

FIFA Rule Changes for 2016-17

1. The kickoff may go in any direction. The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves.
2. Any player may contest a dropped ball, including goalkeepers. At least two players must touch a dropped ball for a goal to be scored.
3. AHPD House league referees must record scores in order to apply the slaughter rule.
4. Playing in a dangerous manner includes any action by a player that, while trying to play the ball, threatens injury to someone, including the player him or herself, and includes preventing a nearby opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury. A bicycle or scissors kick is permissible provided that it is not dangerous to an opponent.
5. A goalkeeper has control of the ball if the ball between the hands or between the hand and any other surface (e.g. the ground, another part of the body, the goal post, etc.) If the ball bounces off the goalkeeper, it may be played.
6. If a player is required to leave the field to fix equipment, the player may only re-enter the field after checking equipment with a match official and with permission of the referee.
7. The halfway line is neutral for offside. The player must be completely in the opponent's half to be in an offside position.
8. For an Offside offense, the indirect free kick is always taken where the offense occurs, which is not necessarily the spot the player was at when they were in an offside position, even if that spot is in the player's own half. For instance, a player is in an offside position, the ball is passed, the player moves to an onside position and receives the ball, and the referee calls offside: the IFK will be taken where the pass was received, not where the player was standing when the pass was initiated.
9. The coach is responsible for the conduct of coaches, players, and spectators on his or her team.
10. An IFK is awarded to the defending team, regardless of whether a goal is scored if:
 - a. a ball is kicked backwards on a penalty kick.
 - b. A teammate of the identified kicker takes a kick (referee will caution the player who took the kick).
 - c. Feinting a kick once the kicker has completed the run-up (feinting during the run-up is permitted). Referee will caution the kicker.
11. Compulsory equipment for referees: whistle(s), watch(s), red and yellow cards, notebook or other means of keeping record of the match.
12. In the event of penalty kicks after the match to determine a winner:
 - a. a coin toss will determine the goal to be used for the kicks, unless other conditions affect which goal should be used.
 - b. the goal may be changed for safety reason or if the playing surface becomes unplayable. If the goal is changed, a coin toss will determine which team will take the first kick.