

Feinting Allowed at a PK

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FIFA has revised its Questions and Answers on the laws of the Game.

Question; A player taking a penalty kick, feints before kicking the ball. Is this permitted?

Answer: Yes

Trying to 'fake out' or fool an opponent is part of the game. The International Board that passes on the Laws, reasoned that the same latitude should be allowed for a penalty kick as is permitted for a free kick, in the middle of the field.

It is important to note, however, that wasting time, unnecessary delay, or if the kicker engages in unusual or excessive change of direction, that behavior can still be deemed, unsporting behavior. If, in the opinion of the referee, it is unsporting, then it shall be sanctioned with a caution (yellow card). That is valid at any time, not just at the taking of a penalty kick.

If, during the taking of the penalty kick, unsporting behavior is the decision of the referee, after the kick is signaled and the referee cannot stop play before the kick proceeds, the referee must deal with the misconduct as follows:

If the ball goes into goal, the kick is retaken after the player receives a caution (yellow card).

If it does not go into goal, the referee should allow play to go on and show the yellow card, at the very next stoppage in play.