

Laws of the Game – Changes for Season 2011-12

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Summary of Decisions taken at the International Football Association Board (IFAB) meeting at Celtic Manor Hotel, Newport, Wales on Saturday 5th March 2011.

Law 1 – The Field of Play Field Markings

Present Text	Proposed Text
Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the field of play.	Only the lines indicated in Law 1 are to be marked on the field of play. <i>Where artificial surfaces are used, other lines are permitted provided that they are of a different colour and clearly distinguishable from the lines for the field of play for football.</i>

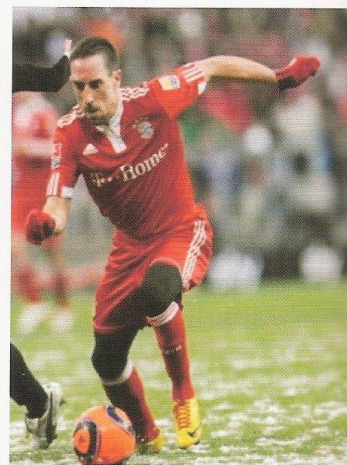
Goals

Present Text	Proposed Text
	The position of the goal posts in relation to the goal line must be according to the graphics below



Law 2 – The Ball Replacement of a Defective Ball

Present Text	Proposed Text
If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a match	If the ball bursts or becomes defective during the course of a match
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the match is stopped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the match is stopped
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the original ball became defective, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the replacement ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the original ball was located when play was stopped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the match is restarted by dropping the replacement ball at the place where the original ball became defective, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the replacement ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the original ball was located when play was stopped
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>if the ball bursts or becomes defective during a penalty kick or during kicks from the penalty mark as it moves forward and before it touches any player or the crossbar or goalposts:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the penalty kick is retaken</i>



NOT allowed



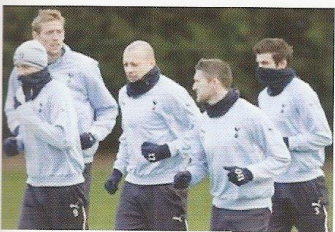
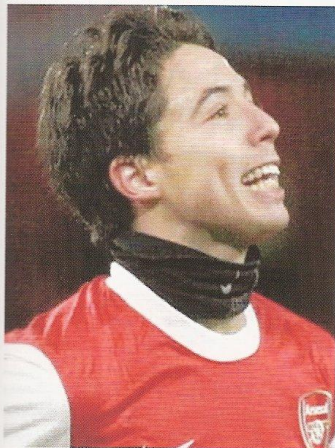
Allowed

Law 4 – Players' Equipment I Basic equipment

Present Text	Proposed Text
Shorts – if undershorts are worn, they must be of the same main colour as the shorts	Shorts – if undershorts or tights are worn, they must be of the same main colour as the shorts

Snoods (Neck Scarves)

Snoods constitute a danger to the player wearing them around their neck if an opponent pulled them and as they are not part of the Basic Equipment as outlined in Law 4 - Players' Equipment, they are not allowed to be worn.



Law 5 – The Referee (Submitted by FIFA)

Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees - Powers and Duties

Present Text	Proposed Text
	<p>If an extra ball, other object or animal enters the field of play during the match, the referee must stop the match only if it interferes with play. Play must be restarted by a dropped ball in the position where the match ball was at the time when the match was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.</p> <p>If an extra ball, other object or animal enters the field of play during the match without interfering with play, the referee must have it removed at the earliest possible opportunity.</p>

This is effectively the response to the Sunderland v Liverpool beach ball incident.

Additional assistant referee experiment (AAR)

Two very important decisions for the experiment:

1. Those competitions conducting the experiment are allowed to change the position of the AAR to operate on the left of the goal i.e. the same side as the assistant referee. This would allow the referee to retain his normal path of patrol to alleviate the positional problems that referees are having in all the experiments around the world.
2. IFAB authorised UEFA to use AARs in the EURO 2012 Finals in Poland/Ukraine.

A special meeting of IFAB will be convened after the EURO 2012 tournament to make a final decision on whether to introduce AAR's into the Laws of the Game.

Goal line technology

The IFAB meeting received a presentation from EMPA who conducted the GLT tests in FIFA, Zurich, from the 7th-13th February. It was agreed to continue with GLT testing through to 2012. Further tests on each company's system will be conducted by EMPA; this time the tests will be conducted at a venue determined by the company rather than at FIFA in Zurich. This will allow each company to showcase their system in the best possible conditions.