



Summary of the 2013 Changes to the Laws of the Game

The 127th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) was held in Edinburg, Scotland on March 2nd. The 2013 revisions to the Laws of the Game became mandatory on July 1, 2013. A summary of the changes follows (quotations are italicized; new or revised wording is in bold text; deleted text has a strikethrough; comments represent AYSO's official position).

Law 3 – The Number of Players (Laws of the Game – maximum number of substitutes changed from 7 to 12).

Official Competitions

(...)

*“The rules of the competition must state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of ~~seven~~ **twelve**.”*

Comment: This change has no impact on AYSO because substitutions in AYSO are not limited – Everyone Plays™!

Law 11 – Offside (Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees – additional clarification).

Definitions

(...)

- *“interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or ~~movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent.~~ **challenging an opponent for the ball.***
- *“gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball ~~that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position~~*
 - I. **that rebounds or is deflected to him off the goalpost, crossbar or an opponent having been in an offside position***
 - II. **that rebounds, is deflected or is played to him from a deliberate save by an opponent having been in an offside position***

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.

Comments:

- Law 11 has not changed. Instructors and referees should continue teaching and applying Law 11 as they always have.
- FIFA’s intent with the additional wording in the Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidance for Referees is to eliminate any confusion regarding the interpretation of rebound, deflection, and situations in which the ball has been deliberately saved.
- The referee may call an offside infringement for interfering with an opponent in the following cases:
 - A player in an offside position obstructs an opponent’s vision, preventing him from playing the ball.
 - A player in an offside position arrives at the ball at the same time as an opponent.
 - A player in an offside position challenges for a “50-50” ball and it appears that the goalkeeper will be able to collect the ball within his own penalty area. The referee thereby prevents a possible collision while the goalkeeper is in a vulnerable posture.
 - An opponent touches the ball first, but in the opinion of the referee the presence of the player in an offside position forces the opponent to either misplay the ball or play it in a manner that he otherwise would not have.
- The change to the second bullet clarifies that both a rebound from an opponent or a goal-preventing save by an opponent in any legal form (e.g., the ball rebounds from the body, from the foot/leg, or in the case of the goalkeeper from the hands/arms) do not constitute control of the ball and therefore do not reset the offside condition.

Other Decisions of the IFAB (with no impact on AYSO because we don’t use AARs or the GLT technology.)

- **The Additional Assistant Referee (AAR)** – describes this new position and its requirements and duties.
- **Goal-line technology (GLT)** – information on the use of this technology is now embedded within Laws 1, 2, 5, 10.