



MEMORANDUM

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The 121st Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in Manchester, England on 03 March 2007. The amendments to the Laws of the Game made at the meeting and the various instructions and directives are listed below.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

Law 1 – The Field of Play

IFAB Decision 4

Present Text

There shall be no advertising of any kind within the technical area or within one metre from the touchline and outside the field of play on the ground. Further, no advertising shall be allowed in the area between the goal line and the goal nets.

New Text

There should be no advertising of any kind on the ground within the technical area or within one meter from the touchline. Further, no advertising shall be allowed in the area between the goal line and the goal nets.

USSF Advice to Referees: The change is likely to affect only matches played at the highest competitive level where advertising is more commonly seen. One practical effect of the change is to allow advertising to be displayed on the shelters or canopies which may be used to cover the team benches.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Basic Equipment

Present Text

- a jersey or shirt
- shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, they are of the same main color as the shorts.

New Text

- a jersey or shirt – **if undergarments are worn, the color of the sleeve should be the same main color as the sleeve of the jersey or shirt.**
- shorts – **if undershorts are worn, they are of the same main color as the shorts.**

USSF Advice to Referees: The general purpose of this change is to ensure that the visible color of any portion of a garment worn underneath the jersey or shorts is consistent with the main color of the jersey or shorts. Accordingly, the referee need not be concerned about the color or any portion of an undergarment which cannot be seen.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment

Basic Equipment

IFAB Decision 1

Present Text

- Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising.
- A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer.
- Jerseys must have sleeves.

New Text

- Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising. **The basic compulsory equipment must not contain any political, religious or personal statements.**
- A player removing his jersey to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizer. **The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment contains political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organizer or by FIFA.**
- Jerseys must have sleeves.

USSF Advice to Referees: The focus of this change is on the commercial, political, religious or personal statement itself, not the method by which it is displayed. This includes wearing such statements directly on any part of the player uniform (normal manufacturer's names and logos are excepted) or revealing such statements by removing any part of the uniform (whether the statement being revealed is on an undergarment or directly on the player's skin). Referees are reminded that, although they do not have responsibility for sanctioning players who violate this restriction under ordinary circumstances, they must still include details of any violations in their match report and they continue to have the authority to sanction players if what is displayed involves abusive, insulting, or offensive language or images. Referees should consult prior memoranda and guidelines on the issue of jersey sleeves.

The Fourth Official

Present Text

- The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue. He assists the referee at all times.

New Text

- The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue, **unless a reserve assistant referee is appointed.** He assists the referee at all times.
- **A reserve assistant referee may be also be appointed under competition rules. His only duty shall be to replace an assistant referee who is unable to continue or to replace the fourth official, as required.**

USSF Advice to Referees: A competition authority may provide a more specific order of priority for a fourth official in a situation where an official is unable to continue (including the appointment of a reserve assistant referee). In the absence of such provisions, the fourth official may substitute for any of the three match officials.

Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials

Celebration of a Goal

New Text

A player must be cautioned when:

- **he covers his head or face with a mask or other similar item**

USSF Advice to Referees: This change in the Law is intended only to extend the existing provision that a player who removes the jersey or uses the jersey to cover the head as part of a goal celebration has committed misconduct and is to be cautioned.

These amendments to the Laws of the Game take effect as from July 1, 2007, and the additional instruction are introduced with immediate effect.