

2013 Amendments to the Laws of the Game

bankwest



Law 1 – The Field of Play

| Present text | New text |
|--|---|
| <p>Commercial advertising shall be at least 1 m (1 yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play.</p> | <p>Advertising on the ground shall be at least 1 m (1 yd) from the boundary lines of the field of play. Upright advertising shall be at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 m (1 yd) from the touch lines of the field of play• the same distance from the goal line as the depth of the goal net, and• 1 m (1 yd) from the goal net |

Reason

There should be no upright advertising within a one-metre area surrounding the goal net to allow an unrestricted view of the goal for match officials.

Upright Advertising



Law 3 – The Number of Players

| Present text | New text |
|--------------|---|
| | <p>If a named substitute enters the field of play instead of a named player at the start of the match and the referee is not informed of this change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the referee allows the named substitute to continue the match• no disciplinary sanction is taken against the named substitute• the number of substitutions allowed by the offending team is not reduced• the referee reports the incident to the appropriate authorities |

Reason

It is not rare that a substitution is made prior to the start of the match and after the referee has been informed of the names of the players and substitutes. This is normally due to an injury of a player during the warm-up. If the referee is informed of the substitution, this is permitted but it is necessary to clarify how to proceed if the referee is not informed of the change.

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment

| Present text | New text |
|--------------|--|
| stockings | stockings - if tape or similar material is applied externally it must be the same colour as that part of the stocking it is applied to |

Reason

An increasing number of players are using excessive amounts of tape externally on their socks. This can be a multitude of colours and completely changes the look of the sock. This can cause confusion, particularly for assistant referees who may need to look at the sock to determine who last played the ball before it went out of play.

The Players' Equipment

- The *Laws of the Game* are to be applied as written for all Men's State League matches. This includes the colour of undergarments (**whether visible standing up or not**), and any external colours on the stockings.
- Although we will encourage all clubs to conform with undergarment and stocking regulations in other leagues, it will not be compulsory to enforce. Therefore, do not refuse a player to play if they do not conform with these regulations.

Sock Straps & Ties

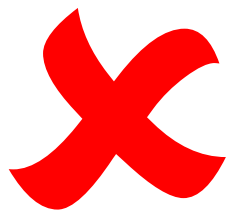


Be aware of multi coloured socks ...

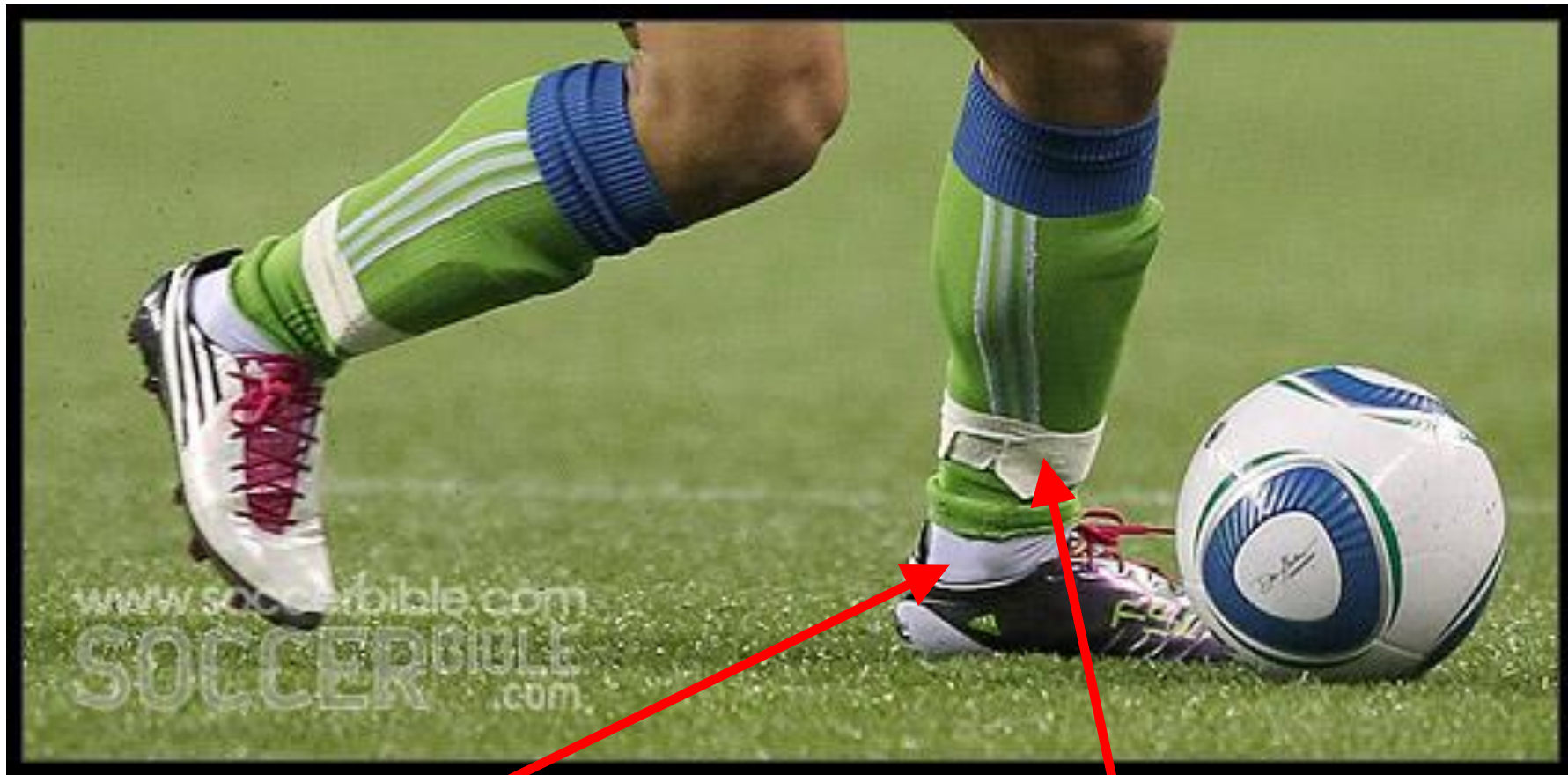
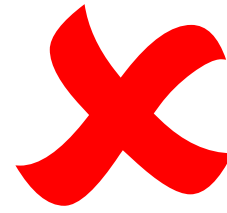




**... but stockings
which have been
cut half way up
the leg, or covered
with a different
coloured sock are
not allowed**



Double whammy!



Cut stocking exposing an ankle sock

AND

external tape applied

Tape on stockings



Believe it or not, it does come in more colours than black and white!

Tape on stockings – What is blue?



These two examples are ok – blue is blue

Undershorts



Undershorts must be the same colour as the colour of the shorts

Undershorts



*“Skin-coloured”
undershorts
that are not the
same colour as
the shorts, **are**
not allowed*

Long tights

Tights must also be the same colour as the shorts



Undershirts

This also applies to undershirts, for all players (incl. GK)



But no snoods!

Pre-match Checklist

- Teams' colours (including goalkeepers)
- Footwear
- Shinguards
- Jewellery
- **Undergarments**
- **External colours on stockings**

Law 4 – The Players' Equipment (“headscarf”)

IFAB Annual Business Meeting, 2 October 2012

The design, colour and material to be permitted were discussed at the meeting, with the directive below to be used during the trial phase. Amendments to the Laws of the game will be made at the conclusion of the experiment in March 2014.

The headscarf must:

- be of the same colour as the jersey
- be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
- not be attached to the jersey
- not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck)
- only be worn by female players

The Players' Equipment

- For any female players wearing a headscarf in Football West competitions, it does not need to be the same colour as the jersey (*but obviously preferred as per the Laws of the Game*).
- **DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TOUCH A PLAYER'S HEADSCARF**

Headscarf



A loose headscarf is liable to being caught or pulled – minimise the risks

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play

| Present text | New text |
|--|--|
| Infringements and sanctions The ball is dropped again: (...) | Infringements and sanctions The ball is dropped again: (...) If the ball enters the goal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded• if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team |

Reason

There have been a number of occasions where goals have been scored from "uncontested" dropped balls. This has put a great deal of pressure on the referee as he has to allow the goal to stand. We then have the unseemly situation where the opposition allows the team to score from the kick-off without any players trying to stop them in order to rebalance the game.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

| Present text | New text |
|---|--|
| <p>Disciplinary sanctions</p> <p>There are circumstances where a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponents gaining possession | <p>Disciplinary sanctions</p> <p>There are circumstances where a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliberately and blatantly handles the ball to prevent an opponents gaining possession |

Reason

It is more important to punish the consequence that the hand ball created rather than the fact that it was blatant. In fact, a hand ball could be inconspicuous but certainly very important. Furthermore, it is difficult to define what is meant by "blatantly" (p. 113), and therefore to have a uniform interpretation, especially by referees from different countries or continents with very different experiences. Deleting the word "blatantly", and providing that if the hand ball prevented the opponent from gaining possession the player must be cautioned, makes the interpretation easier (p. 117).