

2007 vs. 2006 ATR Comparison

This document summarizes the sections changed or added to the August 2007 edition of the USSF "Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game" (ATR) as compared to the previous August 2006 edition. Any text samples extracted and included are done solely for educational purposes and are still bound to the original copyright holder (likely USSF). While every attempt was made to make this accurate, this comparison document has not been reviewed or approved by the USSF, its referee committee, nor the ATR document writer(s). Purely "in the opinion of the referee" that authored this comparison, **major changes to the ATR philosophy are bolded** while *reordering of text, title and minor changes are italicized*. Changes of pronouns or formatting are not even mentioned (trifling).

This year was interesting yet again. There were some hidden LOTG changes in the new 70+ page "Additional Instructions" section of the FIFA LOTG. This created some key changes in ATR meaning but often only minor text changes. There are numerous minor clean-ups and wording clarifications. Significant changes in describing offside, restarts after misconduct, and some PK procedures. See the Alert (<http://socref.net/alert.html>) about the new "Additional Instructions" section of the FIFA LOTG.

USSF included the change bars again. But again, the change bars seem to get applied to whole paragraphs or even major sections when only minor word changes in one place occurred. There are a few places where changes occurred but were not noted with change bars. And places where a change bar is noted but there is no change. And some places where whole paragraphs were deleted but no indication of such. So this comparison document clarifies more precisely what changed where. Any ATR paragraphs with a change bar are noted here with the extent of the change, if any.

This document is in the same style as the last few "ATR Comparison" documents created by the author and follows a format started by Joe Cohen's "2003 vs. 2001 ATR Comparison". The changes are as follows:

Advice to Referees (intro)

The first paragraph is updated to reflect it has been 70 years since the modern version of the laws was issued. (No change bar.)

The third paragraph was updated to reflect the 2007-2008 LOTG edition and the (new) Additional Instructions section in that LOTG (removed reference to Q&A).

*Added a sentence to the fourth paragraph stating this is the official statement of the Federation interpretation of the Laws. And calls out to referee, coach, player and team officials to remember there are other sources (as listed). **One source added to the list is the "Additional Instructions and Guidelines for Referees" that replaces the former "Questions and Answers".***

Added a final paragraph, similar to the intro in the FIFA LOTG, that an asterisk () is used to mean "subject to the special circumstances mentioned in Law 8". There are many places where they made this simplification in the ATR. As it is simply a textual substitution with the same meaning, these changes are not mentioned further in this document. In some instances this change is marked by USSF with a change bar; but not always.*

3.2 LATE-ENTERING PLAYER

Added a second paragraph, listed as a “Note: “, reminding that any case of a player entering or re-entering the field needs the referee’s permission; not just for a later entering player.

3.4 SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE

The only change to the whole first paragraph marked with a change bar was the removal of “a foul or” before the word misconduct in the sixth sentence in the middle of the paragraph.

3.10 ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE GAME

The fourth sentence in the middle of the first paragraph was changed to reflect that the restart is an IFK instead of dropped ball. Added words at the end of the sentence for clarification as well: “when play was stopped”.

3.12 NUMBER OF PLAYERS DURING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

Simply changed 5th sentence in middle of first paragraph from “If a player is dismissed or seriously injured and thus removed from the field during the taking of the kicks,” to “If a player is removed from the field or is unable to participate in the taking of the kicks due to injury,”.

3.14 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND THE REFEREE

Simply changed “and to include” to “and then must include” in the 3rd sentence of the first paragraph.

3.18 ACTION IF PLAY STOPPED FOR PERSON ILLEGALLY ON THE FIELD

In the second sentence of the (b) clause, changed “removed and be cautioned” to “removed, cautioned”.

3.19 OFFENSE COMMITTED WHILE PERSON ILLEGALLY ON THE FIELD

In second sentence, clause (b), removed duplicate “to leave the field to” that was mistakenly included the previous year. Added “then” after blood to clean up improper English.

3.20 GOAL SCORED WITH EXTRA PLAYER IN THE GAME

(a)(3) had the end of the sentence changed to “the opponents in the goal area” from “the defending team”. (No change bar.)

Part D. Applying Discipline to Substitutes (including 3.21)

This 1.25 page section was moved to become 5.16 and 5.17 later in the book. The one minor change made is noted there.

4.1 WEARING UNIFORMS

The last sentence on slide pants color was reworded to include any undergarment including undershirts.

4.6 INCORRECT UNIFORM OR EQUIPMENT

The last sentence of the first paragraph was extended with the following: “during play or from the touch or goal line if during a stoppage.” This reflects the change that a player temporarily off the field to correct equipment can re-enter from anywhere if play is stopped.

Added a second and third new paragraph. The second covers the fact that goalkeepers are allowed some exceptions in equipment (i.e. uniform). But then states that the exceptions cannot provide player superiority through artificial means. The third paragraph describes how players cannot wear commercial, political, religious or personal statements on their uniform or be exposed if under the uniform.

5.1 REFEREE UNIFORM

Added a second paragraph describing the referee's shoes and how they should look professional and different from the players (are they kidding?)

5.2 REFEREE'S AUTHORITY

The reference at the end of the second paragraph was changed from 3.21 to 5.17 due to the move of the section.

5.4 REFEREE SIGNALS

Changed the end of the third to last sentence of the first paragraph on additional signal methods or communication from "carefully described by the referee before the match." to "fully agreed upon before the match." **Added a final sentence of this first paragraph to state that the routine use of signals to identify the fouls is not recommended but referees should be prepared to quickly indicate the type of foul if needed for game control.**

5.5 TRIFLING INFRACTIONS

The final parenthesized sentence of the first paragraph which simply indicated the source of the quote above it was expanded to include a more lengthy explanation of the reason for the quotes removal from the LOTG and why it is still important.

The now third paragraph has a final sentence added advising the referee to warn players of trifling infringements that may lead to frustration and retaliation if continued.

5.6 ADVANTAGE

In third paragraph, removed second sentence stating that if the ball goes out of play during advantage, that play should be restarted in accordance with the Law. Then adds a new "Note:" paragraph after the third paragraph explaining that the referee can still penalize the original offense if the ball goes out of play within the first few seconds of the advantage time. *(Was this adding clarifying language only is there an actual change here?)*

5.9 INJURIES

The end of the first sentence of the first paragraph was changed to clarify that refusing to leave or be removed if injured is cautionable as unsporting behavior (was previously cautioned for delaying the restart of play).

5.13 CHANGING THE DECISION AFTER PLAY HAS RESTARTED

Added three sentences to the end of the first paragraph clarifying that the no card can be shown for misconduct once play has restarted. And that if misconduct has been delayed to the next natural stoppage, it should be dealt with quickly at the start of the stoppage.

The second paragraph had two sentences added to indicate that if a player receiving a second caution was not sent off immediately, that intervening play stands unless it was a goal scored by the team with the remaining player and the resulting kick-off has not occurred yet. In this case the goal is canceled because the player had not been correctly sent off.

Reworded the last paragraph to remove the reference to the Q&A question #28 but left the intent of the paragraph otherwise.

5.16 APPLYING MISCONDUCT TO SUBSTITUTES

This section was previously “Part D. Applying Discipline to Substitutes” after 3.20 and simply moved here (no change bar necessary). Added a sentence to the end of the second paragraph stating that the use of “serious foul play” as the reason for sending off a substitute should be avoided.

5.17 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE GAME

Was previously section 3.20. No changes (no change bar necessary).

5.18 DISCIPLINE DURING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK OR EXTRA TIME

Added a new section that simply states misconduct during these extra periods is counted as if it occurred during regulation time (i.e. is part of the match).

6.7 THE FOURTH OFFICIAL

Added a new paragraph to describe that when a fourth official is appointed, the duties are as described in the USSF “Guide to Procedures ...” and the FIFA LOTG “Additional Instructions and Guidelines”

6.8 FOURTH OFFICIAL DUTIES

Was 19.3 in the 2006 edition. No changes (no change bar necessary). Should be noted the paragraph still references the USSF’s Guide for Fourth Officials, 2001 whose content was folded into the later editions of the USSF “Guide to Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials” since that time.

8.3 PLAYER COUNT

The third and fourth sentences of the first paragraph on goal keeper changes was reworded into one sentence. The end of the fourth sentence became the start of a new fourth sentence which ends with “but in most cases the offense is trifling and ...” when talking about a goalkeeper change during the halftime break that was not indicated to the referee.

8.5 DROPPED BALL

Removed the previous third paragraph about two players simultaneously committing fouls against each other and that a dropped ball should be used.

Table 8.6 COMMON ELEMENTS OF THE EIGHT METHODS OF RESTARTING PLAY

No change was made but the simplification by inserting the asterisk () could have been done.*

10.6 OWN GOAL

Two sentences were added to this previously one sentence section simply stating that a team cannot score against itself from any restart that properly puts the ball into play. In such case, the proper restart is a corner kick and no goal awarded.

11.1 OFFSIDE POSITION

The drawings were relabeled from “OFFSIDE” and “NOT OFFSIDE” to “Past the defender” and “Not past defender”, respectively.

11.3 ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

The third paragraph had some minor, clarifying rewording. “was in active play” changed to “became involved in active play”. “being in that position” became “moving to the ball”. “as was clearly moving toward A1” became “A1 clearly moved toward the ball”.

11.5 INTERFERING WITH PLAY

Was rewritten by moving sentences around, deleting a sentence, adding clauses and sentences, and adding a new paragraph. Basically should be read closely as it attempts to clarify the refinement to interpretation that has been occurring over the past year or so on what “Interfering with Play” means and whether touching the ball is a requirement. Was initially expanded in the 2006 edition.

11.7 MAKING THE OFFSIDE DECISION

Added phrases to the second sentence of the first paragraph to help clarify that if it is doubtful of the player being in an offside position or an offside player being actively involved in play, then the AR should refrain from signaling offside. **Added a reference sentence to the end of the second paragraph indicating to look at the new decision diagram 11.16.**

11.9 RETURNING TO THE FIELD TO PLAY THE BALL

Added a new last sentence that a player leaving the field for tactical reasons and then gains an unfair advantage by returning to the field, then that player should be cautioned for unsporting behavior.

11.12 OPPOSING ATTACKER ENTERS THE GOAL

Simply changed the word “misconduct” to “unsporting behavior” in the last sentence.

11.14 BECOMING “ON-SIDE”

Essentially rewritten to clarify the points. A new (second) paragraph was added to help with the clarification. But essentially the same points.

11.16 DIAGRAM FOR OFFSIDE DECISIONS (next page)

Adds a new full page decision diagram to separate out the fact of being in an offside position from the judgment of being involved in active play.

12.1 WHAT IS A FOUL?

Inserts four numerals to call out the four requirements for it to be called a foul. Changes the last sentence to read “four” instead of “three” requirements (basically identifying that must be by a player as opposed to a substitute or other entity).

12.6 STRIKING

The last sentence of the last paragraph had the phrase “(following the caution or the send-off)” added.

12.19 SECOND TOUCH BY THE GOALKEEPER

Rewrote the first and second sentences but not clear if a change in meaning is intended; likely not. **Added a second and third paragraph about tactical play to “use” time versus unsporting play to “waste” time as the law was intended. Further clarifies that a goalkeeper handling the ball in their own penalty area can never be punished with a penalty kick.**

12.21 BALL THROWN TO THE GOALKEEPER

A second paragraph, labeled “NOTE:” was added that spells out the goalkeeper limitations as described in Law 12 under reasons for an Indirect Free Kick restart.

12.22 CHARGING AN OPPONENT AWAY FROM THE BALL

Simply added the clause “(or penalty kick)” to the end of the paragraph stating when the restart is a Direct Free Kick.

12.24 CATEGORIES OF MISCONDUCT

Changed the reference at the end of the paragraph from 3.21 to 5.17 reflecting the paragraph move.

12.15 RESTARTS FOR MISCONDUCT

Removed reference to Law 13 from first sentence. **Removed team officials committing misconduct from the list of reasons play may be stopped solely to issue a misconduct; then changed the restart to an IFK from the previous wording of a dropped ball.** Added a new sentence after the previous second sentence about the proper restart after stopping to deal with a team officials misconduct; the restart is still a dropped ball in this case.

12.26 WHEN TO PUNISH MISCONDUCT

Changed reference from 3.21 to 5.17 reflecting a paragraph move.

12.27 A PHILOSOPHY ON CAUTIONS

Simply changed the first sentence of the second paragraph (paragraph after the bullet list) to use the word “beneficial” instead of “salutary”. The third paragraph had a sentence concerning “professional matches with points for misconduct” that was removed.

12.28.1 UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR

The long list of bullets on what can be considered unsporting behavior had the last bullet extended to state “or covering the head with the jersey or a mask” reflecting the LOTG change in this area.

12.28.3 PERSISTENT INFRINGEMENT

In the bullet list of examples of persistent infringement, the old second bullet was removed that read “fails to start or restart play properly or promptly, having been previously warned.”

12.34 VIOLENT CONDUCT

A second paragraph was added that explains that “a player is not contesting for the ball if the player's action against the opponent occurs from behind and with the ball on the opposite side of the opponent or with the ball beyond playing distance.”

12.35 RESTARTS

The table on restarts after violent conduct was updated. When the offense is committed on the field by a player, the restart used to state “IFK from spot of offense*” but is now explained by a reference to 4 notes. Then 5 notes are actually added that differentiate between when an IFK from where the offense occurred is used versus an IFK from where the ball was when the offense occurred. Basically, if the offense was by a substitute, substituted player, or by a player who left the field to commit the offense, then the IFK is where the ball was when the offense occurred. If any other person was involved (outside agent like a team official?) in committing violent conduct, then the restart is a dropped ball from where the ball was when the offense occurred. Otherwise, the IFK is used from where the offense occurred.

13.3 ENFORCING THE REQUIRED DISTANCE (used to be 13.4; reordered)

Added “as required by the Law” to the end of the first sentence in the second paragraph.

Reworded the fourth paragraph into two separate paragraphs that end this section. Clarifies that during a quick free kick with an opponent closer than the minimum distance, then an opponent who can play the ball without moving toward it is allowed to as the attacking team must have considered the encroachment trivial to proceed with the kick. But if the opponent closer than the minimum distance moves towards the ball to play it, the opponent has committed an offense which must be cautioned and the kick retaken.

13.4 QUICK FREE KICK (used to be 13.3; reordered)

Inserted a new paragraph that becomes the new first paragraph. Clarifies that opponents must retreat the required distance from a free kick without being asked. And that it is the right of the offended team to take a quick kick even if opponents have not moved back.

Removed the previous 3rd and 4th paragraphs that were duplicated in the current section 13.3 and are still there.

13.5 BALL IN PLAY

Adds a clarifying last sentence to the second paragraph that “In all events, the ball must be put into play properly.”

13.6 FREE KICKS IN OWN PENALTY AREA

The second paragraph was reworded a slightly more confusing way. Removed “and into the field of play” in the first sentence and replaced it with “on the first touch to be considered in play”. Changed the end of the second sentence from “it leaves the field of play before leaving the penalty area” to “it crosses the goal line before leaving the penalty area”. It then removes the former last sentence that stated “Such a kick must be retaken as no infringement has occurred.” Likely not a change in meaning was intended but the wording does appear more awkward and less clear as it is only implying the ball is not in play and therefore the kick must be retaken.

14.9 INFRINGEMENTS OF LAW 14

Continued tweaking of this section. Adds a reference to a new section 14.12 in the first sentence and then ends the sentence by changing from “put into play (kicked and moved forward)” to “kicked and put into play properly”. **Lots of inserted phrases and rewording of the second paragraph; the biggest change to call out “back heeling the ball (14.12)”. It does change the wording to intervene, if possible, when an unnecessary delay in taking the kick is made by the kicker.**

After the chart “Consequences of an Infringement of Law 14”, a new paragraph with three bullets is introduced that clarifies some points in the table. This should be consulted for changes. The previous “Note:” paragraph with two bullets after the table is now the “The exceptions to the above chart of decisions” paragraph and has been reworded with no real change in meaning.

14.12 KICKER BACK HEELS THE BALL

This is a new section that identifies that this particular violation of Law 14 has been called out by the IFAB and results in awarding an IFK at the penalty mark for the defense even though the ball never came into play. *(Roy Levin notes interestingly that this was introduced in the 2006 Q&A but not included in the new Additional Instructions section.)*

17.1 BALL PLACEMENT FOR A CORNER KICK

Clarifies the wording to bring in the concept of “breaks the plane” of the corner arc or of the lines that enclose the corner arc. Used to say “rest on the ground at any point inside”. The diagram was updated with a new position (#4) that shows the ball resting off the field but still legal.

19.1 LAWS GOVERNING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

Two new paragraphs were added to the end indicating that a referee shall not abandon a game if a team is reduced to fewer than seven players during the kicks from the penalty mark, and that there is further information on the “reduce to equate” and “order of kickers” in section 3.12 and in the Law 14 of the Additional Instructions in the LOTG.

19.3 THE ROLE OF THE TEAM CAPTAIN

Not a change to this section title as indicated by the change bar. Simply the number of this section (and those following) became one less. The old 19.3 section was moved to become 6.3. Other section re-numberings were not indicated with a change bar so it is odd that this

one was. There is a slight rewording of the last bullet first sentence as well: “name or names of members of the team who must be withdrawn” changed to “name and number of players who will be excluded”.

19.4 WATER

Clarifies by inserting a new second sentence that players can drink water at any boundary line (not just the touch line) if play is stopped. *The title is indicated with a change bar but the section was simply renumbered.*

19.5 RULES OF COMPETITION

No change; the change bar is simply indicating the renumbering of the sections.

Index

The “Captain, role of” and “Rules of Competition” sections were added to the index.

Front Page Acknowledgements

In first sentence, “fourth” changed to “seventh” -- guess they had been missing this.

In second paragraph, added names “Chuck Fleischer, and Michelle Maloney” to the list.

Changed “2006” to “2007” in several places.

Randy Harr, USSF Referee, October 2007 (revision A2)