident, the referee may allow the match to continue, suspend play or abandon the match. However, he must report the incident(s) to the appropriate authorities.

3. *Is the referee authorised to stop play if, in his opinion, the lighting is inadequate?*

Yes.

4. *Most matches are played under artificial lighting, but this sometimes fails. In such a case, if the lighting system cannot be repaired, should the whole match be replayed or just the remaining minutes?*

If the referee stops a match before the end of the stipulated playing time for any of the reasons stated in Law 5, the match will have to be replayed in full, unless the regulations of the competition state that the score will remain valid from the time when play was suspended.

5. *Can a captain send off one of his team-mates for an offence punishable by a red card?*

No, only the referees can send off a player from the field of play.

6. *Does a team captain have the right to question a refereeing decision?*

No, neither the captain nor any other player has the right to show disagreement with a decision taken by the referees.

7. *A player is guilty of a cautionable or sending-off offence, but the referees allow play to continue to give an advantage to the opposing team. When must they caution or send off the offending player?*

He must be cautioned or sent off when the ball next goes out of play.

8. *The referees allow the match to continue when a player is guilty of a cautionable offence. Play is then stopped to award a free kick to the team against which the initial offence was committed. A player takes the free kick quickly to gain an advantage. Is this permitted?*

No. The referees must not allow the kick to be taken quickly. They must caution the initial offending player before play is restarted.

9. *Can the referees show yellow or red cards during the half-time interval or after the match has finished?*

Yes. The referees may caution or send off players until they leave the pitch.

10. *What must a referee do if the two captains agree to forego the half-time interval but one of the players insists on his right to take an interval?*

Players have a right to an interval and the referee must grant it.

11. *Are the referees empowered to order team officials away from the boundary lines of the field of play?*

Yes, the referees have the right to take such measures even if the match is being played on public ground.

12. *A team official is guilty of misconduct. What action do the referees take?*

They send the official from the substitutes' bench and its vicinity to a place behind the boundary fences (where such a fence exists). The referees must report this conduct to the appropriate authorities.

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

13. *The ball passes over the touch line, but before the referees declare the ball out of play, a defending player inside the penalty area strikes an attacking player. What action must the referees take?*

The defending player is sent off for violent conduct and shown the red card. Play is restarted with a kick-in since the ball was out of play when the offence occurred.

14. *How must the referees react if, during the course of a match, they realise that one of the teams is deliberately trying to lose? Must they draw the attention of the team in question to the fact that if they continue to play in that way, they will terminate the game in accordance with the provisions of Law 5?*

The referees have no right to stop the match in this case.

15. *While the ball is in play, two opposing players commit offences at the same time. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play, and depending on the offences, caution or send off the players, or take no disciplinary action. The match is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was when the offences were committed*.

16. *A spectator blows a whistle and a defender inside his own penalty area picks up the ball with his hands, assuming that play has been stopped. What action do the referees take?*

The referees must consider the whistle to be outside interference, stop the match and restart it with a dropped ball*.

LAW 6 – THE SECOND REFEREE

1. *If the referee is injured, does the second referee have to replace him?*

Yes, the third referee would replace the second referee and the timekeeper would assume the duties of the third referee.

2. *During a match for which no third referee has been named, the referee decides to relieve the second referee of his duties, or the second referee injures himself. May the timekeeper assume the duties of the second referee?*

Yes, if the timekeeper is equipped to do so, and the timekeeper may also be substituted.

3. *May the second referee enter the pitch to signal a foul, line up a wall, caution a player, etc.?*

Yes.

4. *The second referee shows the yellow card to a player, but at the same time, the referee shows the red card to the same player. Whose decision prevails?*

The main referee's. Whenever there is a difference of opinion, the main referee's decision shall prevail?

5. *What does the second referee do after a goal has been scored?*

As he is the referee closest to the timekeeper's table, he approaches the timekeeper to inform the third referee, if present, and the timekeeper of the number of the player who scored the goal.

6. *What are the second referee's duties during the execution of a penalty kick?*

To check if the ball has completely crossed the goal line and to check that the goalkeeper does not advance off his line before the ball is in play.

7. *What are the second referee's duties during the execution of a kick from the second penalty mark or during a direct free kick without a wall?*

The same duties as for a penalty kick.

1. *A goal kick or direct free kick to the defending team is taken in that team's own penalty area. Should the stopwatch be started before the ball leaves the penalty area?*
No. The stopwatch must be started once the ball is in play.
2. *Who determines whether a goal was scored before, at the same time as, or after the acoustic signal has sounded at the end of a period of play?*
The main referee. If an offence occurs that results in a direct free kick without a wall, a kick from the second penalty mark or a penalty, the main referee still has to decide if the incident occurred before, at the same time as, or after the acoustic signal.
3. *The timekeeper triggers the acoustic signal by mistake while the ball is in play. What decision must the referees take?*
If the acoustic signal does not cause any detrimental effect to either team, the referees will allow the match to continue, indicating this with gestures. If the match has to be stopped, play will restart with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was when the match was interrupted*.
4. *A player leaves the pitch without authorisation from the referees, for reasons that are not authorised in the Futsal Laws of the Game. Should the third referee or timekeeper inform the referees?*
Yes, if the advantage rule cannot be applied. If not, the acoustic signal should be sounded to inform the referees that if they stop the game, the offending player's team should be punished by the award of an indirect free kick, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when the offence was committed*. If the advantage rule was applied, the acoustic signal should be sounded during the next break in play. The player must be cautioned for deliberately leaving the pitch without the referees' permission.
5. *After an interruption in play, the timekeeper forgets to restart the stopwatch. What must the referees do?*
They must insist that the time not counted by the stopwatch be added.
6. *A player's two-minute expulsion period is over. Who authorises his substitute to enter the pitch?*
Either of the match referees, the third referee or the timekeeper.
7. *One of the teams commits its fifth accumulated foul. How must the third referee and the timekeeper proceed?*
They must indicate this to the referees with the acoustic signal, so that the referees can then warn the offending team. They must also place the five-accumulated-fouls sign on the stopwatch table closest to the half being defended by the offending team.
8. *The main public-display stopwatch at the venue where the match is being played stops working. What must the referees do?*
The timekeeper must always carry a pocket stopwatch with him so that he can still time the match. If this situation occurs, an official from each of the teams may ask the timekeeper how much time has been played, etc. The pocket stopwatch will also be used for the time-outs if there is no other possibility available in the hall.
9. *The timekeeper or the third referee realises that the official stopwatch is not working properly. Whom must they inform?*
The referees.
10. *A substitution takes place that does not comply with the procedure laid down in the Futsal Laws of the Game. What must the timekeeper or third referee do?*
If the ball is in possession of the team that has committed the offence, the acoustic signal must be sounded to notify the referees; if not, it must be sounded the next time play is halted.

LAW 8 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

- 1. Extra time is to be played to determine the winner of a match. Are players entitled to an interval at half-time of extra time?*

It is generally accepted that players are entitled to an interval between the end of normal play and the start of extra time. It is not normal for there to be another interval between the two periods of extra time.
- 2. Must the referees take into account the progress of a move or the position of the ball when they whistle for the end of each period of play?*

No. They must simply comply with the criteria laid down for correct timing and with the Futsal Laws of the Game.
- 3. Can a penalty kick, a kick from the second penalty mark or a direct free kick without a wall be followed by second-phase play?*

No.
- 4. Law 8 refers to the duration of a match. Does this refer to the actual playing time?*

Yes.
- 5. When is the stopwatch started for a kick-off?*

When the ball moves towards the opposing side of the pitch after it has been kicked.
- 6. A kick from the second penalty mark or a direct free kick without a wall is being taken or retaken out of normal playing time. What action must the referee take if the ball bursts or deflates before it hits the posts, crossbar or goalkeeper, without having crossed the goal line or touch line?*

The referee must order the kick to be retaken with a new ball.

LAW 9 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

- 1. May the kick-off be taken by a person other than one of the players taking part in the match?*

No. If, in certain matches (e.g. charity or exhibition matches) a ceremony is arranged for a person not taking part in the game to kick the ball, it must be brought back to the centre of the pitch and the match kicked off in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 2. Who blows his whistle for the start of the match after the timekeeper's acoustic signal has been sounded?*

The main referee, who must stand close to the halfway line. The second referee must stand level with the penultimate defender of the team that is not kicking off.
- 3. When extra time is played, which team kicks off?*

A coin is tossed and the team that wins the toss decides which goal it will attack in the first half of extra time. The other team takes the kick-off.
- 4. May a goalkeeper join other players at a dropped-ball situation?*

Yes. Any player can take part in a dropped-ball situation.
- 5. When play is about to be started with a dropped ball, the players of one team refuse to take part. What decision must the referees take?*

Play is restarted with a dropped ball. It is not necessary for each team to be present for the restart with a dropped ball.
- 6. When the ball is dropped to restart play, it bounces out of play without having been touched by a player. What action do the referees take?*

Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the same position as before.
- 7. Should there be any specific distance between the players during a dropped ball?*

No, only the logical distance that allows the players room to move and the dropped ball to be executed properly.

LAW 9 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

8. *A kick-off is taken and the ball runs along the halfway line and crosses the touch line. What decision must the referees take?*

They must order the kick-off to be retaken. The timekeeper should not have started the stopwatch, as the ball was not properly in play.

9. *Before kick-off, should the referee confirm with the goalkeepers and players that they are ready to start the match?*

No. The referees should merely be concerned that the pitch is clear and that only the players are on it. The timekeeper and the third referee must ensure that the substitutes and officials are correctly seated on their benches.

LAW 10 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

1. *Is the ball out of play if any part of the ball touches either the goal line or the touch line?*

No, the whole of the ball must cross these lines completely for it to be out of play.

1. *If a referee signals a goal before the ball has passed wholly over the goal line and immediately realises his error, what action must he take?*

Play is restarted with a dropped ball*.

2. *A goalkeeper scores a goal by using a part of his body other than his hands or arms to propel the ball directly into the opponent's goal. Should the goal be awarded?*

Yes, provided no law has been contravened.

1. *When the ball is about to be dropped within the penalty area, a defending player violently strikes an opponent before the ball touches the ground. What action do the referees take?*

They send off the player for violent conduct and restart play with a dropped ball, as this is a case of misconduct, not a foul.

2. *While the ball is in play, two players of the same team commit unsporting behaviour or violent conduct towards each other on the field of play. What action do the referees take?*

The referees caution them or send them off and restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when the infringement was committed*.

3. *While the ball is in play, the goalkeeper strikes an opponent whose momentum has carried him off the pitch into the area enclosed by the goal line and the goal nets. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play, send off the goalkeeper and restart play with a dropped ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped*.

A penalty kick is not awarded, as the area in which the incident occurred is not part of the field of play.

4. *An attacker goes past the goalkeeper and kicks the ball towards the open goal. A defender throws a boot or similar object, which strikes the ball and prevents it entering the goal. What action do the referees take?*

The boot or similar object must be considered as an extension of the player's arm. Play is stopped, the goalkeeper's team is punished by the award of a penalty kick and the offending player is sent off for preventing a goal by deliberately handling the ball.

5. *An attacker goes past the goalkeeper and kicks the ball towards the open goal. The goalkeeper throws a boot or similar object, which strikes the ball and prevents it entering the goal. What action do the referees take?*

The goalkeeper is cautioned for unsporting behaviour and the match is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken from the point on the penalty area line nearest to where the ball was when it was struck by the object.

6. *A player, other than the goalkeeper, standing in his own penalty area holding a shinguard, hits the ball with his shinguard to prevent it entering the goal. What action do the referees take?*

The referees award a penalty kick and the player is sent off for preventing a goal. The shinguard must be regarded as an extension of the player's hand.

7. *What happens if, in a similar situation, the player in question is the goalkeeper?*

The referees stop play, caution the goalkeeper for unsporting behaviour and restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team*.

8. *A player who has left the field of play to receive medical treatment but is not substituted trips an opponent who is on the pitch. What action do the referees take?*

They caution the player for entering the pitch without the referees' permission. The trip could be subject to a disciplinary sanction if the referees judge it to be a foul. They restart play with a direct free kick*.

9. *A player enters the pitch in accordance with the substitution procedure and then deliberately handles the ball. What action do the referees take?*

They restart play with a direct free kick or penalty kick*. If, in the opinion of the referees, the player is also guilty of unsporting behaviour by deliberately handling the ball, he is also cautioned. If, in the opinion of the referees, the player is also guilty of denying a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity, the player is sent off.

10. *A player running with the ball sees a defender immediately in front of him and runs off the field of play to continue playing the ball. The opponent holds him beyond the touch line to prevent him continuing his run. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play and caution the defender for unsporting behaviour. Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*, as this is a case of misconduct, not a foul.

11. *While the ball is in play, a player standing inside his own penalty area throws an object at an opponent standing outside that penalty area. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play and send off the player who threw the object for violent conduct. Play is restarted with a direct free kick to the opponents' team, to be taken from the place where the offence occurred, i.e. where the object struck or would have struck the opponent*.

12. *A player on the pitch throws an object e.g. a boot, at a person seated on the substitutes bench. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play and send off the player who threw the object for violent conduct. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken from where the player threw the object*.

13. *While the ball is in play, a substitute throws an object e.g. a boot, at a player of the opposing team. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play and send off the substitute for violent conduct. The match is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

14. *A player standing in his own penalty area strikes the referee. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play and send off the player for violent conduct. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the point on the penalty area line at the place nearest to where the offence occurred.

15. *A goalkeeper standing inside his own penalty area deliberately handles the ball just outside the penalty area. What action do the referees take?*

They award a direct free kick to the opposing team. If, in the opinion of the referees, the goalkeeper is also guilty of unsporting behaviour or denying an opponent an obvious goalscoring opportunity, they would apply further appropriate sanctions.

16. *A goalkeeper controls the ball with his hands in the penalty area, and passes it to a team-mate who is also within the penalty area. The latter mis-kicks the ball towards his own goal. The goalkeeper touches it with his hands but fails to stop it entering the goal. What action do the referees take?*

They award the goal.

17. *While in his penalty area, a goalkeeper holds the ball in his hands then places it on the ground and takes it outside the penalty area. He then decides to re-enter the penalty area and touches the ball again with his hands. What action do the referees take?*

They award an indirect free kick to the opposing team after more than four seconds have elapsed*.

18. *A goalkeeper in possession of the ball, but not for a goal clearance, bounces it before kicking it upfield. Is it an offence to bounce the ball?*

No. In the spirit of the Law he would not be regarded as having released the ball from his possession, unless more than four seconds have elapsed.

19. *If a goalkeeper is bouncing the ball, may an opponent play the ball as it touches the ground without being guilty of dangerous play?*

No.

20. *After taking possession of the ball, a goalkeeper allows it to lie on his open hand. An opponent comes from behind him and heads the ball from his hand. Is this permitted?*

No.

21. *As a goalkeeper throws, clears, releases – apart from at a goal clearance – or kicks the ball back into play, an opponent intercepts it before it touches the ground. Is this permitted?*

No. It is an offence to prevent the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands. Throwing, releasing and kicking the ball is regarded as a single action.

22. *A player of the defending team, other than the goalkeeper, standing outside the penalty area, deliberately handles the ball within the penalty area. What action do the referees take?*

They award a penalty kick. The offence of deliberate handball includes the illegal use of either hand or arm.

23. *A kick-in is taken by the attacking team and the ball goes to the defending goalkeeper. The goalkeeper misses the ball completely and a team-mate punches the ball over the bar. What decision must the referees take?*

They award a penalty kick and caution the player for unsporting behaviour. The player is not sent off as he has not prevented a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity, as a goal cannot be scored directly from a kick-in.

24. *A player tries to prevent the ball entering the goal by deliberately handling it. The ball, however, enters the goal. What decision must the referees take?*

They caution the player for unsporting behaviour and award the goal.

25. *A player, apart from the goalkeeper in his own penalty area, handles the ball deliberately, trying to prevent it reaching an opponent. Although he touches the ball, he fails to prevent his opponent receiving it. What action do the referees take?*

If the referees played advantage, they caution the offending player for unsporting behaviour during the next stoppage in play.

26. *A player stops the progress of an opponent with physical contact. What decision must the referees take?*

They punish the offending player's team with a direct free kick or a penalty kick for holding an opponent.

27. *Is it permitted for the referees to show a red card to a substitute to indicate he must leave the substitutes bench and go to the changing room, whether or not he has taken part in the match, for his use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures?*

Yes. All players and substitutes come under the jurisdiction of the referees whether they are on the field of play or not. The use of the red card is to give a clear indication that a sanction is being issued.

28. *A player intentionally lies on the ball for an unreasonable length of time. What action do the referees take?*

They stop play, caution the player for unsporting behaviour and restart play with an indirect free kick to the opposing team*.

29. *One of the referees cautions a player, who then apologises for his misconduct. Can the referee decide not to report the incident?*

No, all cautions must be reported.

30. *Can referees show yellow or red cards to team officials?*

No. Cards may only be shown to players or substitutes, but the referees may take disciplinary action against officials and even send them off (away from the bench). In such a case, they must include this in their report.

31. *A player challenging for the ball makes contact with the opposing goalkeeper, who is in his own goal area. Is this permitted?*

Challenging the goalkeeper is permitted. A player would be only penalised if the challenge was a jump, a charge or a push on the goalkeeper, which was careless, reckless or with excessive force.

32. *Is it permitted for two or more players to challenge an opponent at the same time?*

Yes, provided the challenges were legal.

33. *A defender starts holding an attacker outside the penalty area but finishes inside the penalty area. What decision must the referees take?*

The defender is penalised by the award of a penalty kick.

34. *A player plays in a dangerous manner, raising his leg when the opponent tries to head the ball, and he makes contact with the opponent's head. What decision must the referees take?*

They punish the offending player's team by the award of a direct free kick or penalty kick.

35. *Can referees play advantage when the four-second rule is broken?*

They may play advantage only if the offence is committed by the goalkeeper when he has the ball in his half of the pitch and controls it with his hands or feet and then loses it. In all other situations, this action is not considered as an offence; consequently the advantage rule is not applicable.

36. *A player enters the pitch after one of his team-mates has completed the two-minute expulsion period and after he has received authorisation to do so from the third referee or timekeeper. From which area of the pitch should he enter?*

From his team's substitution zone; if not, he will be punished for breaching the substitution rules laid down in the Futsal Laws of the Game.

37. *A player asks to leave the field of play but, as he is walking off, the ball comes towards him and he kicks the ball into the goal. What action do the referees take?*

They caution the player for unsporting behaviour. The game is restarted with an indirect free kick, to be taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred*.

38. *The third referee or the timekeeper signals that a player is guilty of violent conduct. The referees do not see the offence or the signal and the offending player's team scores a goal. One of the referees then hears or sees the signal of the third referee or timekeeper. What action do they take?*

They disallow the goal, send off the guilty player and restart the match with a direct free kick*.

39. *After a goal is scored, one of the referees sees or hears a signal from the third referee or timekeeper. The third referee or the timekeeper informs the referees that before the ball entered the goal, the goalkeeper of the team that scored the goal punched an opponent inside his own penalty area. What action do the referees take?*

They disallow the goal, send off the goalkeeper for violent conduct and award a penalty kick to the opposing team.

40. *When is a sliding tackle aimed at playing the ball with the feet considered to be legal?*

When the opponent does not have control of the ball; if the tackle occurs when the opponent has control of the ball and the referees consider the action to be foul play, the offending player should be sent off.

41. *A player moves towards the opposing goal and has a clear scoring opportunity. The opposing goalkeeper comes out of his penalty area and dispossesses the player with his feet by means of a sliding tackle. What action do the referees take?*

They send the goalkeeper off for preventing a clear goalscoring opportunity and award a direct free kick against his team. They must also award an accumulated foul against his team and restart the match with a direct free kick, to be taken from the place where the offence occurred.

42. *A goalkeeper passes the ball to an outfield player in his team, who then passes it straight back. The ball does not leave their half of the pitch. What action must the referees take?*

They must award an indirect free kick against the goalkeeper's team at the place where he touched the ball the second time*.

If the goalkeeper plays the ball with his hands outside his penalty area on that second occasion, the match restarts with a direct free kick from where the offence took place.

43. *A team is playing with one less player following a sending off; a second player of the same team is then sent off immediately afterwards. While the team is playing with two players off the pitch, they concede a goal. How many players may come onto the pitch after the goal, bearing in mind that the two minutes have not passed since the players were sent off?*

Only one player may come onto the pitch; the other player must wait for the two minutes to elapse, unless the opposing team scores another goal.

44. *A player commits a foul, but the referees play the advantage rule and the attacking team scores a goal. The offending player then receives his second caution of the match or is sent off. Does his team have to play for two minutes with one player less?*

No, because the foul was committed before the goal was scored. The offending player may not take any further part in the match, but he may be substituted in accordance with the directives laid down in Law 12, decision 1.

1. *A player takes a free kick from outside his own penalty area and then touches the ball again by deliberately handling the ball before another player has played it. What action do the referees take?*

They punish the more serious offence by awarding a direct free kick* or a penalty kick if the offence took place inside the penalty area.

2. *A team is awarded a direct free kick in its own penalty area. The player taking the kick passes it directly to his goalkeeper, who misses it and the ball enters the goal. What action do the referees take?*

The kick is retaken, as the ball is not in play until it has passed outside the penalty area.

3. *A team is awarded an indirect free kick on its own penalty area line. The player taking the kick hits it against a team-mate who is inside the penalty area and the ball enters the goal. What action do the referees take?*

The kick is retaken, as the ball is not in play until it has passed outside the penalty area.

4. *When a goal kick or a free kick is taken from within a player's own penalty area, when may opposing players enter the penalty area?*

The players may not enter until the ball has passed outside the penalty area.

5. *May a free kick be taken by lifting the ball with a foot or both feet simultaneously?*

Yes. The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves.

6. *When taking a free kick awarded to their team, may players use feinting tactics to confuse opponents?*

Yes, it is permitted and is part of futsal. However, if any opponents move nearer than five metres from the ball before it is in play, they are cautioned for failing to respect the required distance. The four-second count should be stopped and restarted when the situation returns to normal. If the team taking the free kick takes longer than four seconds, the referees should award an indirect free kick to the opposing team*.

7. *An indirect free kick is awarded to the attacking team outside the opponents' penalty area. Neither of the referees raises his arm to indicate that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal. What action do the referees take?*

The indirect free kick must be retaken as the initial offence punished by an indirect free kick is not annulled by the referees' error.

8. *A player takes a free kick quickly and the ball enters the goal. The referees did not have enough time to indicate that the free kick was indirect. What action must the referees take?*

They must order the indirect free kick to be retaken from the original position, as they did not have enough time to indicate this.

9. *A free kick is awarded and the player decides to take the kick quickly. An opponent, who is less than five metres from the ball, intercepts it. What decision must the referees take?*

They allow play to continue.

10. *A free kick is awarded and the player decides to take the kick quickly. An opponent who is near the ball deliberately prevents him taking the kick. What decision must the referees take?*

They caution the opponent and show him a yellow card for delaying the restart of play.

1. *A player commits an offence that, according to Law 12, must be penalised with a direct free kick, but the ball is not in play. What decision must the referees take?*

An offence must have taken place rather than a foul. Consequently, it will not be counted as an accumulated foul. The referees may take disciplinary measures, depending on the nature of the offence committed.

2. *While the ball is in play, a substitute commits an offence that is punishable with a direct free kick. What decision must the referees take?*

If the substitute infringes the substitution rule, his team will have a direct free kick awarded against them if advantage cannot be played because the infringement was a more serious one. However, an accumulated foul will be recorded for his team, irrespective of whether advantage was played or not.

If the substitute entered the pitch and this meant that his team had one more player on the pitch than is allowed, the offence is not considered as a foul; consequently, the offence is not counted as an accumulated foul. If the match had to be stopped because advantage could not be played, play will restart with an indirect free kick to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the ball was located when play was stopped*.

In any event, the referees must take the necessary disciplinary measures.

3. *The referees play advantage after an offence, where, if play had been stopped, the match would have been restarted by a direct free kick. Should they record an accumulated foul against the offending player's team once the ball is out of play?*

Yes. If the referees apply the advantage rule, they should indicate to the timekeeper and the third referee that an accumulated foul is to be recorded against the offending player's team by using a signal consisting of lifting the index finger of the right hand with the left arm pointing towards the goal of the team that committed the offence.

If the aforementioned player is guilty of misconduct, he must be cautioned when the ball is no longer in play.

4. *Two players on different sides commit a foul punishable by a direct free kick at exactly the same time. Should these fouls be recorded as accumulated fouls?*

No, because play will be restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when the fouls were committed*.

5. *A number of players on the same side commit a foul punishable by a direct free kick at exactly the same time. Should these fouls be recorded as accumulated fouls?*

Yes, because the referees stop the game on account of these fouls being committed.

6. *When a penalty kick or a free kick without a wall is being taken, and after the referee has given the necessary signal, a team-mate of the player identified to take the kick suddenly rushes forward and takes it instead. What action does the referee take?*

The referee stops play and restarts the game with an indirect free kick to the defending team, to be taken from where the offence was committed*, for example, from the place where the player was standing within five metres of the ball.

7. *When a kick is taken from the second penalty mark without a wall, the ball strikes the goalpost and/or crossbar and bursts. What action do the referees take?*

If the ball enters the goal directly after striking the posts or the crossbar, the goal is awarded.

If the ball does not enter the goal directly after striking the posts or the crossbar, the goal is not awarded. The ball is replaced and play is restarted with a dropped ball*. If the match has been extended at the end of a period or at the end of the periods of extra time to allow a kick from the second penalty mark or a kick without a wall to be taken, the period is declared over.

8. *A kick from the second penalty mark or a direct free kick without a wall is being taken or retaken out of normal playing time. What action should the referee take if the ball bursts or deflates before it hits the posts, crossbar or goalkeeper, without having crossed the goal line/ touch line?*

The referee must order the kick to be retaken with a new ball from either the second penalty mark or without a wall.

1. *The referee orders a penalty kick to be retaken because the goalkeeper moves forward from his goal line. May a different player take the retaken penalty kick?*

Yes.

2. *When a penalty kick is being taken, the goalkeeper advances before the ball is kicked and intercepts it in front of the goal line. What action do the referees take?*

They order the kick to be retaken.

3. *A team-mate of a player taking a penalty kick enters the penalty area or approaches to within five metres of the ball before it is in play. When the penalty kick is taken, the ball is deflected by the goalkeeper and crosses the goal line over the top of the crossbar. What action do the referees take?*

They award an indirect free kick to the defending team, to be taken from the place where the infringement was committed*.

4. *A player takes a penalty kick before the referee has signalled. What action does the referee take?*

He orders the kick to be retaken.

5. *When a penalty kick is being taken, and after the referee has given the necessary signal, a team-mate of the player identified to take the kick suddenly rushes forward and takes it instead. What action does the referee take?*

The referee stops play and restarts the game with an indirect free kick for the defending team, to be taken from where the offence was committed*, for example, from the place where the player was standing within five metres of the ball.

6. *When a penalty kick is taken, the ball strikes the goalpost and/or crossbar and bursts. What action do the referees take?*

If the ball enters the goal directly after striking the posts or the crossbar, the goal is awarded.

If the ball does not enter the goal directly after striking the posts or the crossbar, the goal is not awarded. The ball is replaced and play is restarted with a dropped ball*. If the match has been extended at the end of a period or at the end of the periods of extra time to allow a kick from the second penalty mark or a kick without a wall to be taken, the period is declared over.

7. *After additional time has been allowed to enable a penalty kick to be taken or retaken at half-time or full time, or during kicks from the penalty mark, the ball bursts or becomes defective before touching the posts, the crossbar or the goalkeeper, without having crossed the goal line. What decision will the referee take?*

The penalty kick must be retaken with a new ball.

8. *The referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken. An attacking player then punches an opponent outside the penalty area. The referee notices the incident. What action will the referee take?*

The referee stops play and sends off the offending player before allowing the penalty kick to be taken.

9. *A player taking a penalty kick back heels the ball to a team-mate who kicks the ball into the goal. What action does the referee take?*

The referee stops play and restarts the match with an indirect free kick for the defending team, to be taken from the penalty mark.

10. *A player taking a penalty kick plays the ball forward for a team-mate to run on to it and score. Is this permitted?*

Yes, provided that the correct penalty kick procedures laid down in the Laws of the Game have been respected.

11. *A defender standing in his own penalty area strikes an opponent while the ball is in play in his opponent's penalty area. What action does the referee take?*

Play is stopped. A penalty kick is awarded against the defender and he is sent off for violent conduct.

12. *A match is extended to allow a penalty kick to be taken. May the goalkeeper be replaced before the kick is taken?*

Yes. He may be substituted by another outfield player or by any eligible substitute; if he is replaced by an eligible substitute, the substitution procedure must be followed.

13. *A player taking a penalty kick feints before kicking the ball. Is this permitted?*

Yes.

14. *A match is extended to allow a penalty, a kick from the second penalty mark or a direct free kick without a wall to be taken. The ball hits the posts or the crossbar or the goalkeeper before crossing the goal line. Should the goal be awarded?*

Yes.

KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH

1. *Do kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match form part of the match?*

No.

2. *The captains of both teams mutually agree to refuse to take kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match, despite the fact that this is stipulated in the regulations of the competition. What action does the referee take?*

The referee reports the situation to the appropriate competition authorities.

3. *Who is responsible for selecting which players will take the kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match?*

Each team is responsible for selecting the players, from those on the pitch and the substitutes, who will take the first five penalty kicks as well as the order in which they will do so.

4. *When kicks are being taken from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match, the ball bursts after touching the posts or the crossbar, without having crossed the goal line. Should this kick be retaken?*

No.

5. *May an injured player be excused from taking a kick from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match?*

Yes.

6. *At the end of a match, some players leave the field of play and fail to return for kicks from the penalty mark to determine the winner of a match. What action does the referee take?*

All players who are not injured must participate in the taking of kicks from the penalty mark. If they do not return to the field of play, the kicks will not be taken and the referee will report the incident to the appropriate authorities.

7. *May a player be cautioned or sent off during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark?*

Yes.

8. *Kicks from the penalty mark are about to be taken to decide the winner of a match. May one of the teams nominate any player to take a penalty kick, even if he was not on the pitch at the final whistle?*

Yes, all of the players are eligible to take part. Only the goalkeeper may not be substituted, unless he is injured.

9. *The lighting fails in the hall after extra time but before or during the taking of kicks from the penalty mark. What action does the referee take?*

The referee allows a reasonable amount of time for the lights to be repaired but if matters do not improve, the result is decided according to competition rules.

10. *During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, a goalkeeper is sent off. May he be replaced by a player registered before the match kicked off?*

Yes.

11. *During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, a goalkeeper is injured and is unable to continue. May he be replaced by a player registered before the match kicked off?*

Yes, provided that the third referee is informed, who then in turn informs the referee.

12. *During the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, a team has fewer than three players. Should the referee abandon the kicks from the penalty mark?*

No. Kicks from the penalty mark are not part of the match.

KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH

13. *During the kicks from the penalty mark, one or several players are injured or sent off. Must a referee ensure that an equal number of players from each team remain within the centre circle and that they shall take the kicks?*

No. The equal number in each team applies only to the start of taking kicks from the penalty mark.

14. *At the end of a match, one team has 12 players (those on the pitch plus substitutes), while the other team has only 10. Must the number of players in each team be equal before kicks from the penalty mark may be taken?*

Yes, the referee must ensure that both teams have the same number of players available before the penalty kicks are taken.

15. *Where should the referees stand during the penalty kicks?*

The referee must stand level with the penalty mark and give the order from there for the penalties to be taken.

The second referee stands on the goal line, at the point where the penalty area line and the goal line meet and he ensures that the ball crosses the goal line or checks if the goalkeeper moves forward before the penalty is taken.

The third referee stands in the opposite half of the pitch with the players nominated to take penalty kicks (with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick and both goalkeepers) and with those players who have been excluded from the penalty kick process, ensuring that no players leave the half and that nobody else enters the pitch.

The timekeeper sits at the timekeeper's table and records the penalty kicks that are taken. He also ensures that the team officials and the players excluded from taking penalty kicks do not leave the substitutes bench. If there is no third referee, the timekeeper will carry out his duties.

16. *Where does the goalkeeper stand while his team-mate is taking a penalty?*

At the point where the goal line and the penalty area line meet, on the pitch and on the opposite side to where the second referee is standing. He must always behave in a sporting manner.

17. *A penalty kick is being taken to decide the winner of a match. The ball hits the posts or the crossbar or the goalkeeper before crossing the goal line. Should the goal be awarded?*

Yes.

LAW 16 – THE KICK-IN

- 1. The ball is out of play over the touch line, but before it is kicked in, a player deliberately strikes an opponent. What action do the referees take?*

They send him off for violent conduct and restart play with a kick-in.
- 2. A player, while correctly taking a kick-in, intentionally kicks the ball at an opponent's head or body. What action does the referee take?*

He stops play if, in his opinion, the player is guilty of unsporting behaviour or violent conduct. Depending on the action, he will caution or send the player off. He restarts play with a penalty kick or direct free kick for the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the offence occurred, i.e. the place where the ball struck the opponent*.
- 3. Is there a maximum distance away from the touch line from which a kick-in may be taken?*

No. A kick-in must be taken from the place where the ball left the pitch, or level with where the ball struck the ceiling.
- 4. After an incorrectly taken kick-in, the ball goes directly to an opponent. Is play allowed to continue by applying the advantage rule?*

No. A player of the opposing team retakes the kick-in.
- 5. Is a player allowed to take a kick-in kneeling or sitting down?*

No. A kick-in is only permitted if the correct procedures in the Laws of the Game are followed, and the ball is played with the foot.
- 6. A player takes a kick-in. He kicks the ball directly to his goalkeeper, who touches the ball with his hands in an attempt to stop it entering the goal. The ball enters the goal, however. What action do the referees take?*

Advantage should be played, and the goal awarded.

LAW 17 – THE GOAL CLEARANCE

- 1. A goalkeeper who has taken a goal clearance correctly deliberately plays the ball with his hand when the ball has left the penalty area but before another player has touched it. What decision do the referees take?*

They award a direct free kick to the opposing team. The player could also be punished by a disciplinary sanction according to the Futsal Laws of the Game.
- 2. A goalkeeper takes a goal clearance with his foot. What action should the referees take?*

They warn the goalkeeper and instruct him to take the goal clearance with his hand.
- 3. After a goal clearance has been taken, but before the ball has left the penalty area, an opponent enters the penalty area and is fouled by a defending player. What action do the referees take?*

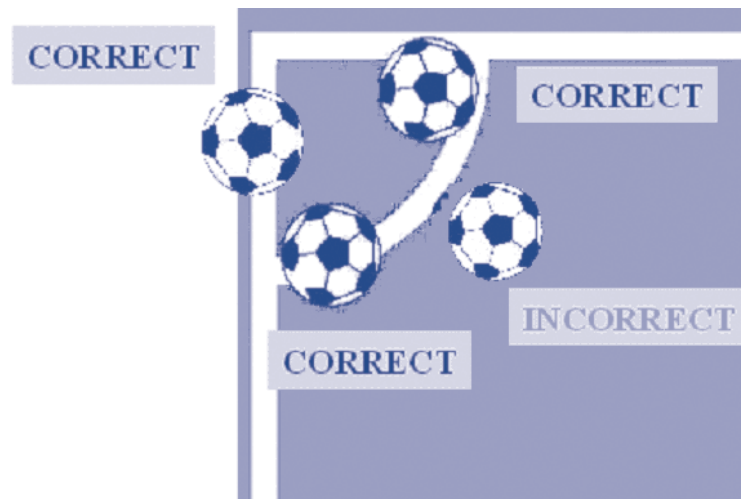
The offending player may be cautioned or sent off according to the nature of the offence and the goal clearance is retaken.
- 4. When a player takes a goal clearance, the ball strikes one of the referees inside the penalty area and stays on the pitch. What action do the referees take?*

No action is necessary. The ball remains in play after it rebounds off one of the referees and stays on the pitch.
- 5. A goalkeeper takes a goal clearance and the ball passes over the goal line without having passed out of the penalty area. What action should the referees take?*

They should order the goal clearance to be retaken.

1. *When a corner kick is taken, what is the correct way to place the ball in the quarter circle?*

This diagram illustrates some correct and incorrect positions.



2. *Does the ball have to leave the quarter circle for it to be in play?*

No. The ball is in play once it has been kicked and has moved.

