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FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION
BOARD

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SINCE 1886

Laws of the Game 2019/20

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Laws of the Game 2019/20

Philosophy

IFAB

Many of the Law changes for 2019/20 reflect solutions to 'problem areas' raised by all parts of the football family.

In accordance with the requirements of The IFAB that potential Law changes should be considered within the structure of the ***play fair!*** initiative, all changes for 2019/20 fall into at least one of the initiative's three focus areas:

improving **player behaviour** and increasing **respect**

increasing **playing time**

increasing **fairness and attractiveness**

PLAY FAIR!®

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Laws of the Game
2019/20

Main changes

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Law 3

Substituted player leaving the field of play

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 3 – The Players

Substituted player leaving the field of play

IFAB

Rationale for the change

To tackle the unfair practice of a player who is being substituted taking a long time to leave at the halfway line (which is not a Law requirement) the player must now leave at the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (as with an injury) unless the referee decides otherwise e.g. that the player can leave very quickly at the halfway line or because of a safety/security issue or because the player is injured (and needs to leave on a stretcher).

The substituted player must go straight to the technical area or dressing room to avoid interfering with match officials, substitutes etc. and to avoid problems with spectators.

A player who infringes the spirit of this Law should be sanctioned by the referee for delaying the restart.

79:34
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NAGAKI
6

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 3 – The Players

Substituted player leaving the field of play

IFAB

Amended text

3. Substitution procedure

To replace a player with a substitute, the following must be observed:

- the player being substituted
  - receives the referee's permission to leave the field of play, unless already off the field, and must leave by the nearest point on the boundary line unless the referee indicates that the player may leave directly and immediately at the halfway line or another location (e.g. for a safety/security issue or injury)
  - ~~the player being replaced is not obliged to leave at the halfway line and~~ must go immediately to the technical area or dressing room and takes no further part in the match, except where return substitutions are permitted
  - If the player being ~~replaced~~ substituted refuses to leave, play continues

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Laws 5 + 12

Yellow and red cards for team officials

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

Rationale for the change

The experiment with a YC/RC for misconduct by team officials has been successful and has many benefits at all levels, including for young referees dealing with ‘difficult’ adult coaches.

If an offence occurs and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach who is in the technical area at the time of the offence will, as the person responsible for the other technical area occupants, receive the YC/RC.

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63:38
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MALI
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CACAF LEAGUE
Scotiabank
Concacaf
Amor por nuestro juego
Allstate
25

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4:12
+ 5
WURTH
PES2017
LIVE

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 5 – The Referee

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

Amended text

The referee:

- takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and ~~may expel them~~ warns or shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. A medical team official who commits a ~~dismissible~~ sending-off offence may (…)

Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Yellow and red cards for team officials

Amended text

3. Disciplinary action

(…) If, before entering the field of play at the start of the match, a player or team official commits a sending-off offence, the referee has the authority to prevent the player or team official taking part in the match (see Law 3.6); the referee will report any other misconduct.

A player or team official who commits a cautionable or sending-off offence, either on or off the field of play~~,~~ ~~against an opponent, a team-mate, a match official or any other person or the Laws of the Game~~, is disciplined according to the offence.

(…)

Only a player, substitute, ~~or~~ substituted player or team official may be shown the red or yellow card.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

New text

3. Disciplinary action

Team officials
Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

Warning
The following offences should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant instances should result in a caution or sending-off:

- entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official
- minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
- occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

New text

Caution

Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

- clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- delaying the restart of play by their team
- deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- dissent by word or action including:
  - throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects
  - gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. sarcastic clapping
- entering the referee review area (RRA)
- excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR 'review'
- gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)
- showing a lack of respect for the game

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

New text

Sending-off

Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- deliberately leaving the technical area to:
  - show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
  - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- entering the field of play to:
  - confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
  - interfere with play, an opposing player or match official
- entering the video operation room (VOR)

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and misconduct

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

New text

Sending-off

Sending-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- receiving a second caution in the same match
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- violent conduct

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

VAR Protocol

Yellow and red cards for team officials

IFAB

Amended text

Players, substitutes and team officials

A player/substitute/substituted player/team official who excessively shows the TV signal or enters the RRA will be cautioned

(…)

A player/substitute/substituted player/team official who enters the VOR will be sent off;

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Law 5

Injured penalty taker

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 5 – The Referee

Injured penalty taker

IFAB

Rationale for the change

It is unfair when a **team's penalty taker** is injured and requires **treatment** as this means they must leave the field and cannot take the penalty kick.

Additional text

3. Powers and duties
Injuries
An injured player may not be treated on the field of play and may only re-enter after play has restarted; (…).
Exceptions to the requirement to leave the field of play are only when:
(…)
a penalty kick has been awarded and the injured player will be the kicker

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Law 8

Winning the toss and choosing kick-off

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Winning the toss and choosing kick-off

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Recent changes have made the kick-off more dynamic and tactically advantageous (especially as it is possible to score directly from the kick-off) so a captain **winning the toss** now often asks to **take the kick-off**; there is no reason not to allow this option.

Amended text

1. Kick-off – Procedure

- the team that wins the toss of a coin decides which goal it will attack in the first half or to take the kick-off
- depending on the above, their opponents take the kick-off or decide which goal to attack in the first half
- the team that ~~wins the toss~~ decided which goal to attack in the first half takes the kick-off to start the second half

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Laws 8 + 9

Dropped ball

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LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Dropped ball

IFAB

Rationale for the change

The current dropped ball procedure is unsatisfactory as it often leads to confrontation or a 'manufactured' restart which is 'exploited' unfairly (e.g. kicking the ball out for a throw-in deep in the opponents' half); sometimes, major confrontation occurs when the ball is not 'returned' to the opponents.

The procedure has been changed so the dropped ball is 'uncontested' i.e. the ball is dropped for one player and all other players (from both teams) must remain a required distance away; play resumes almost as if it had not been stopped and the ball is not 'returned' to the opponents.

For simplicity, and to reflect what already happens in many matches, the ball will be **dropped for** the defending team **goalkeeper** if, when play was stopped:

- the ball was in the penalty area or
- the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area

In all other cases, the ball is dropped for **one player** of the team that **last touched the ball**.

All other players (of both teams) must remain **at least 4m (4.5 yds) away** until the ball is in play. This distance gives the player a degree of freedom to play the ball, but is far enough to prevent the dropped ball being contested.

RUSSIA
GAZPROM
GAZPROM
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Coca-Cola
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LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

Dropped ball

IFAB

New text

2. Dropped ball – Procedure

- The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in their penalty area if, when play was stopped:
  - the ball was in the penalty area or
  - the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area
- In all other cases, the referee drops the ball for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched a player, outside agent or, as outlined in Law 9.1, a match official
- All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 4m (4.5 yds) from the ball until it is in play

The ball is in play when it touches the ground.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Dropped ball

Rationale for the change

It can be very unfair if, because the **ball has hit a match official** (especially the referee), a team:

- gains **possession**
- starts an **attack**
- scores a **goal**

In these important situations, a **dropped ball** will be given.

QATAR AIRWAYS
QATAR AIRWAYS
QATAR AIRWAYS
QATAR AIRWAYS
QATAR AIRWAYS
QATAR AIRWAYS

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Dropped ball

IFAB

Amended text

1. Ball out of play

The ball is out of play when:

(…) it touches a match official, remains on the field of play and any of the following results:

- a team starts a promising attack or
- the ball goes directly into the goal or
- the team in possession of the ball changes

In all such cases, play is restarted with a dropped ball at the position where the ball touched the match official

2. Ball in play

The ball is in play at all other times when it touches a match official and when it rebounds off a ~~match official,~~ goalpost, crossbar or corner flagpost and remains on the field of play.

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Law 10

Kicks from the penalty mark *(KFPM)*

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

Kicks from the penalty mark (KFPM)

IFAB

Rationale for no change

Some people believe, and some evidence suggests, that the team taking the 2nd kick in KFPM is at a (psychological) disadvantage and that alternating the team taking the 2nd kick would be fairer.

The evidence from the experiment was inconclusive and the reaction was not especially positive as 'AB-BA' is complicated and football is essentially a 'simple' (and traditional) sport.

The experiment with the use of the 'AB-BA' system has now ended and the only method of KFPM permitted by the Laws of the Game will be the traditional AB, AB…

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Law 12

Handball

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

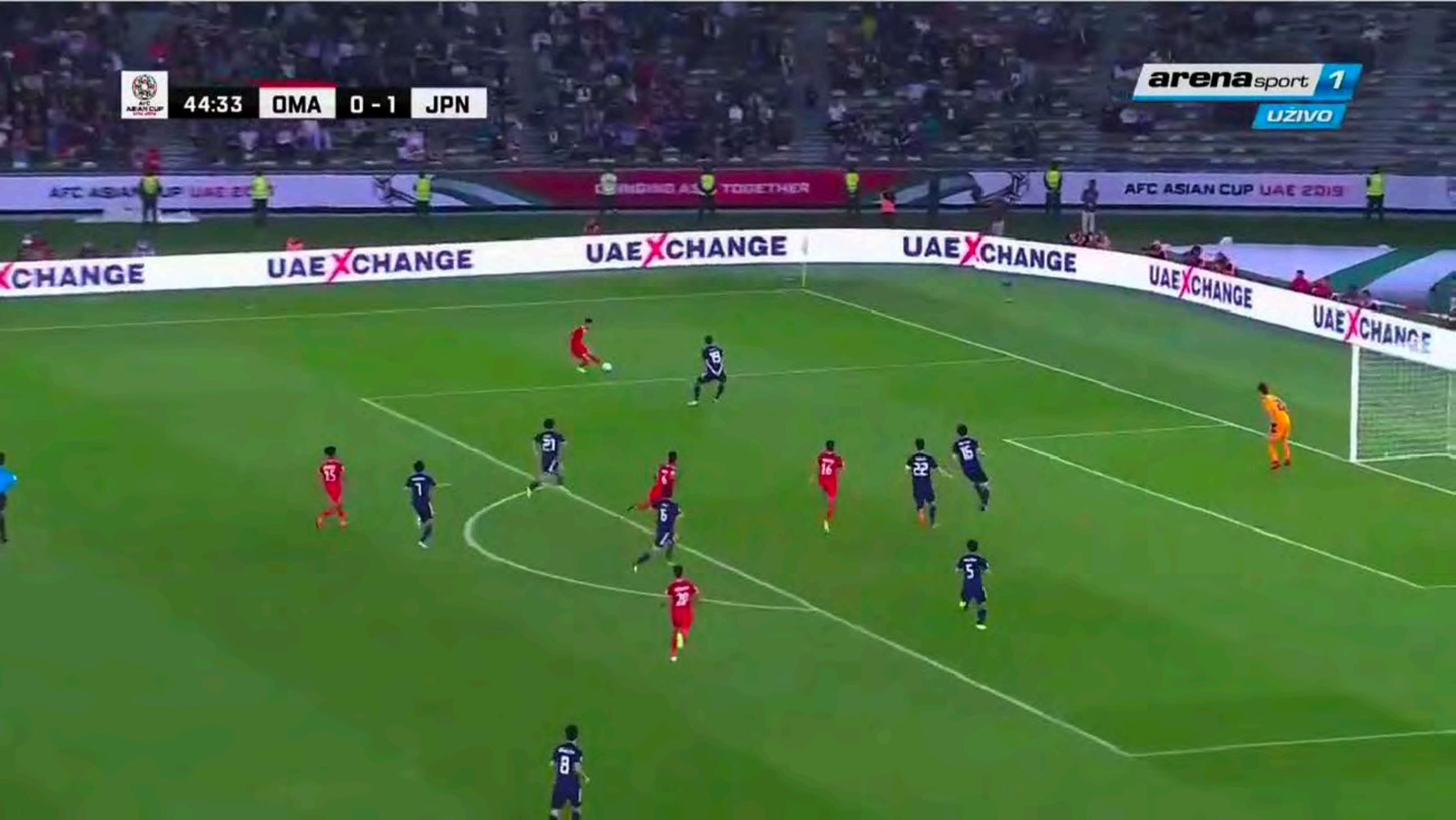
Handball

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Handball is probably the most ‘unclear’ area of the Laws of the Game and this **lack of clarity** causes much confusion, inconsistency and controversy.

It creates situations where **defenders** often stand unnaturally trying to **hide** their **arms behind their back**.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AFC ASIAN CUP UAE 2019
UAE XCHANGE

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

IFAB

Rationale for the change

The Laws relating to ‘fouls’ and ‘offside’ were improved by moving the **focus** from ‘intent/interference’ (mental) to **‘outcome/impact’** (physical); a similar change has been made for some ‘accidental’ handball situations and when it is not clear if the handball is deliberate.

The **focus** now is more **factual**.

Players must understand that they ‘***take a risk’*** of being penalised when their hand/arm is in certain positions.

The concept of ‘natural’ position of the arm (which is very difficult to interpret) had been replaced by a more factual judgment - has the position of the hand/arm ‘**made the body unnaturally bigger**’ i.e. has the hand/arm had the effect of creating a bigger ‘barrier’ for the ball/opponent (outside the normal ‘playing silhouette’)?

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Rationale for the change

Greater clarity is provided in the wording for other situations where the ball touches the hand/arm and it is (or may be) 'accidental/non-deliberate':

- having the hand/arm **above shoulder height** is rarely a 'natural' position, except when deliberately playing the ball, and a player is 'taking a risk' by having the hand/arm in that position

- it is natural for a player to put their **arm between their body and the ground for support** when falling down, but extending the arm(s) to make the body bigger (larger barrier) is not natural/fair and the player 'takes a risk' when doing so

- football does not accept:
  - a **goal** being **scored** directly **from the hand/arm** (even if accidental)
  - a player **gaining possession/control** of the ball from their hand/arm (even if accidental) and then **scoring** or **creating a goal-scoring opportunity**

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Amended text

1. Direct free kick – Handling the ball

~~Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm.~~

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball

SONY
KIA MOTORS

VISA
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Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Amended text

1. Direct free kick – Handling the ball

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
  - scores in the opponents' goal

1:33
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@CONCACAF
NIKE SOCCER
@COPAORO
/CONCACAFcom
@GOLDCUP
CAMPEONATO SUB-20
CONCACAF.com
Scotiabank

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

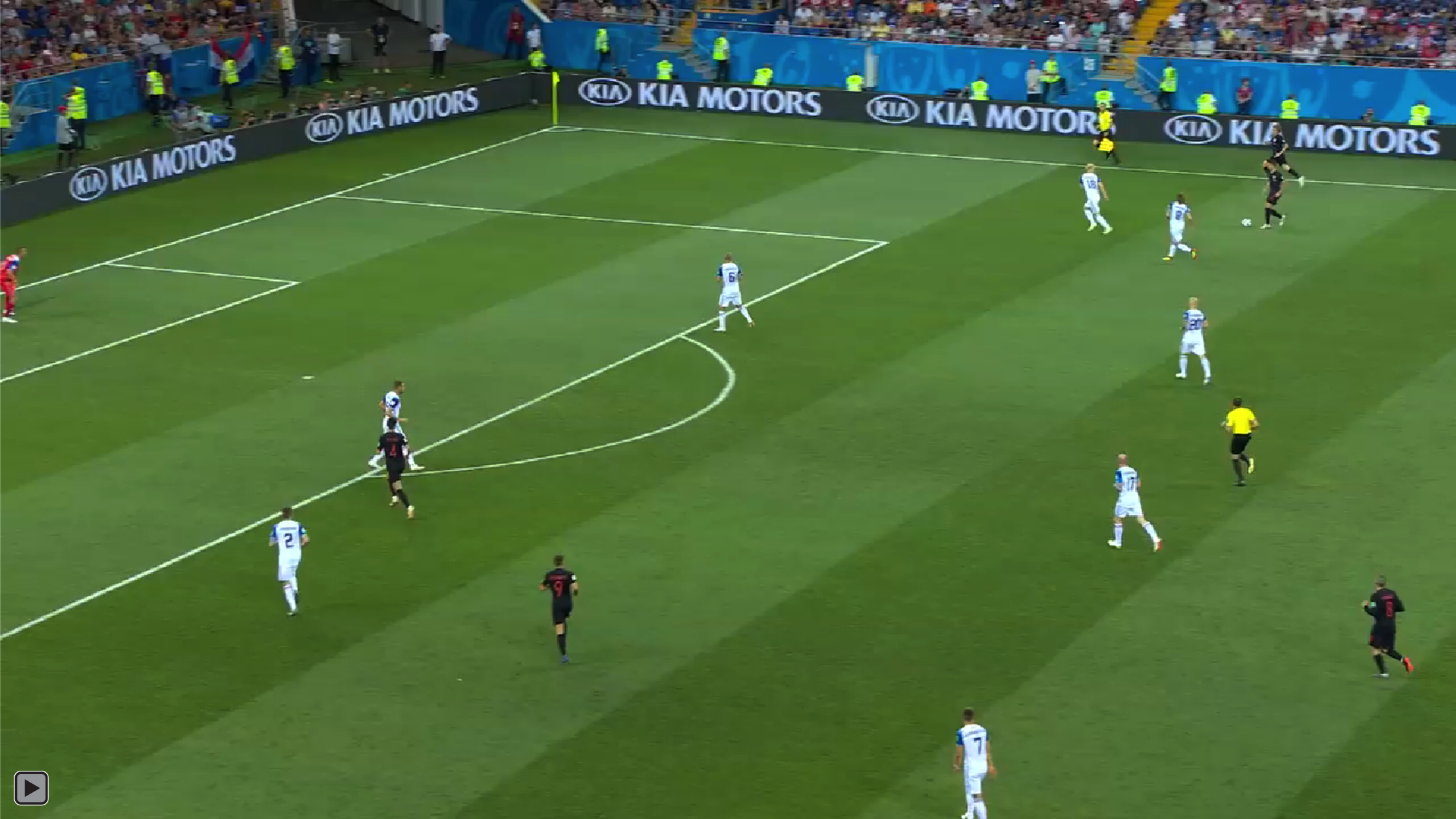
Handball

Amended text

1. Direct free kick – Handling the ball

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
  - scores in the opponents' goal
  - creates a goal-scoring opportunity


KIA MOTORS
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8

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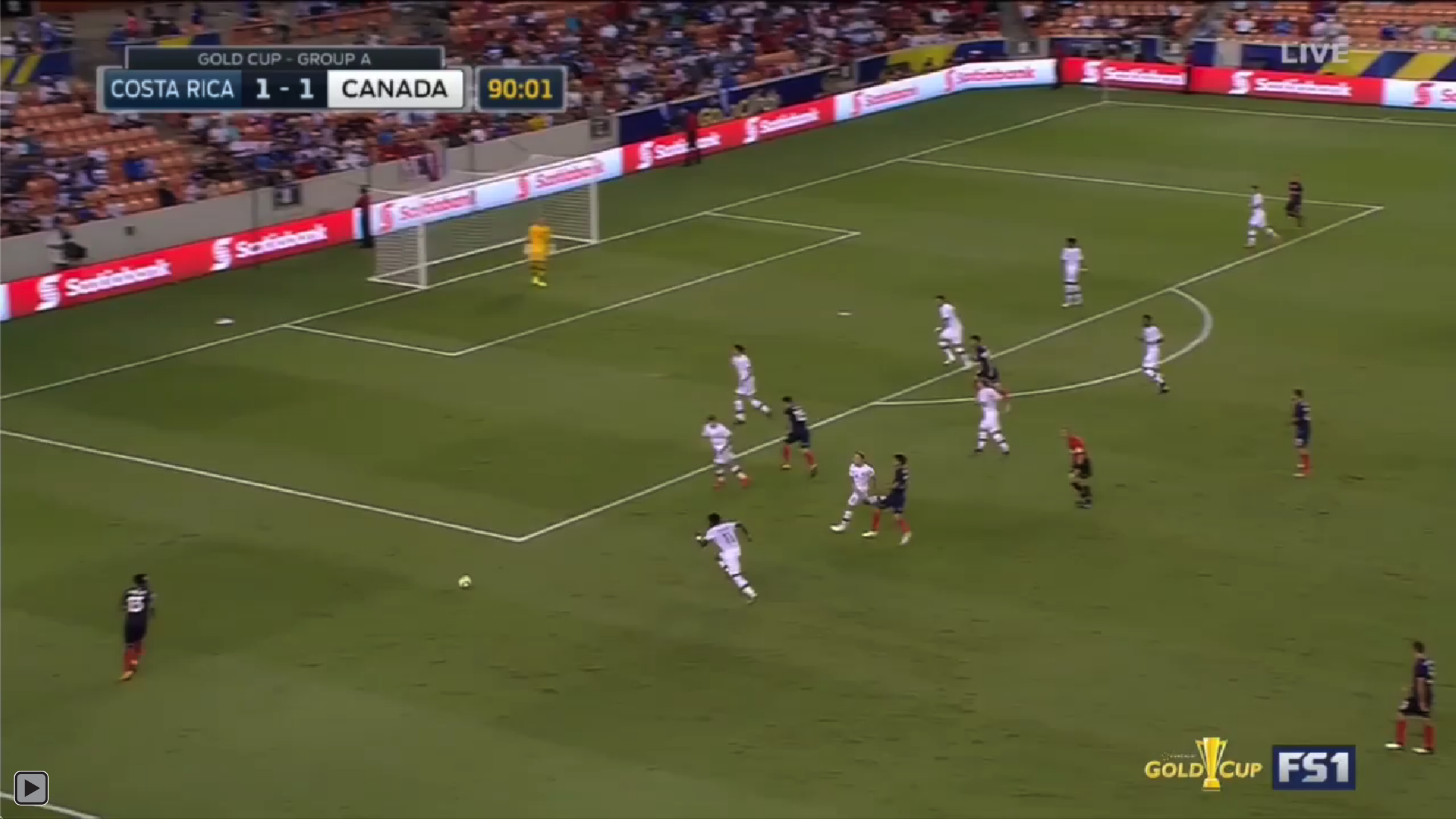
GOLD CUP - GROUP A
COSTA RICA 1 - 1 CANADA
90:01
LIVE
GOLD CUP
FS1

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Amended text

1. Direct free kick – Handling the ball

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
  - scores in the opponents' goal
  - creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

MasterCard
MasterCard
MasterCard
PRICELESS.COM
MasterCard

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

IFAB

Amended text

It is usually an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger

26:27
JPN
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UZB
arena sport 1
UŽIVO
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4

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

IFAB

Amended text

It is usually an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level

GAZPROM
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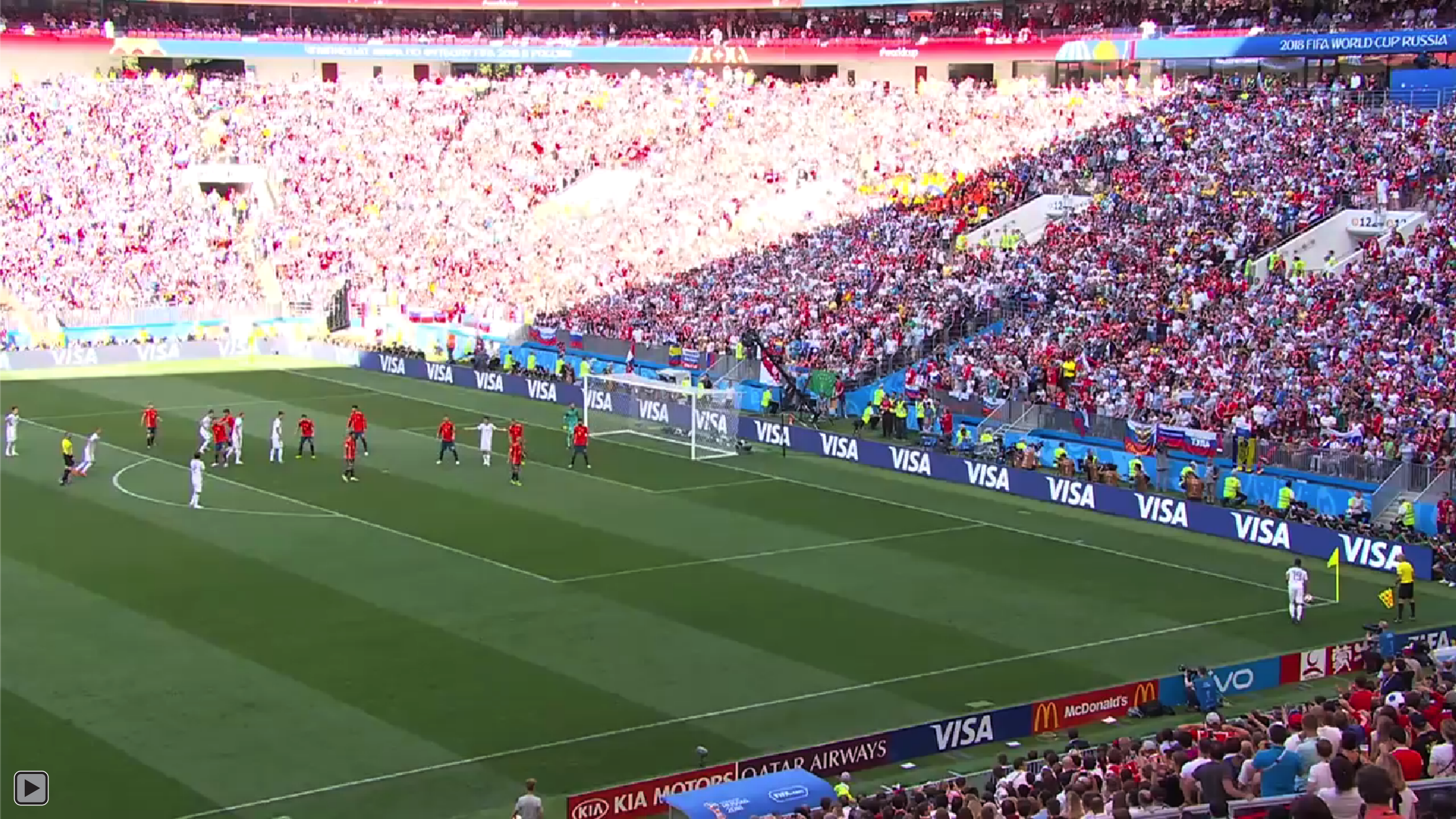
2018 FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA
VISA
KIA MOTORS
QATAR AIRWAYS
VISA
McDonald's

GOLD CUP - GROUP C
JAMAICA 1 - 1 EL SALVADOR
82:00
LIVE
Modelo
telcel
GOLD CUP
FS2

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

IFAB

Amended text

It is usually an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

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DOWNLOAD DE BIERTEGOED APP
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LA BANDA DEL TAPIAL

AFCアジアカップUAE2019を応援しています
59:53
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74:25
ENG
1-0
ESP
Carlsberg
#WePlayStrong
Continental
UEFA FOUNDATION
Hisense
Continental
McDonald's

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

IFAB

Amended text

It is usually an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
  - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

The above offences apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Amended text

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)

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#FutEnTDN
VAMOS DE TODO
www.pumas.mx
Corona Cero
HERBALIFE NUTRICION
interjet
ZTE SMARTPHONES
Banca Mifel
GATORADE
DHL
Corona
telcel
Primera Plus
MACRONET infinitum

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

IFAB

Amended text

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close

90:19
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OMA
2 - 1
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UŽIVO
TOYOTA
UAE EXCHANGE
Emirates
SAISON CARD
Continental
Nikon
Sharaf DG
FamilyMart
QNB

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Amended text

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger

Orange
PanAtlantic
SAMSUNG
pepsi
NISSAN
IFD-Kapital
Doritos
pepsi

55:39
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KOR
AFCアジアカップUAE2019を応援しています

GOLD CUP - QUARTERFINAL
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GEICO
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Scotiabank
GOLD CUP
FS1

90:00
ROM
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LAURENTINO TERRACINA
MAX
NISSAN
Enjoy Responsibly
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
SONY

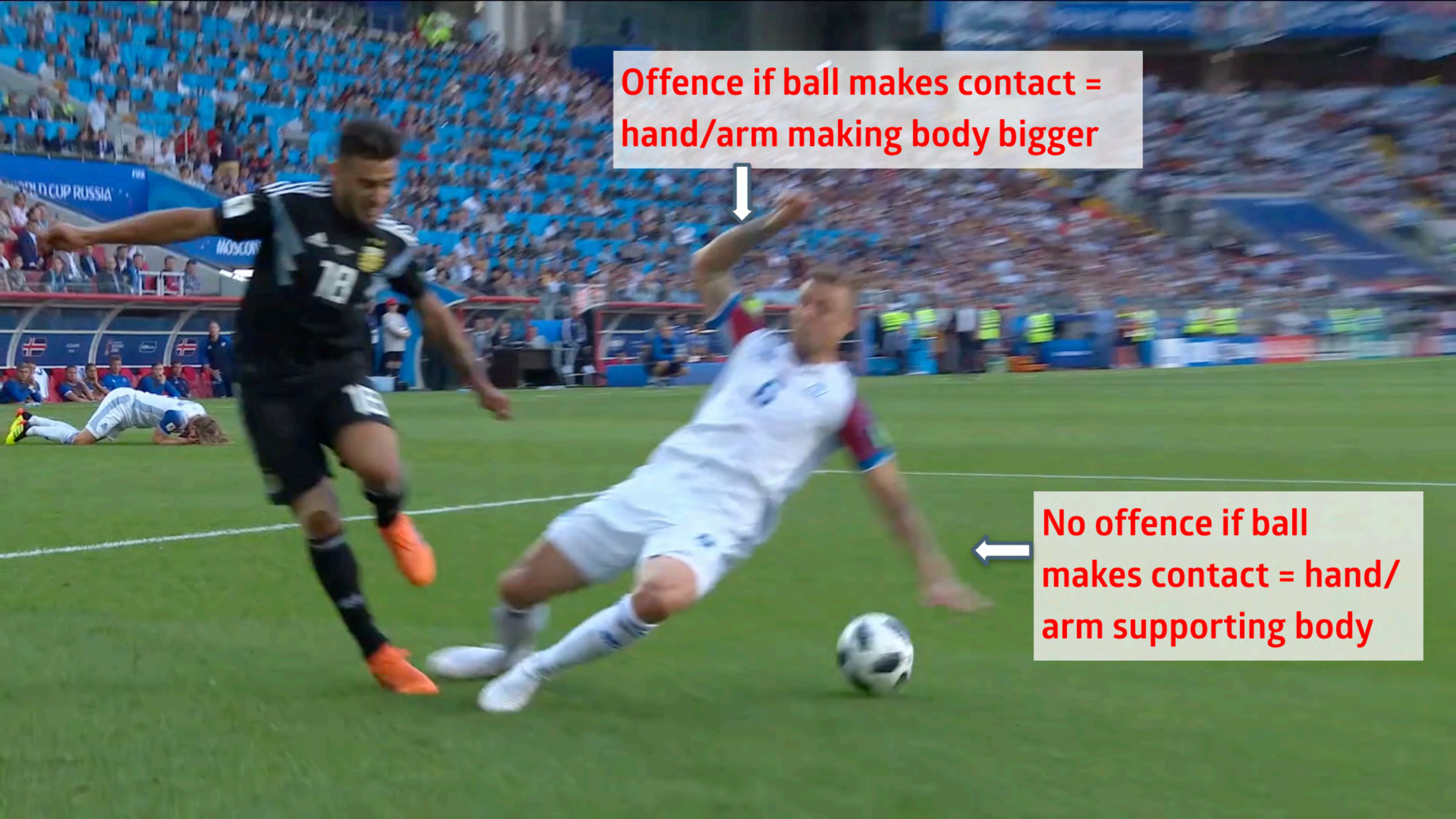
Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

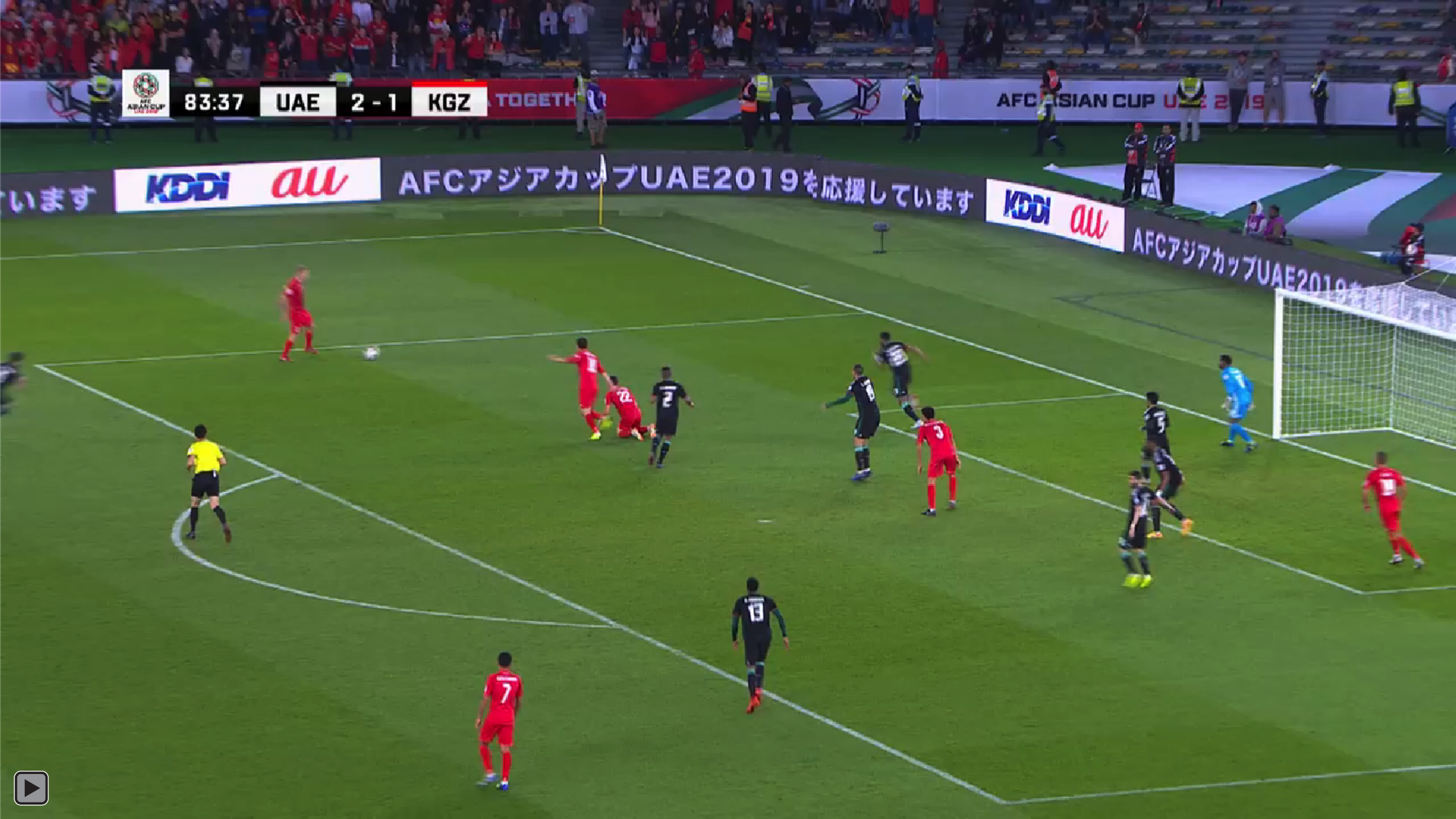
Handball

Amended text

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger
- when a player is falling and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body


Offence if ball makes contact = hand/arm making body bigger
No offence if ball makes contact = hand/ arm supporting body


83:37
UAE
2 - 1
KGZ
AFC ASIAN CUP
KDDI au
AFCアジアカップUAE2019を応援しています

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball

Amended text

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger
- when a player is falling and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body

Laws 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, VAR Protocol

Handball

Associated changes

Approval of the above wording has required changes to other parts of the following Laws (including the VAR protocol) e.g. *'deliberate handball'* and *'deliberately handles'* will be replaced by 'handball offence':

LAW 8 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT
LAW 10 – DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH
LAW 12 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY
LAW 13 – FREE KICKS
LAW 14 – THE PENALTY KICK
LAW 15 – THE THROW-IN
LAW 16 – THE GOAL KICK
LAW 17 – THE CORNER KICK
VAR PROTOCOL

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Law 12

Delaying a YC/RC

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Delaying a YC/RC

IFAB

Rationale for the change

If an attack is stopped by a YC/RC offence and the attacking team takes a **quick free kick** which creates a goal-scoring opportunity, it is unfair that this 'new' attack must be stopped to issue the YC/RC.

Therefore, unless the referee has started the YC/RC procedure (which may unfairly distract the defending team), the **YC/RC** can be shown at the **next stoppage**.

As the quick free kick effectively restores the 'lost' attack, if the original offence was a DOGSO it will be sanctioned with a YC, which is consistent with the sanction when the referee plays advantage for a DOGSO offence.

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Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Delaying a YC/RC

Additional text

3. Disciplinary action

Delaying the restart of play to show a card

Once the referee has decided to caution or send off a player, play must not be restarted until the sanction is administered, unless the non-offending team takes a quick free kick, has a clear goal-scoring opportunity and the referee has not started the disciplinary sanction procedure. The sanction is administered at the next stoppage; if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the player is cautioned.

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Law 13

Defending team free kick in their penalty area

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Defending team free kick in their penalty area

IFAB

Rationale for the change

The experiment that at a defending team free kick in the penalty area the ball is in play once it is kicked, and does not have to leave the penalty area, has produced a faster and more constructive restart.

Opponents must remain outside the penalty area and at least 9.15m away until the ball is in play; the same change had been made to goal kick *(See Law 16).*

Amended text

2. Procedure

The ball:

is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves ~~except for a free kick to the defending team in their penalty area where the ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area~~

3. Offences and sanctions

~~If, when a free kick is taken by the defending team inside its penalty area, the ball is not kicked directly out of the penalty area the kick is retaken.~~

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Law 13

The defensive ‘wall’

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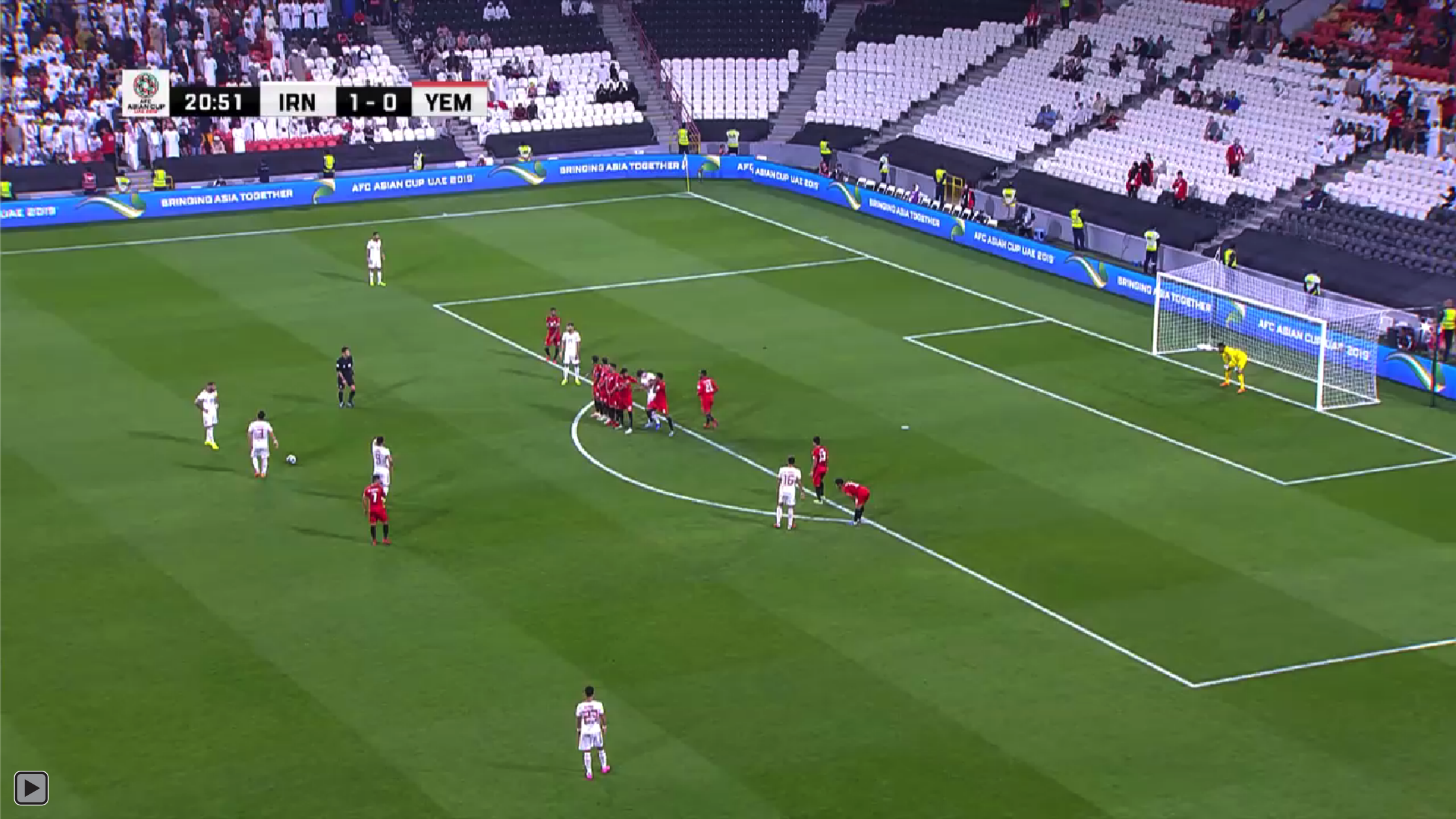
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LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 13 – Free Kicks

The defensive ‘wall’

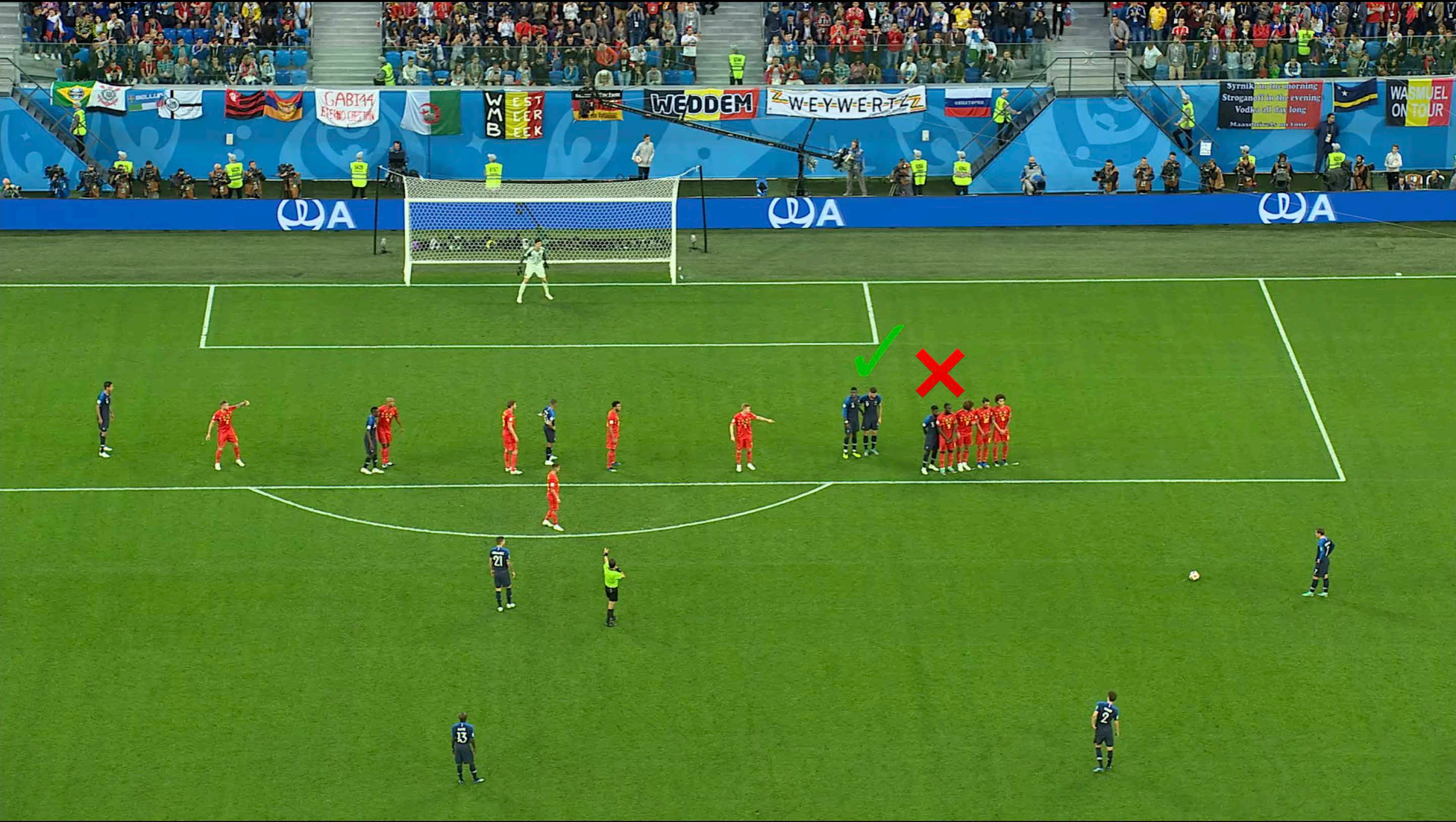
IFAB

Rationale for the change

There is no legitimate tactical reason for players from the **attacking team** to be **in the defensive ‘wall’** and their presence in the ‘wall’ often causes confrontation and/or management problems which waste time and are not good for the image of the game. Their presence is also against the ‘spirit’ of the game that the defending team should be able to defend a free kick without being unfairly impeded.

Requiring the **attacking team** to be **at least 1m from the ‘wall’** solves these problems.

An attacking player who is **within 1m** of the ‘wall’ when the free kick is taken will be **penalised with an IDFK**.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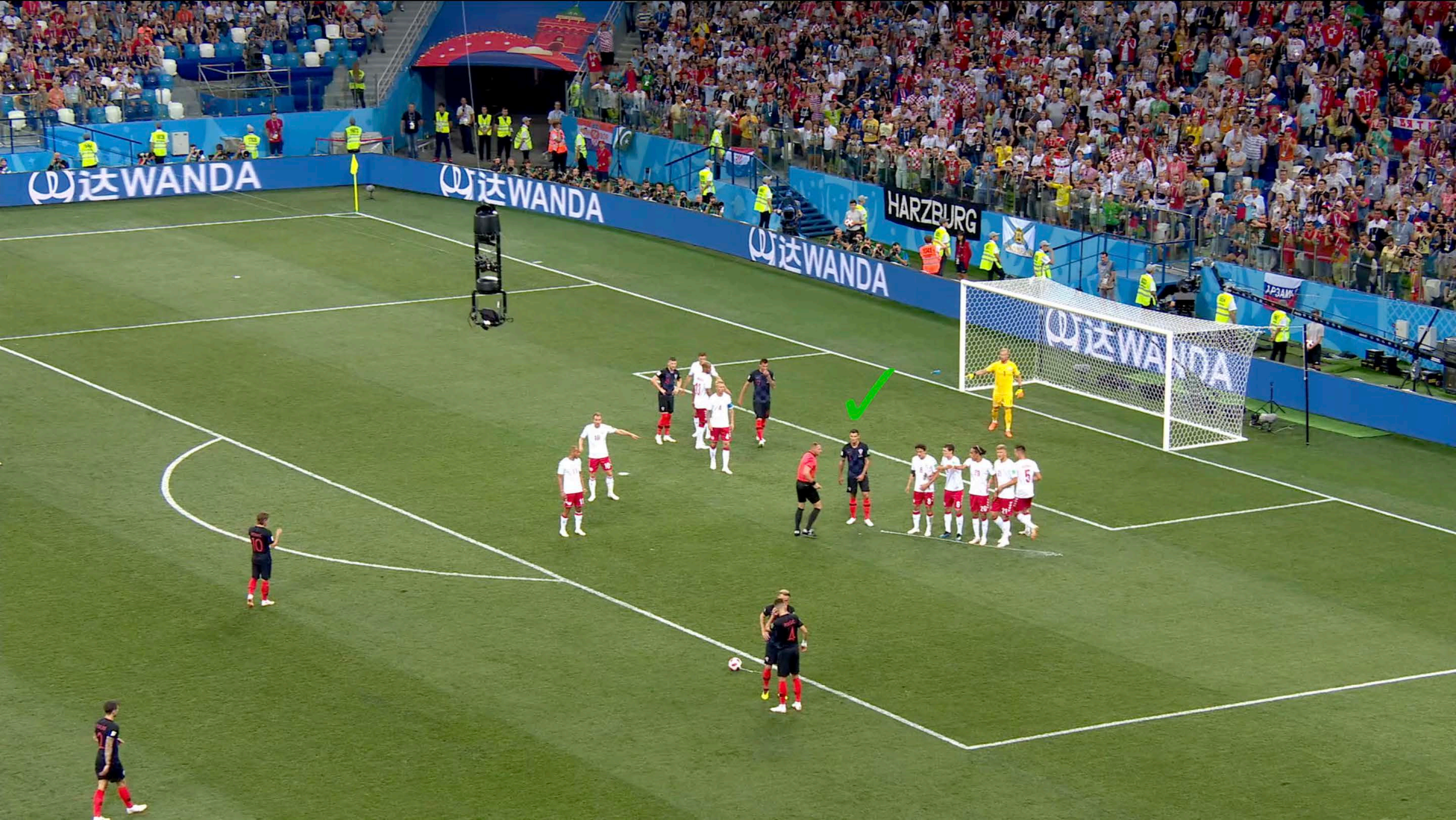
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Law 13 – Free Kicks

The defensive ‘wall’

Additional text

2. Procedure

Where three or more defending team players form a ‘wall’, all attacking players must remain at least 1m (1 yd) from the ‘wall’ until the ball is in play.

2. Offences and sanctions

(after 1st paragraph)

If, when a free kick is taken, an attacking player is less than 1m (1 yd) from a ‘wall’ formed by three or more defending players, an indirect free kick is awarded.

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Law 14

Penalty kick – goalkeeper encroachment

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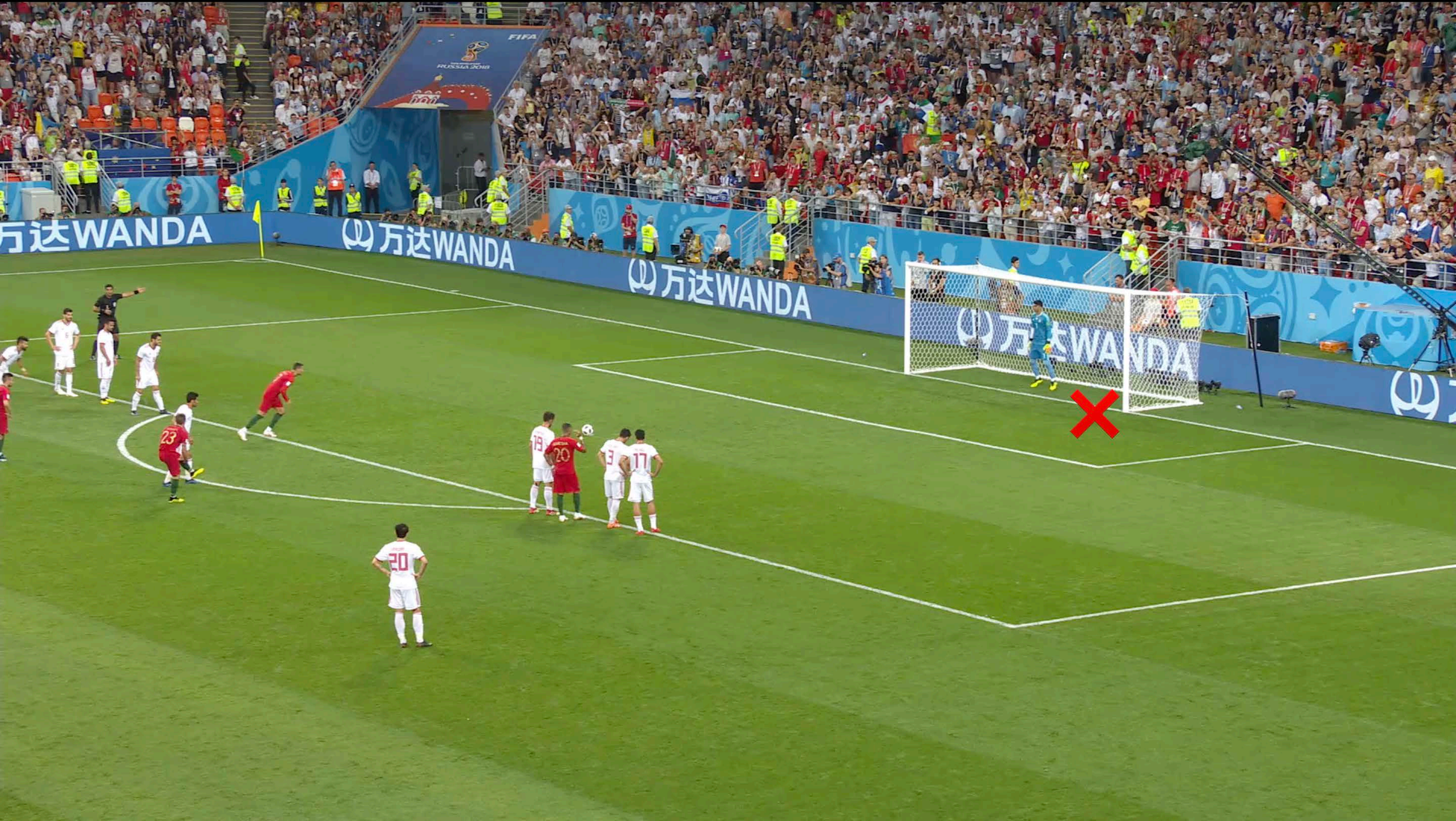
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LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Penalty kick – goalkeeper encroachment

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Requiring the **goalkeeper** to have **only one foot** (rather than two) touching the goal line (or, if jumping in the air, in line with the goal line) when the penalty kick is taken is a more practical approach as it is easier for the referee (especially if officiating without neutral assistant referees) to see when both feet are off the line; this change will also assist VARs.

As the kicker can 'stutter' in the run up, it is fair for the goalkeeper to anticipate the kick and take one step forward.

The goalkeeper is not allowed to stand behind the line.

Additional text

1. Procedure

When the ball is kicked, the defending goalkeeper must have at least one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line.

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Law 16

Goal kick

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

Goal kick

IFAB

Rationale for the change

The experiment that at a goal kick the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves, and does not have to leave the penalty area, created a more dynamic/constructive restart to the game. It has reduced the time 'lost/wasted' and has stopped the tactic of a defender deliberately playing the ball before it leaves the penalty area, knowing that all that will happen is that the goal kick will be retaken.

Opponents must remain outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

However, as with a 'quick' free kick, if the goal kick is taken quickly and the opponents did not have time to leave the penalty area, they can intercept the ball after the kick has been taken but they cannot prevent the kick from being taken.

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LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

Goal kick

IFAB

Amended text

1. Procedure

The ball is in play when it ~~leaves the penalty area~~ is kicked and clearly moves

2. Offences and sanctions

~~If the ball does not leave the penalty area or is touched by a player before it leaves the penalty area the kick is retaken.~~

(…)

If, when a goal kick is taken, any opponents are inside the penalty area because they did not have time to leave, the referee allows play to continue. If an opponent who is in the penalty area when the goal kick is taken, or enters the penalty area before the ball is in play, touches or challenges for the ball before it ~~has touched another player~~ is in play, the goal kick is retaken.

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Laws of the Game
2019/20
Clarifications

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

Multi-coloured undershirts

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Manufacturers now make **multi-coloured** and **patterned undershirts** whose sleeves are the **same colours or pattern** as the **main shirt sleeve**; these will be allowed as they can help match officials' decision-making (e.g. handball).

Additional text

3. Colours

Undershirts must be:

- a single colour which is the same as the main colour of the shirt sleeve or
- a pattern/colours which exactly replicate(s) the sleeve

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 5 – The Referee

Referee's authority (physical/time limits)

IFAB

Rationale for the change

- The word 'terminated' is not easily translated and has been replaced by **'abandoned'**.
- If, at the end of a half in a VAR match, the referee goes to the referee review area (RRA) or to tell the players to return to the field, this does not prevent a 'review' taking place, and a decision being changed.
- Sometimes a **match official** (including a VAR) **tries to indicate/communicate** a YC/RC offence to the referee (e.g. AR flagging for violent conduct off the ball) but the **referee does not see/hear** this until **after play has restarted**. The referee **can still show the YC/RC**, but the associated restart does not apply.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 5 – The Referee

Referee's authority (physical/time limits)

IFAB

Amended text

2. Decisions of the referee

The referee may not change a restart decision on realising it is incorrect or on the advice of another match official if play has restarted or the referee has signalled the end of the first or second half (including extra time) and left the field of play or ~~terminated~~ abandoned the match. However, if at the end of a half, the referee leaves the field of play to go to the referee review area (RRA) or to instruct the players to return to the field of play, this does not prevent a decision being changed for an incident which occurred before the end of the half.

Except as outlined in Law 12.3 and the VAR protocol, a disciplinary sanction may only be issued after play has restarted if another match official identified and attempted to communicate the offence to the referee before play restarted; the restart associated with the sanction does not apply.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

‘Cooling’ and ‘drinks’ breaks

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Confirmation of the **difference** between **‘cooling’ breaks** (usually ninety seconds to three minutes) to allow the body’s temperature to fall and **‘drinks’ breaks** (maximum one minute) which are simply for rehydration. Competition rules should make it clear which type of break(s) is permitted.

Amended text

3. Allowance for time lost

Allowance is made by the referee in each half for all time lost in that half through:

(…)

- Medical stoppages permitted by competition rules e.g. ’drinks’ breaks (which should not exceed one minute) and ‘cooling’ breaks

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handling offences by the goalkeeper

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Clearer wording to confirm that a **goalkeeper cannot receive** a **YC/RC** for an **'illegal' handling** offence within their own penalty area.

Amended text

2. Direct free kick – Handling the ball

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. Inside their penalty area, the goalkeeper cannot be guilty of a handling offence incurring a direct free kick; ~~or any related sanction but can be guilty of handling offences that incur an indirect free kick~~ If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handling offences by the goalkeeper

Rationale for the change

When, from a throw-in or a deliberate kick from a team-mate, the **goalkeeper** clearly **kicks or tries to kick** the ball with the **intention of releasing it into play**, this action demonstrates that the goalkeeper has no intention of 'illegally' handling the ball, so if the goalkeeper's **clearance is unsuccessful**, he/she **can** then **handle the ball** without committing an offence.

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LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handling offences by the goalkeeper

IFAB

Amended text

2. Indirect free kick

An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offences:

- controls the ball with the hands/arm for more than six seconds before releasing it
- touches the ball with the hands/arm after releasing it and before it has touched another player
- touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after:
  - it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
  - receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

‘Illegal’ goal celebrations

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Confirmation that a **YC** for an **inappropriate goal celebration** still **applies** even if the **goal is disallowed,** as the impact (safety, image of the game etc.) of the offence is the same as if the goal was awarded.

Additional text

3. Disciplinary action
Celebration of a goal
A player must be cautioned, even if the goal is disallowed, for:

- Climbing onto a perimeter fence (…)

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Verbal offences

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Confirmation that **verbal offences** are penalised with an **indirect free kick**.

Amended text

4. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

If the ball is in play and a player commits ~~an~~ a physical offence inside the field of play against:

- an opponent – indirect or direct free kick or penalty kick
- a team-mate, substitute, substituted or sent off player, team official,-match official – direct free kick or penalty kick
- any other person – dropped ball

All verbal offences are penalised with an indirect free kick.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Kicking an object onto the field

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Kicking an object to interfere with the match, match officials, opposing substitutes, team officials etc. is punished in the **same** way **as throwing** an object as it has the same unfair impact.

Amended text

4. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

If a player ~~standing~~ who is on or off the field of play throws or kicks an object (other than the match ball) at an opposing player, or throws or kicks an object (including a ball) at an opposing ~~player,~~ substitute, substituted or sent off player, ~~or~~ team official, or a match official or the match ball, play is restarted with a direct free kick (…)

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Off-field offence by a player against a team-mate etc.

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Clarification that for an IDFK to be awarded for an offence against a team-mate or one of their team officials, substitutes etc. the offence must be **committed by a player.**

Additional text

4. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

If an offence is committed outside the field of play by a player against a player, substitute, substituted player or team official of the player's team, play is restarted with an indirect free kick on the boundary line closest to where the offence occurred.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Indirect free kick signal

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Many **IDFKs are too far from the opponents' goal** for a goal to be scored directly (e.g. an IDFK for offside in the defensive third of the field of play) – when that is the case, the referee can **stop the IDFK signal** once the kick has been taken.

Additional text

Types of free kick – Indirect free kick signal

The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising the arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another player, ~~or~~ goes out of play or it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Offences off the field of play

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Clarification that an **offence** committed **off the field** of play results in a **free kick on the boundary line** closest to where the offence occurs; this will result in a penalty kick if this is in the offender's penalty area.

Amended text

2. Procedure

Free kicks for offences involving a player entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without permission are taken from the position of the ball when play was stopped. However, if a player ~~leaves the field of play as part of play and~~ commits an offence ~~against another player~~ off the field of play, play is restarted with a free kick taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offence occurred; for direct free kick offences, a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender's penalty area

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Penalty kick – goals and nets

IFAB

Rationale for the change

The referee must **not signal** for the penalty kick to be taken if the goalkeeper is **touching** the **goalposts, crossbar or net**, or if they are **moving** e.g. because the goalkeeper has shaken them in an attempt to distract the kicker.

Additional text

1. Procedure

The ball must be stationary on the penalty mark and the goalposts, crossbar and goal net are not moving.

(…)

The defending goalkeeper must remain on the goal line, facing the kicker, between the goalposts without touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net until the ball has been kicked.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Offence at a penalty but the kick is not taken

IFAB

Rationale for the change

If an **offence** occurs **after** the referee has **signalled** for a **penalty kick** to be taken, but the **kick is not taken**, the penalty **kick cannot be cancelled** as the ball is not in play, but a YC/RC can be issued.

Additional text

2. Offences and sanctions

Once the referee has signalled for a penalty kick to be taken, the kick must be taken; if it is not taken, the referee may take disciplinary action before signalling again for the kick to be taken.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Law 15 – The Throw-In

Position of opponent at a throw-in

IFAB

Rationale for the change

This clarifies situations when a **throw-in** is taken some **distance** from the touchline.

Amended text

1. Procedure

All opponents must stand at least 2m (2 yds) from the point on the touchline where ~~at which~~ the throw-in is to be taken.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

VAR Protocol

Delaying the flag (VAR matches)

IFAB

Rationale for the change

Clarification of when the AR must raise a ‘delayed’ flag for a very close decision.

Amended text

Procedures
Original decision
If an assistant referee delays a flag for an offence, the assistant referee must raise the flag if the attacking team scores a goal, is awarded a penalty kick, free kick, corner kick or throw-in, or retains possession of the ball after the initial attack has ended; in all other situations the assistant referee should decide whether or not to raise the flag depending on the requirements of the game.

LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

Laws of the Game 2019/20

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