

Updates to Laws of the Game

(26/27 Law Changes)

EVERYONE PLAYS® BALANCED TEAMS OPEN REGISTRATION POSITIVE COACHING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 3. The Players

Ten-second time limit for players to leave the field of play when substituted. If the time limit is exceeded, the substitute cannot enter until the first stoppage after one minute has elapsed

Do not implement for “quarter” substitutions. May be implemented for monitored substitutions.

Please use your voice to encourage a quick substitution

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 4. The Player's Equipment

Accessories are permitted as long as they are not dangerous and are safely and securely covered. Dangerous items must be removed and not taped or covered.

AYSO NRR: Necklaces, bracelets, earrings, visible piercings and watches will still be considered dangerous – must be removed and not taped or covered.

No change to our existing procedures with regards to items considered dangerous

LOTG Changes / Updates **2025/26**

Law 4. The Player's Equipment

Shinguards - these must be made of a suitable material and be of an appropriate size to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks. Players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shinguards.

AYSO NRR:

Team members must wear shinguards that provide a reasonable degree of protection, and that are completely covered by their socks, to participate in any practice or match. Though the Laws of the Game impose responsibility for the size and suitability of shinguards upon the players, the referee will remain responsible for determining the safety of each player's equipment. The lone exception is sanctioned beach futsal soccer tournament play where players may opt out of wearing shinguards.

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 5: The Referee

Barring certain exceptions, players who receive assessment/treatment on the field of play or who cause play to be stopped due to injury must leave and remain off the field of play for one minute after play has restarted.

AYSO NRR: Players who receive assessment/treatment on the fields will be required to leave the field of play, and if not substituted, may reenter once play is restarted with the referee's permission

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 5: The Referee

ADVANTAGE

The Referee allows play to continue when an offense occurs, or a restart is incorrectly taken and the ball is in play, and the opposing team will benefit from the advantage, and penalizes the offense/orders a retake if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time or within a few seconds

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play

Law 8.2 (Dropped ball): If when play was stopped:

- the ball was outside the penalty area, the referee drops it for one player of the team that would have retained or gained possession (including from the restart if the ball would have gone out of play) if this can be determined by the referee, otherwise, it is dropped for one player of the team that last touched it. The ball is dropped at its position when play was stopped, unless it hit a match official or outside agent, in which case it is dropped at the position of the interference/contact.

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match

If the kicker accidentally kicks the ball with both feet simultaneously or the ball touches their non-kicking foot or leg immediately after the kick:

- If the ball enters the goal from the kick, the kick is retaken
- If the ball does not enter the goal from the kick, the kick is recorded as missed

No automatic caution for the kicker if they and the goalkeeper offend at the same time

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

If the referee plays advantage for an offence that would have been deemed to be denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, the offending player is cautioned for unsporting behavior, except where a goal is scored by the non-offending team as a result of the advantage having been played, in which case there is no disciplinary sanction; if the offense was interfering with or stopping a promising attack, the player is not cautioned.

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 12: Fouls and Misconduct

Law 12.4 (DOGSO).

The following must be considered:

- Distance between the offense and the goal
- General direction of the play
- Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- Location and number of defenders and attackers

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 14: The Penalty Kick

If the kicker accidentally kicks the ball with both feet simultaneously or the ball touches their non-kicking foot or leg immediately after the kick:

- If the ball enters the goal from the kick, the kick is retaken
- If the ball does not enter the goal from the kick, an indirect free kick is awarded

No automatic caution for the kicker if they and the goalkeeper offend at the same time

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 15: The Throw -in

Use of a five-second visual countdown when a player/team is delaying the taking of a throw-in. If the time limit is exceeded, the throw-in is awarded to the opposing team



Please use your voice to encourage the players to put the ball back into play

LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 16: The Goal Kick

Use of a five-second visual countdown when a player/team is delaying the taking of a goal kick. If the time limit is exceeded, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team.



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LOTG Changes / Updates 2026/27

Law 16: The Corner Kick

The referee penalizes:

- The goalkeeper for controlling the ball with their hand(s) /arm(s) for more than 8 seconds (Referee visual countdown last 5 seconds)
- A player for delaying the taking of a goal kick for their team



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