



Changes to the Rules of the Game 2010

Overview

Apart from a number of editorial changes and necessary changes in field of reference, the new edition of the IHF rulebook also provides explanations for sake of clarity, which are to support a consistent and improved application of the rulebook. Based on experience in recent years some parts needed structural and fundamental changes.

The following overview therefore is composed according to the significance of the changes and not in a chronological order.

Rules 8 and 16: Fouls and Unsportsmanlike / The Punishments

This is a fundamental area of the rulebook where comprehensive and most important changes have been made.

One major change is that throughout Rule 8 the emphasis has been changed from listing examples to using a clear set of criteria for the explanation of the different levels of fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct.

This should be of help for both players/coaches and referees in recognising correct behaviour and in understanding and applying the structure and objectives of the rulebook when incorrect behaviour is punished.

The aforementioned completely new structuring of Rules 8 and 10 resulted in additional changes:

- (1) The definition of 'progressive' fouls has been revised, to provide a clear distinction between fouls that can best be punished in the traditional way, (beginning with yellow cards) and fouls that go beyond the usual and need to be punished with an immediate 2-minute suspension. Both alternatives have always existed, but the rules have contained no criteria and no guidance.
- (2) The distinction between 'normal' disqualifications (which require no reporting and additional punishment) and those more serious violations that must be reported and should lead to further disciplinary action. General criteria for making this distinction have been included in the rulebook.
- (3) The previous category of 'assault → exclusion' has been integrated into the category of 'disqualification plus obligatory report and additional punishment'.

The basic reason is that the 'exclusion' is not seen as a realistic and desirable form of punishment, something that is also reflected in the reality that the assault/exclusion is in practice never used; however, further punishment after the match is warranted. In this context hand signal no. 15 for 'exclusion' was removed so that the new rulebook only contains 17 hand signals in total.

- (4) The dangerous situation of a goalkeeper colliding with a counterattacking opponent, recently quite controversial, is in principle already covered in Rule 8:5; however, the wording and the lack of a clear interpretation have created a less than clear practice in dealing with such situations. The importance of preventing serious injuries has made it necessary to strengthen the Rules in this regard.
- (5) The separate Clarifications 5 and 6, which currently provide illustrations of the concepts 'unsportsmanlike conduct' and 'seriously unsportsmanlike conduct' are transformed into necessary criteria and situations being integrated into the text of Rule 8 for the sake of clarity. At the same time, a new category has been introduced, where a disqualification due to 'extremely unsportsmanlike conduct' must be reported.

Attachment 1 provides a comparison of the former text of Rule 8 and the new one. The main changes have been marked in colour. (The former text (2005) removed is marked in blue; the new text 2010 integrated is marked in yellow.)
The title of Rule 16 can be found in Attachment 2.

Clarification No. 4: Passive Play

Following the introduction of the 'forewarning signal' in the 1997/1998 season, the consistency on the part of referees in dealing with passive play has improved at all levels. Beside the ability to show the 'forewarning signal' at the right time the correct implementation of 'passive play' also includes reasonable decisions to be taken following the 'forewarning signal'. The revised clarification provides further guidance and advice in this regard aimed at a consistent appearance of the text, too.

The text under "The Utilisation of the Forewarning Signal" was indeed moved ahead of the paragraph, "After Showing the Forewarning Signal", for editorial reasons but its contents have hardly changed.

Instructions and advice regarding the handling of the passive play as regards decision-making criteria after showing the forewarning signal saw considerable amendments and were carefully distinguished. The rule on this subject is completed by a new attachment (Annex E), showing indications, which might serve as an example of relevant keywords, such as 'no clear increase in pace', 'confronting the opponent without spatial advantage' and 'legal and active methods of play in defence'.

Attachment 3 provides a comparison of the former Clarification text and the new one.

Clarification No. 7 Interruption by the Timekeeper / a Delegate

Following a 'patchwork' of additions and changes in 2001 and 2005, this Clarification has regrettably become a source of confusion. The Clarification has now been

completely rewritten in an attempt to achieve the desired brevity and clarity. For the integration of the former Clarification regarding unsportsmanlike conduct under Rule 8, it can now be found under Rule 8:7.

Attachment 4 providing a comparison of the former Clarification text and the new one is to show the changes in detail. The new structure of the Clarification distinguishing between the 'interruption for a faulty substitution' and the 'interruption for other reasons' is also mentioned. It also defines the tasks and authority of the timekeeper and the official delegate.

Rule 4: The Team, Substitutions, Equipment, Player Injuries

Much to the frustration of the PRC/CCM, the 2005 decision that the 'team captain' would no longer be mandatory, has made some people unable or unwilling to understand this change.

Despite explanations and the issuance of repeated clarifications on later occasions people understood that team captains are forbidden, something that has never been stated or intended.

Therefore explicit reference to the concept of 'team captain' is being inserted in two different places in the Rules (Rule 4:9, 4th paragraph [indirect mention] and Rule 17:4 [direct mention]).

The wording regarding the numbers that players are allowed to use on their uniforms has become a bit obsolete. A strict rule has gradually been transformed into a preference or recommendation. Suitable for modern technology and in order to be practically orientated, it is laid down that the numbers used must be whole numbers from 1 to 99.

The fact that headscarves have been included into the list of objects players are allowed to wear helped that the new rulebook also satisfies religious needs of a number of IHF member federations.

Yet, players who wear dangerous objects are not allowed to take part.

More changes and amendments worth mentioning in chronological order

Foreword The Rules of the Game will take effect on 1st July 2010.

Rule 5:10 This rule refers to a ball moving out towards the playing area. This rule does not affect a ball that is stationary in the goal area as referred to under 12:1.

Rule 6:2c Owing (just) to the question as to whether the entering of the goal area has destroyed a clear chance of scoring or not, an additional sentence was added for this very purpose to explain that the term 'entering' means clearly stepping into the goal area and not just touching the goal-area line. This is also to avoid discrepancy with the formulation of Rule 6:1.

Rule 6:5, 3rd paragraph	A small advice was added to draw the attention to the fact that it is permitted to touch a ball which is in the air over the goal area as long as it is in conformity with Rules 7:1 and 7:8.
Rule 7:3, Comment	The Comment was considered obsolete (as it reflects the actual text under Rule 7:3 preceding the comment) and thus was replaced by a comment which lists special circumstances when playing the ball.
Rule 9.1, 3rd paragraph	The delegate was included in the Rules.
Rule 13:4	Reference to Rule 13:2 was removed, as a free-throw must be allocated in the situations mentioned.
Rule 15:9	An additional advice indicates when the defending player shall be penalised for his incorrect behaviour.
Rule 17:9	The additional advice allows the continental and national federations to apply deviating regulations.
Rule 17:14	This new rule allows the use of modern communication tools.
Clarif. No. 3	4 th paragraph: A remark concerning the timekeeper's behaviour in case of commotion was removed. 7 th paragraph: Beside infractions, cases of unsportsmanlike conduct are included.
Clarif. No. 6a	The sentence added refers to a situation in which a player does not yet control the ball but is ready for an immediate ball reception while the opponent is not able anymore to prevent the ball reception with legal actions.
Clarif. No. 6b	The sentence added refers to a situation which has already been mentioned under item no. 4, Rules 8 and 16. It concerns illegal actions by the goalkeeper during a counter-attack. Now and regardless of other defending players' positions, a 7m-throw must be decided (see, however, Rule 8:5, Comment).
Sub. Area Reg. No. 1	The 2 nd paragraph defines the distance between the team bench and the centre line and thus defines the beginning of the newly established coaching zone.
Sub. Area Reg. No. 3	Experience from recent seasons resulted in the additional remark that colours which may cause confusion with the court players of the opposing team are not allowed.
Sub. Area Reg. No. 5	Aside from a formal rule (see point 1 of Substitution Area Regulations) the rulebook now includes detailed information about the coaching zone, which had not been included before. Moreover the rights of team officials are clearly defined.

And situations are mentioned in which they are allowed to leave the coaching zone.

A restriction for players when they do the warming-up was omitted, as this subject is explained in detail in the place where permission is granted.

**Sub. Area Reg.
No. 7 + 8**

These items could be removed, as the contents of these rules were included under Clarification No. 7.

Parts of these rules usually form part of the implementing regulations concerned, additional provisions or special instructions for referees.

Manfred Prause

Jürgen Scharoff