

First : Law 4 Player's Equipment

stockings (or socks): if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as that part of the stocking it is applied to

What this means for us: When a our players are wearing their white socks they need white tape. When we are wearing our blue socks we need blue tape. While this is really petty, we as referees where told we had to enforce this. While we were at our meeting many of us agreed that enforcing this during GCF rec division would probably not be worth it. This will be enforced at higher level events including State Cup, Regional Cup and many tournaments. This also includes players who double sock. If they are wearing a black sock on top of a white sock they are running the risk of being deemed an illegal player. This is an addition to the law that already states that if a player is wearing sliders or a type of performance under gourmet it has to be the same colour as the primary color of the shorts. Referees are now being told to enforce both. So just be aware that this is going to be out there this season.

Second : Law 8 The Start and Restart of Play

You can no longer score directly from a drop ball. FIFA decided there were too many teams abusing the drop ball after a player was injured. So they tried to fix the rule stating goals would no longer be allowed from a drop ball. What they did not fix was that the same player who takes the drop could dribble the ball directly at goal and then shoot. Moral here always send a player to defend a drop ball near your goal.

Third : Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct

This change is about hand balls. The law used to state that the player had to deliberately and blatantly handle the ball. The new text they removed blatantly. So the law now just states deliberately. Expect referees to become more and more confused on how to call a hand ball. Now FIFA is giving the complete authority to the referee on what he deems deliberately to mean.

Fourth : FIFA Task Force

The rule on this one used say that no radio communication were able to be used by the coach. Now the rule states no ELECTRONIC communication systems can be used. This means no cell phones, ipads and ipods. Nothing electronic, a referee can ask can you to leave the game if you are on your phone. Please do not get into a pissing match over this. If you are coaching a game just leave your phone calls till after the game or walk away from your sidelines.

Our local referees will have a challenging year with all these new changes. Please be respectful and represent our club in a honorable way. If you need any clarification on these laws feel free to email me back!