Amendments to the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game – 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you of the amendments to the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game approved by the Beach Soccer Sub-Committee of the International Football Association Board, as well as various instructions and guidelines.

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ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Reason:
All the officials mentioned are referees and they must all be equally familiar with the Laws. The word "guidelines" has been added to underline their mandatory nature.

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

LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS
Substitution procedure

Current text
A substitution may be made at any time, regardless of whether the ball is in or out of play, as long as the following conditions are observed:

- the player wishing to enter the pitch signals his intention to do so by raising a sign with the number of the player whom he intends to replace above his head;
- the player being replaced leaves the pitch

New text
A substitution may be made at any time, regardless of whether the ball is in or out of play, provided that the following conditions are observed:

- the player wishing to enter the pitch signals his intention to do so by raising a sign with the number of the player whom he intends to replace above his head;
- the player being replaced leaves the pitch
through his own team’s substitution zone;
- the player entering the pitch does so from his own team’s substitution zone but not until the player leaving the pitch has crossed the touch line completely;
- a substitute is subject to the authority and jurisdiction of the referees whether he is called upon to play or not;
- the substitution is complete when the substitute entering the pitch hands the player leaving the pitch the sign with the player’s number, at which point the substitute becomes an active player and the player he is replacing ceases to be one.

Reason:
To allow the game to flow and prevent offences from being committed due to the speed at which players are replaced, substitutions are permitted in the 5m zone, not just in the 2.5m corresponding to each team.

**LAW 3 – THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

**Changing goalkeepers**

**Current text**
A goalkeeper may be substituted at any time. The stopwatch is not stopped while goalkeepers are substituted.

**New text**
A goalkeeper may be substituted at any time. The stopwatch is not stopped while goalkeepers are substituted. A goalkeeper is considered a player until his replacement has entered the pitch, thus completing the substitution.

Reason:
To avoid the situation whereby a team can play without a goalkeeper for a certain period of time until the substitution is completed.

**LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT**

**Basic equipment**

**Current text**
The basic compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate articles:
- a jersey or shirt;
- shorts – if thermal undershorts are worn, they must be the same main colour as the shorts;

Footwear is not permitted. Elastic binding
around the ankles or feet and plastic spectacles may be worn for protection.

Reason:
To harmonise the wording of this provision with the rest of the Laws of the Game. This amendment has no bearing on the Law itself.

LAW 4 – THE PLAYERS’ EQUIPMENT
Decisions

Current text
1. Players must not reveal undershirts that contain slogans or advertising. Any player who lifts his shirt to reveal slogans or advertising shall be sanctioned by the competition organisers.
2. The shirts must have sleeves.

New text
1. Players must not reveal undergarments showing slogans or advertising. The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal statements.
2. A player removing his shirt to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organiser. The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment has political, religious or personal slogans or statements will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or by FIFA.
3. The shirts must have sleeves.

Reason:
To harmonise the text with the IFAB’s decisions in the Laws of the Game of football.

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE AND THE SECOND REFEREE
Powers and duties

Current text
The referees:
- enforce the Laws of the Game;
- allow play to continue if the team against which an offence has been committed stands to benefit from such an advantage, and punish the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not accrue at that time;
- keep a record of the match and provide the appropriate authorities with a match report that includes information on any disciplinary

New text
The referees:
- enforce the Laws of the Game;
- allow play to continue if the team against which an offence has been committed stands to benefit from such an advantage, and punish the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not accrue at that time;
- the referee provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, which includes information on any disciplinary
disciplinairy action taken against players or team officials as well as any other incidents that occur before, during or after the match;
- the referee acts as timekeeper if the latter or third referee is not present;
- stops, suspends or terminates the match for any infringement of the Laws or as a result of any kind of outside interference;
- take disciplinary action against players guilty of offences warranting a caution or sending-off;
- take action against team officials who are guilty of misconduct and, if necessary, dismiss them from the pitch area without showing them a card;
- ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the pitch;
- interrupt play if a player is deemed to be wasting time;
- stop the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured, and ensure that the player is carried off the pitch;
- allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in their opinion, only slightly injured;
- ensure that the balls used meet the requirements of Law 2;

action taken against players, and/or team officials and any other incidents that occurred before, during and after the match;
- the referee acts as timekeeper if the latter or third referee is not present;
- stops, suspends or terminates the match for any infringement of the Laws or as a result of any kind of outside interference;
- take disciplinary action against players guilty of offences warranting a caution or sending-off;
- take action against team officials who are guilty of misconduct and, if necessary, dismiss them from the pitch area without showing them a card;
- ensure that no unauthorised persons enter the pitch;
- interrupt play if a player is deemed to be wasting time;
- stop the match if, in their opinion, a player is seriously injured, and ensure that the player is carried off the pitch;
- allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in their opinion, only slightly injured;
- whistle to restart play with a free kick or penalty kick;
- ensure that the balls used meet the requirements of Law 2.

Reason:
To oblige the referees to ensure that players keep the regulation distance during the taking of all free kicks and penalties, thus avoiding conflict.

LAW 6 – THE TIMEKEEPER AND THE THIRD REFEREE
The timekeeper

Current text
- ensures that the duration of the match complies with the provisions of Law 7 by:
  - starting his stopwatch as soon as the match kicks off;
  - stopping the watch as soon as a goal has been scored, a penalty kick or direct free kick awarded, or the referees have signalled that a player is

New text
- ensures that the duration of the match complies with the provisions of Law 7 by:
  - starting his stopwatch as soon as the match kicks off;
  - stopping the watch as soon as a goal has been scored, a penalty kick or direct free kick awarded, or the referees have signalled that a player is
injured or for time-wasting.
- stopping the watch whenever the referees signal him to do so;
- restarting the watch after a kick-off, a direct free kick and a penalty kick has been taken;
• checking the two-minute effective time punishment period when a player has been sent off;
• indicating the end of each period, the match and extra time with a different whistle or acoustic signal from those used by the referees;
• signalling to the referees exactly when to start the second and third periods of play after the three-minute break and when to start extra time, if necessary.

Reason:
To provide for situations not covered by the previous Laws of the Game.

LAW 6 – THE TIMEKEEPER AND THE THIRD REFEREE
The third referee

Current text
The third referee assists the referees and timekeeper by:
• keeping a record of stoppages in the game and the reasons for them;
• ensuring that substitutions are correctly carried out and, by using a different whistle or acoustic signal from those used by the referees, indicating any infringement that has occurred during substitution, if the advantage rule cannot be applied;
• making a note of the numbers of the players who score goals and in which minute of play;
• recording the names and numbers of the players cautioned or sent off;
• providing any other information relevant to the game.
• monitoring the conduct of those persons seated on the substitutes’ bench;
• informing the teams exactly when a player

New text
The third referee assists the referees and timekeeper by:
• keeping a record of stoppages in the game and the reasons for them;
• ensuring that substitutions are correctly carried out and, by using a different whistle or acoustic signal from those used by the referees, indicating any infringement that has occurred during substitution, if the advantage rule cannot be applied;
• making a note of the numbers of the players who score goals and in which minute of play;
• recording the names and numbers of the players cautioned or sent off;
• providing any other information relevant to the game.
• monitoring the conduct of those persons seated on the substitutes’ bench;
• informing the teams in writing of exactly
may substitute another who has been sent off.

Reason:
To help teams to know when the substitute can enter the play in these situations. This measure was previously used at the last World Cup.

LAW 7 – THE DURATION OF THE MATCH
Periods of play

Current text
The match lasts three equal periods of 12 minutes each. The timekeeping shall be carried out by a timekeeper, whose duties are defined in Law 6.

The time must be stopped as described in Law 6:
• whenever a goal is scored;
• whenever a direct free kick or a penalty kick is awarded;
• whenever the referees signal accordingly;
• whenever the referees signal that a player is wasting time.

New text
The match lasts three equal periods of 12 minutes each. The timekeeping shall be carried out by a timekeeper, whose duties are defined in Law 6.

The time must be stopped as described in Law 6:
• whenever a goal is scored;
• whenever a direct free kick or a penalty kick is awarded;
• whenever the referees signal accordingly;
• whenever the referees signal that a player is injured or is wasting time.

Reason:
To indicate that the watch is stopped on the referees’ signal, as they are the ones who authorise the medical staff to enter the pitch.
The duration of each period may be prolonged to enable a penalty kick or a direct free kick to be taken. The match or period of play ends when:

- the ball goes directly into a goal and a goal is scored;
- after the ball has been kicked and it passes over the boundaries of the pitch;
- the ball touches the goalkeeper or the posts, crossbar or sand and passes into goal - the goal is awarded;
- the ball touches any player other than the goalkeeper after it has been kicked;
- the defending goalkeeper stops the ball or it rebounds from the goalposts or crossbar and does not enter the goal.

Reason:
To include a provision in the Laws of the Game to the effect that if an offence is committed while a free kick or penalty is being taken, it should be punished by another penalty or free kick.

LAW 8 – THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY
Offences / sanctions

Current text
If the player taking the kick-off touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player, a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

New text
If the player taking the kick-off touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player, a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line.

Reason:
To harmonise the wording of this provision with the rest of the Laws of the Game. This amendment has no bearing on the Law itself.

LAW 9 – THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY
Ball in play

Current text
The ball is in play at all other times, including when:
- it rebounds from a goal post or the

New text
The ball shall be deemed in play at all other times, including when:
- it rebounds from a goal post or the
crossbar onto the pitch;
- it rebounds from either of the referees while they are on the pitch;
- it is in the air after the kick-off.

crossbar onto the pitch;
- it rebounds from either of the referees while they are on the pitch;
- is in the air after the kick-off, provided that the kick-off is taken correctly.

Reason:
To specify that if the kick-off is not taken correctly, the stopwatch cannot be started.

LAW 10 – THE METHOD OF SCORING
Winning team

Current text
The team that scores the greater number of goals during a match is the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals or none at all, extra time is played at the end of normal time.

If extra time ends in a draw, the match is decided by alternate kicks taken from the imaginary penalty mark. The team that scores more goals from the same number of penalty kicks is the winner.

New text
The team that scores the greater number of goals during a match shall be the winner. If both teams score an equal number of goals or none at all, extra time is played at the end of normal time.

If extra time ends in a draw, the match is decided by alternate kicks taken from the imaginary penalty mark. The team that scores more goals from the same number of penalty kicks is the winner.

Reason:
This paragraph has been deleted because it was already included in Law 3 – The Number of Players.

LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT
Direct free kick

Current text
A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
- kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind him;
- jumps at an opponent;

New text
A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences in a manner considered by the referees to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:
- kicking or attempting to kick an opponent;
- trips or attempts to trip an opponent, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind him;
- jumps at an opponent;
- charges an opponent, even with the shoulder;
- strikes or attempts to strike an opponent;
- pushes an opponent.

**Reason:**
To remove "even with the shoulder", as beach soccer is a contact sport and no offence is considered to have been committed provided the charge was not careless or reckless and excessive force was not used.

**LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

**Direct free kick**

**Current text**
A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:
- holds an opponent;
- spits at an opponent;
- handles the ball, i.e. deliberately carries, throws or propels it with a hand or arm (except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area);
- holds the ball back deliberately with his legs so as to waste time;
- plays dangerously;
- deliberately obstructs an opponent;
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;
- touches the opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession.

**New text**
A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following offences:
- holds an opponent back;
- spits at an opponent;
- handles the ball, i.e. deliberately carries, throws or propels it with a hand or arm (except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area);
- holds the ball back deliberately with his legs in the opponents' half so as to waste time;
- plays dangerously in the opponents' half;
- deliberately obstructs an opponent in the opponents' half;
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;
- touches the opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession.

**Reason:**
To specify that where the offence was committed in the opposing team's half, the free kick should be taken from the place where the offence was committed.
**LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

Direct free kick from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line

**Current text**

A direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line if:

- a team has possession of the ball inside its own penalty area for more than five seconds when it is not deflecting it from an opponent;
- the goalkeeper uses his hands to receive an intentional backpass from any team-mate two consecutive times without the ball having touched an opponent;
- the goalkeeper releases the ball from his hands and kicks it into the air before it touches the ground;
- the goalkeeper, after having possession of the ball in his hands in his own penalty area, plays the ball with his feet out of his penalty area and returns there to receive the ball with his hands again;
- commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 11, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

**Reason:**

To provide an appropriate sanction for three offences that were not clearly defined. This amendment was unanimously requested by referees, players and technical staff.

**LAW 11 – FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

Cautionable offences by players or substitutes

**Current text**

A player or a substitute is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he commits any of the following offences:

- he is guilty of unsporting behaviour;
- he shows dissent by word or action;
- he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;

**New text**

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences:

- he is guilty of unsporting behaviour;
- he shows dissent by word or action;
- he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
Game;
- he delays the restart of play;
- he fails to respect the required distance during a kick-off, corner kick, ball inbound, direct free kick or goal clearance;
- he enters or re-enters the pitch without the referees’ permission or infringes the substitution procedure;
- he deliberately leaves the pitch without the referees’ permission.

- he delays the restart of play;
- he fails to respect the required distance during a kick-off, corner kick, ball inbound or direct free kick;
- he enters or re-enters the pitch without the referees’ permission or infringes the substitution procedure;
- he deliberately leaves the pitch without the referees’ permission.
- A substitute is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences:
  - he is guilty of unsporting behaviour;
  - he shows dissent by word or action;
  - he delays the restart of play.

Reason:
To harmonise the text with Law 3 as regards players who are on the pitch (players) and players who are off it (substitutes).
As in football, a distinction is made between the players on the pitch and the players on the bench (substitutes), as the latter cannot commit the same range of offences as the former. The caution for not respecting the required distance at goal clearances has been abolished, as there is no recognised distance for these situations in the Laws of the Game.

LAW 12 – DIRECT FREE KICKS
Offences / sanctions

Current text
If a player in the attacking team infringes Law 12:
- a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the offence occurred.

New text
If a player in the attacking team infringes Law 12:
- a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line.

Reason:
To avoid having to award a penalty kick.

LAW 13 – THE PENALTY KICK
Offences / sanctions

Current text
If, after a penalty kick has been taken:
the kicker touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player,

New text
If, after a penalty kick has been taken:
the kicker touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player,
a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the offence occurred.

Reason:
To uniformly state in all the Laws of the Game that if a player touches the ball twice after the restart of play without another player having touched, the restart of play should take place on the halfway line; this instance was the only restart of play where the principle was not adhered to. Nevertheless, if the second touch is a deliberate handball, the player is punished in accordance with Law 11 because he has committed two offences simultaneously and the handball is the more serious infringement.

**LAW 16 – THE DOUBLE BACKPASS TO THE GOALKEEPER**

The double backpass

**Current text**
The goalkeeper may not touch the ball with his hands or arms when the ball is returned to him by a team-mate a second consecutive time, including from a header or a ball inbound, without it having touched an opponent. If the ball is passed to the goalkeeper by a team-mate, one of the referees must signal this first backpass by raising his arm above his head.

**New text**
The goalkeeper may not deliberately touch the ball with his hands or arms when the ball is returned to him by a team-mate a second consecutive time, including from a header, without it having touched an opponent. If the ball is passed to the goalkeeper from a team-mate, one of the referees must signal this first backpass by raising his arm above his head.

**Reason:**
If there is no deliberate handball, no infringement is deemed to have been committed.

**LAW 18 – PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH**

Procedure

**Current text**
- The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken.
- The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- The referee and the timekeeper keep a record of the kicks being taken.
- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
- The first team to score one goal more than the other from the same number of penalty kicks is the winner.
- All players and substitutes, including the

**New text**
- The referee chooses the goal at which the kicks will be taken.
- The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- the referee, the second referee and the timekeeper keep a record of the kicks being taken.
- The kicks are taken alternately by the teams.
- The first team to score a goal more than the other from the same number of penalty kicks is the winner.
goalkeepers, are eligible to take a penalty kick.

- Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.
- Only the eligible players and referees are permitted to remain on the pitch when kicks from the imaginary penalty mark are being taken.
- All eligible players, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain in the opposite half of the pitch with the third referee.
- An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the imaginary penalty mark are being taken.
- The referee stands level with the imaginary penalty mark to the left of the player taking the kick, ensures that the kicker does not commit any infringement and gives the signal for the kick to be taken.
- The second referee, standing on the goal line to the left of the goal on the opposite side to the referee, ensures that the defending goalkeeper does not commit any infringement and decides whether the ball has entered the goal or not.
- The second referee stands level with the imaginary penalty mark to the left of the player taking the kick, ensures that the kicker does not commit any infringement and gives the signal for the kick to be taken; he also monitors the position of the other goalkeeper, who must stand on the goal line on the opposite side to the second referee, at least 5m away from the right-hand goal post, and ensures that he does not behave unsportingly.
- When a team finishes the match with a greater number of players and substitutes than its opponents, it must reduce the numbers to equate with those of their opponents and inform the referee of the name of and number of each player excluded. The team captain is responsible for ensuring that this is implemented.
- Before the start of kicks from the imaginary penalty mark, the referee must ensure that only the same number of eligible players from each team remains in the opposite half of the pitch; these players will take the penalty kicks.

- All players and substitutes, including the goalkeepers, are eligible to take a penalty kick.
- Each kick is taken by a different player and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.
- Only the eligible players and referees are permitted to remain on the pitch when kicks from the imaginary penalty mark are being taken.
- All eligible players, except the player taking the kick and the two goalkeepers, must remain in the opposite half of the pitch with the third referee.
- An eligible player may change places with the goalkeeper at any time when kicks from the imaginary penalty mark are being taken.
- The referee, standing on the goal line to the left of the goal on the opposite side to the second referee, ensures that the defending goalkeeper does not commit any infringement and decides whether the ball has entered the goal or not.
- The second referee stands level with the imaginary penalty mark to the left of the player taking the kick, ensures that the kicker does not commit any infringement and gives the signal for the kick to be taken; he also monitors the position of the other goalkeeper, who must stand on the imaginary penalty area line on the opposite side to the second referee, at least 5m away from the ball, and ensures that he does not behave unsportingly.
- When a team finishes the match with a greater number of players and substitutes than its opponents, it must reduce the numbers to equate with those of their opponents and inform the referee of the name of and number of each player excluded. The team captain is responsible for ensuring that this is implemented.
- Before the start of kicks from the imaginary penalty mark, the referee must ensure that only the same number of eligible players from each team remains in
ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES, SECOND REFEREES, THIRD REFEREES AND TIMEKEEPERS

Reason:
Previously, the referee had been carrying out duties that were not his own and the responsibility had fallen to the second referee.

The position of the goalkeeper has been changed to prevent him from carrying out the referee’s duties, as up to now he had been positioned on the goal line.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Current text
ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES, SECOND REFEREES, THIRD REFEREES AND TIMEKEEPERS

Reason:
All the officials mentioned are referees and they must all be equally familiar with the Laws. The word “guidelines” has been added to underline that it is obligatory to comply with them.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Scissors kick

Current text
The scissors kick is permitted.

New text
The scissors kick is permitted, provided that no opponent is struck in the process.

If a player prevents an opponent from carrying out a scissors kick, he shall be punished with a free kick to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. If the player preventing the scissors kick is struck in the process, the infringement is deemed to have been committed by him.

Reason:
This point has been clarified to avoid misinterpretation.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES

Cautions for unsporting behaviour as a result of deliberate handball

Current text
There are circumstances which, in addition to being penalised by a direct free kick, will also result in the player being cautioned for

New text
There are circumstances which, in addition to being penalised by a direct free kick, will also result in the player being cautioned for
unsporting behaviour, for example, when he:
- touches or deliberately strikes the ball to stop the opponent receiving it;
- tries to score a goal by deliberately touching or striking the ball with his hand.

Reason:
The grounds for caution for deliberate handball have been listed here to avoid misconceptions.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES
Goalkeeping offences

Current text
Referees are reminded that goalkeepers are not allowed to hold the ball for more than five seconds. Any goalkeeper committing this offence will be sanctioned with a direct free kick to be taken from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line.

The goalkeeper may not touch the ball with his hands or arms when the ball is returned to him by a team-mate a second consecutive time, including from a header or a ball inbound, without it having touched an opponent. Any goalkeeper committing this offence will be sanctioned with a direct free kick to be taken from the imaginary point in the middle of the halfway line.

Reason:
This point has been deleted because it already appears in the Laws of the Game.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES
Goal celebrations

Current text
Even though players are allowed to express

New text
Even though players are allowed to express
their joy when they score a goal, the celebration should not be excessive. In FIFA circular no. 579, FIFA gave permission to celebrate the scoring of goals in a reasonable manner. However, the practice of rehearsed celebrations should be discouraged if it causes time-wasting, in which case the referees should intervene. Players will be cautioned, if, in the opinion of the referee, they do any of the following:

- Make provocative, derisory or impassioned gestures;
- Leave the pitch and enter an area in which fans are congregated in order to celebrate a goal;
- Remove their shirt or cover their head with it.

**Reason:**

It is not only the referee's opinion that matters, but also that of the other referees and furthermore, this is not an action that is a matter of opinion, but which must result in a caution. Covering the head with a mask or other object comes from an IFAB guideline which was not previously included in these Laws of the Game because they were not amended last year.

**ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES**

Procedure for injured players

**Current text**

The referee must take into account the following instructions if a player is injured:

- Allow the match to continue until the ball goes out of play if the injury is, in the referee's opinion, a minor one.
- Stop the match if the referee considers the injury to be serious.
- After consulting the injured player, the referee shall authorise one or more (maximum two) medical staff to enter the pitch to allow them to assess the injury and ensure that the player leaves the pitch safely and swiftly.
- If necessary, the stretcher-bearers shall enter the pitch at the same time as the doctors to hasten the player’s departure from the pitch.
- The referee must ensure that the injured player is carried off the pitch safely and

**New text**

The referees must take into account the following instructions if a player is injured:

- Allow the match to continue until the ball goes out of play if the injury is, in their opinion, a minor one.
- Stop the match if they consider the injury to be serious;
- If the referees think that a player is simulating or has simulated an injury in order to avoid taking a direct free kick or penalty kick, he shall be cautioned. If play has not restarted, they shall oblige him to take the kick and if play has restarted, they shall make a note in the report.
- After consulting the injured player, the referees shall authorise one or more (maximum two) medical staff to enter the pitch to allow them to assess the injury and
swiftly.
- The player may not be treated on the pitch.
- Any player with a bleeding wound must leave the pitch and may not return until the referee has ascertained that the wound has stopped bleeding. A player may not wear blood-stained clothing.
- As soon as the doctors have entered the pitch, the player shall leave the pitch either on foot or be carried off on a stretcher. If a player does not comply with this provision, he shall be cautioned for deliberately delaying the restart of play.
- Assuming he has not been substituted, an injured player may return to the pitch only after the match has restarted.
- An injured player does not have to leave the pitch via the substitution zone, but over any line that marks the pitch boundaries.
- An injured player who has left the pitch or has had to leave the pitch may be substituted, but the substitute must always enter the pitch via the substitution zone.
- When the ball is in play, the injured player may return to the pitch if he has not been substituted, but only from the touch line. When the ball is not in play, he may return via any boundary line on the pitch.
- Only the referees may allow an injured player who has not been substituted to return to the pitch, whether the ball is in play or not.
- If play has not been stopped for any other reason or if the injury to the player is not the result of an infringement of the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, the referee will restart play with a dropped ball (see Law 8).

Exceptions

Exceptions are made in the following cases only:
- Goalkeeper injury;
- When the goalkeeper and an outfield player collide with each other and require immediate treatment;
- A player may not be treated on the pitch if he has not been fouled.
- Any player with a bleeding wound must leave the pitch and may not return until the referees have ascertained that the wound has stopped bleeding (the third referee may carry out the check, but only the referees may authorise his entry, if he has not been substituted); a player may not wear blood-stained clothing.
- As soon as the doctors have entered the pitch, the player shall leave the pitch either on foot or be carried off on a stretcher, provided he does not have to take the free kick. If a player does not comply with this provision, he shall be cautioned for deliberately delaying the restart of play.
- Assuming he has not been substituted, an injured player may return to the pitch only after the match has restarted.
- An injured player does not have to leave the pitch via the substitution zone, but over any line that marks the pitch boundaries.
- An injured player who has left the pitch or has had to leave the pitch may be substituted, but the substitute must always enter the pitch via the substitution zone.
- When the ball is in play, the injured player may return to the pitch if he has not been substituted, but only from the touch line. When the ball is not in play, he may return via any boundary line on the pitch.
- Only the referees may allow an injured player who has not been substituted to return to the pitch, whether the ball is in play or not.
- If play has not been stopped for any other reason or if the injury to the player is not
When there is a serious injury, for example, a player has swallowed his tongue, is suffering from concussion or has broken his leg, etc., the result of an infringement of the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game, the referee will restart play with a dropped ball (see Law 8).

Exceptions

Exceptions are made in the following cases only:

- Goalkeeper injury;
- When the goalkeeper and an outfield player collide with each other and require immediate treatment;
- When there is a serious injury, for example, a player has swallowed his tongue, is suffering from concussion or has broken his leg, etc.
- When a player needs to remove sand from his person, for which purpose he may be provided with water without having to leave the pitch.

Injured player who must take a free kick or penalty

- It is permitted to treat a player on the pitch if he has been fouled and requests assistance from the referees, unless he has a bleeding wound.
- The referees shall ask the player whether he is able to take the direct free kick or penalty after he has received treatment.
- If he says he is unable to take the direct free kick or penalty, his substitute shall take it.

Reason:
To bring the text into line with the circular that was issued in October 2007.
"Referee" has also been amended to "referees" to indicate that either of the two may act.
It is also specified that removing sand is not considered an injury and that a player may receive treatment.

The IFAB sub-committee has agreed that the amendments to the Laws of the Game and the instructions and guidelines for referees should come into force on 1 July 2008.
Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

[Signature]

Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee
    - FIFA Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
    - FIFA Referees Committee
    - Confederations
    - Member associations