

2009 vs. 2008 ATR Comparison

This document summarizes the sections changed, removed or added to the September 2009 edition of the USSF “*Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game 2009/2010*” (ATR) as compared to the previous July 2008 edition. Any text samples extracted and included are done solely for educational purposes and are still bound to the original copyright holder. While every attempt is made to make this accurate, this comparison document has not been reviewed nor approved by 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 generally not even mentioned (trifling).

This year saw more clean-up that took into account the 2007 and 2008 FIFA LOTG rewrites. Many of the conflicts are removed that were introduced or not corrected in the last few editions.

USSF indicated change bars apply to whole paragraphs or major sections when often only a minor word changed in one place. There are a few places where changes occurred but were not noted with change bars. Generally, deletions of phrases, sentences or whole paragraphs are not indicated. So this comparison document clarifies more precisely what changed. 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 five “*ATR Comparison*” documents. Included in this edition like the last is an appendix of likely errata to reflect issues with the document or where an apparent conflict with the 2009 FIFA LOTG seems to occur. They should serve to illuminate apparent conflicts the author or others have noticed but are not an official interpretation of any sort.

The changes of note are as follows:

ADVICE TO REFEREES (Introduction pages)

A paragraph is still a repeat from 3.1 defining the term “Substituted Players”. **A similar paragraph was added declaring the words “touch”, “play” and “make contact with” as being synonymous.** This paragraph is also repeated and added in 12.9.

The last paragraph was corrected as it previously referred to a changed, non-existent “special circumstances” condition in previous editions of the FIFA LOTG. Instead, the paragraph now states the asterisk (*) in the ATR is used to indicate the special conditions that may apply for a dropped ball restart (explained in Law 8) and free kick restart (explained in Law 13), as appropriate.

The rest of the document body (the main 17 laws and two additional “laws” they add) are now page numbered and have a title bar across the top identifying them as titled on the cover (including the edition year).

1.5 FIELD MARKINGS

The sentence added to the end of the second paragraph to indicate the area enclosed by the penalty arc is not part of the penalty area was moved to the middle of the paragraph.

1.8 DEALING WITH APPURTENANCES TO THE FIELD AND OUTSIDE AGENTS

The note that had been pulled out into a new paragraph of (d) Outside Agent last year has now been moved up to under (c) Pre-existing conditions.

Reworded (d) Outside Agent to drop “~~other than a substitute illegally on the field~~” from the sentence “~~Interference by any outside agent other than a substitute illegally on the field will result in the referee ..~~”

3.3 THE ALLOWED NUMBER OF PLAYERS

The tail end of the second sentence in the first paragraph, starting with “, but”, has been reworded.

3.4 SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE

Here, as in many other places in this new document, explicitly states a whistle is required in certain circumstances. This was a change introduced in the LOTG in 2007. **A new paragraph was added to the end that simply states: “The referee must whistle to restart play after a substitution.”**

3.10 ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE GAME

Correctly added the asterisk back in that had mistakenly been removed the year before (in the middle of the first paragraph). Last year they had created the new second paragraph by pulling a sentence out of the middle that started “~~However, if the person ...~~” That second paragraph is still there. But now they have **inserted a new sentence in that same location in the middle of the first paragraph that is similar but reworded to “(However, if the person is a player who has been substituted out of the game, then he or she may be cautioned, as he or she is still under the authority of the referee.)”**. Removed a sentence that had been immediately after the asterisk in the first paragraph that had stated, “~~If the problem is handled at a stoppage of play for some reason other than the illegal entry of this person, play is restarted based on that reason.~~” None of these changes are marked.

3.16 MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS

Corrected misspelling introduced last year by changing “sever” to “seven”

5.1 REFEREE UNIFORM

Only change was to drop the “/color-striped” from each jersey color designation in the first sentence. That is, the phrase “black, blue, red, or green alternate jerseys” used to say “black/white-, blue/black-, red/black-striped or green/black-striped alternate jerseys”.

5.4 REFEREE SIGNALS

Reworded the second paragraph introduced last year to clearly list, in bullet form, when a whistle is needed (i.e. required) and when it is NOT needed (i.e. not used). The paragraph should be consulted. This is due to the page added to the IGR in 2007 about the whistle and conforms more fully to that instruction now.

5.6 ADVANTAGE

Dropped a sentence that was the fifth paragraph and stated: “~~The referee may also apply advantage during situations that are solely misconduct (both cautionable and send-off offences) or to situations that involve both a foul and misconduct.~~”

Reworded start of third sentence in sixth paragraph to “As a practical matter,” as opposed to “~~In-particular,~~”

Added a new, final paragraph that describes a newly introduced criteria “[Four P’s: Possession, Potential, Personnel, and Proximity](#)” to determine when to invoke advantage. Should be consulted.

5.9 INJURIES

Dropped the phrase “[with the permission of the referee](#)” from the end of the second sentence in the second paragraph when talking about goalkeepers being treated on the field implying that goalkeepers can always be treated on the field when deemed necessary by the team.

Adds a new fourth paragraph (single sentence) that states: “[Prior to the restart, the referee must blow the whistle.](#)”

5.10 BEHAVIOR OF COACH AND BENCH PERSONNEL

Adds a new third and fourth paragraph to describe a new “[Ask, Tell, Remove](#)” process for dealing with conduct in the technical area (i.e. coaches). Should be consulted.

5.13 CHANGING A DECISION AFTER PLAY HAS BEEN RESTARTED

The eighth paragraph was italicized.

6.4 MISSED ASSISTANT REFEREE SIGNALS

Broke up previous single (first) paragraph into three paragraphs (1st, 2nd, and 4th now). Rewrote previous second paragraph that was two sentences to be a new expanded 3rd paragraph that is 13 lines long. It covers the topic of stopping play after Serious Foul Play or Violent Conduct as seen by the assistant referee even though play has already stopped and restarted since the misconduct.

6.5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFFSIDE

Removed “[always](#)” from second paragraph, second sentence: “[However, assistant referees must always be properly positioned, ...](#)”. **Change not marked.**

6.9 RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE

Removed “[or fourth official](#)” from first sentence: “[If a reserve assistant referee is appointed, that person may only replace an assistant referee ~~or fourth official who is unable ...~~](#)”. **Change not marked.**

7.2 ADDING TIME

Added phrase to end of last sentence: “[Any announcement of additional time must be therefore be understood to be a minimum estimate; the referee must allow play to continue for at least the amount of time announced.](#)”

8.3 THE START OF PLAY

Removed the phrase “[the goals are safe and properly located](#)” from the first paragraph describing items the Assistant Referee should verify before unfurling their flag each half. **This is an unmarked change.**

Changed word “[signal](#)” to “[whistle](#)” in the second paragraph.

9.1 BALL OUT OF PLAY

The word “[signal](#)” was changed to “[whistle](#)” in the first paragraph.

11.1 OFFSIDE POSITION

Reworked the first sentence and split it out to a new first paragraph. Added “[in the opponent’s half of the field](#)” to list of offside position requirements. Removed trailing phrase “[when the ball is touched / played by a teammate](#)” to this sentence simply describing the offside position (not when to judge the offense).

11.2 JUDGMENT OF OFFSIDE POSITION

Rewrote the first paragraph to more clearly explain the judgment of the offside position. Changed reference to 11.14 from 11.15.

11.3 ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

In third paragraph, changed “[moving to](#)” and “[moved toward](#)” to “[making contact with](#)” and “[made contact with](#)”; respectively.

11.5 INTERFERING WITH PLAY

Added two sentences to end of first paragraph to clarify that an attacker moving towards the ball is not enough to be considered interfering with play. The attacker could at any moment chose to avoid contact. Interfering with play must involve actual contact. **This seems to contradict the previous, existing sentences in the paragraph though that state touching is not required.**

Added a phrase to the end of the last paragraph “[or chooses to cease movement toward the ball before making actual contact](#)” when describing that a player in an offside position is not interfering with play.

11.7 MAKING THE OFFSIDE DECISION

Inserted a new second sentence in the first paragraph that states: “[In other words, the assistant referee must “wait and see”](#)”. The now third sentence was changed in the tail end as shown here: “[Furthermore if the assistant referee is in any doubt ... must-is expected to decide in favor of the attacker; in other words, to and refrain from signaling offside.](#)” The new sentence added last year (second from the end) was extended as shown: “[To phrase it slightly differently: When in doubt, keep the flag down and give the benefit of the doubt to the attacker.](#)”

11.8 LEAVING THE FIELD TO AVOID OFFSIDE

Modified to the first sentence by pulling the “however” from the next sentence in and adding the phrase to the end as shown: “[If the player on the attacking side moves a little way beyond the boundary ... ; however, The player needs to ask the Referee's permission to reenter the field of play](#)”.

11.9 RETURNING TO THE FIELD OF PLAY TO PLAY THE BALL

Added a sentence to the end of the paragraph: “[The player needs to ask for the referee's permission to reenter the field of play.](#)”

11.11 DEFENDER LEGALLY OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY

The last two sentences are modified as shown: “[Such a defender is considered to be on the touchline or goal line at the point closest to where the defender left the fieldhis or her off-field-](#)

position. A defender who leaves the field with the referee's permission or at the referee's direction (and ..."

11.14 BECOMING "ON-SIDE"

Reworded start of first sentence as shown: "The possibility of penalizing a player's for being in an offside position ..."

12.6 STRIKING

Discovered likely error introduced in the rewrite of the 4th paragraph last year and removed "team official or spectator" from the first sentence that now reads: "If play is stopped because a substitute, or substituted player, team official or spectator throws an object at a player ... on the field ... restart ... is an indirect free kick ..." See second sentence in paragraph to understand why this was a likely error.

Added a new final paragraph with accompanying chart that was taken from the 2009 Referee Program Directive entitled "Contact Above the Shoulder" and describes when an elbow in an aerial challenge is a tool or a weapon. This section should be consulted.

12.9 DELIBERATE HANDLING

The intro note added and indicated earlier is repeated as a new second paragraph here starting with "Note:" now. It basically says the words "touch", "play", and "make contact with" are synonymous except maybe in the case of deliberate handling. Wonder whether they should have made exception for judging the offside offense as well for when the defense "touches" versus "plays" the ball?

12.20 BALL KICKED TO THE GOALKEEPER

Added a new diagram after the first paragraph showing the triangle of three things that must all be true to consider a goalkeeper committing a foul on what has been historically termed the "passback" law. Diagram should be consulted.

12.25 RESTARTS FOR MISCONDUCT

Added a new paragraph at the end of "a. Offenses on the field of play" to say "Note: The referee must use the whistle to restart in this case. There can be no quick restarts after a caution or a send-off."

12.28.1 UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR

Undid last years change that split the bullet into two concerning tobacco and cellular phones and had added tobacco products. Here is the marked up change that is not indicated:

- Uses tobacco or tobacco products in any area of the field
- Uses a cellular or other mobile phone

Guess the chewing tobacco lobby won out in the US Soccer community?

12.28.8 MISCONDUCT BY A SUBSTITUTE

Added bullets to the already indented list of three cautions

12.31 EVALUATING LANGUAGE

Added sentence to middle of first paragraph that states: "In other words, the referee must watch for language that is Personal, Public or Provocative."

12.32 SEQUENTIAL INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAW

There is a change bar indicating a change but no change has been made.

13.3 ENFORCING THE REQUIRED DISTANCE

In the first paragraph, unlike other places in the document, instead of replacing the word “signal” with “whistle” they simply added the parenthesized word “(whistle)” after the word “signal”. They also added the phrase “before the whistle is blown” to the sentence “... an attacker who restarts play before the whistle is blown should be verbally warned and, upon repetition, be cautioned for unsporting behavior.”

Added a new last paragraph that starts with “Note:” and explains how the referee should seek to prevent problems in the game rather than look for cures to problems that develop surrounding opponents retreating during a free kick. The paragraph should be consulted.

13.4 QUICK FREE KICK VS. CEREMONIAL FREE KICK

Title changed to add “versus ...”.

Added a trailing paragraph (actually phrase) to introduce a chart that is meant to indicate the sequence of actions on managing free kicks. The chart should be consulted.

13.5 THE BALL IN PLAY

Modified the first two paragraphs to add dragging as a motion allowable to put the ball in play with a kicking motion. Specifically, the first paragraph middle sentence now reads: “... and the kick need only be a touch of the ball with the foot in a kicking motion or being dragged with the top or bottom of the foot.” The second paragraph first sentence now reads: “with the foot in a kicking or dragging motion”. Removed a sentence in the second paragraph that said: “~~Being kicked can include an action in which the ball is dragged by continuous contact with the foot.~~”

14.3 WHEN THE PENALTY KICK MAY BE TAKEN

14.4 GOALKEEPER MOVEMENT

14.9 INFRINGEMENTS OF LAW 14

In all three of these sections, the only change is several occurrences of the word “signal” were replaced with the word “whistle” (plural form as well). *Also, in the indented points below the chart in 14.9, bullets were added back in that were taken away last year (change not marked).*

14.8 PENALTY KICKS AT END OF HALF

The second paragraph added last year was rewritten and simplified to clarify when time is over on the taking of a kick during extended time.

14.10 CAUTIONING FOR SUBSEQUENT INFRINGEMENTS OF LAW 14

Modified the last sentence of the first paragraph as indicated here: “The caution must be given at the next stoppage of play, whether that occurs as a result of the penalty kick, the referee stopping play to issue the caution, or for any other reason.” The change is unmarked.

14.12 KICKER BACK HEELS THE BALL

Only change is “signaled” changed to “whistled”.

15.4 ILLEGAL OR IMPROPERLY TAKEN THROW-IN

The third paragraph has been reworded to state that if the ball touches the ground before entering the field of play or fails to enter the field of play ENTIRELY (before, just said does not enter the field of play), then the throw is retaken by the same team if all other aspects of the throw were performed correctly. Before, a ball that partially entered could be considered entering and leaving. Now it states the ball must enter completely.

19.1 LAWS GOVERNING KICKS FROM THE PENALTY MARK

Fifth paragraph was updated at the end to change “Additional Instructions and Guidelines for Referees” to the acronym based on the new title “IGR”.

19.7 “NATURAL POSITIONS” DURING RESTARTS AND DYNAMIC PLAY

This is a brand new 8 paragraph, full page section that should be consulted in its entirety. Covers issues of different arm positions for women than men due to center of gravity, using arms to make oneself bigger, and the like.

Index

Added “Natural Positions 19.7” into list as this is a new section.

Added new entry “Use of the whistle ... 5.4” for existing section entitled Referee Signals that was expanded last year to include the IGR description of whistle use.

Corrected incorrect reference under Offside title of “Becoming onside 11.14”. Was to 11.15.

ADVICE TO REFEREES (Cover Page, Title Page, Acknowledgements page)

Added 2009/2010 to the title and colored the cover similar to how the GTP and USSF edition LOTG are colored differently each year for easy recognition.

Acknowledgments page has been updated to reflect it is the 2009 edition in three places. The edition is dedicated to one of the long time editors who passed away this past year.

ADVICE TO REFEREES (Introduction pages)

The first paragraph had two new sentences added to the end to acknowledge the many FIFA LOTG updates of 2007 and 2008; especially covering how the Q&A was incorporated into the Additional Instructions section that was then renamed the Interpretations and Guidelines.

In the third paragraph, recognizes that this is based on the 2009-2010 edition of the FIFA LOTG and introduces a new abbreviation of IGR for the “Interpretations of the LOTG and Guidelines for Referees” section.

In the bullets of additional sources of information, now lists the USSF Referee Program Directives, the Week in Review, and corresponding Podcasts. Clarifies that subject memoranda are position papers in the last bullet.

Randy Harr, USSF Referee, October 2009 (revision A1)

Appendix A: Likely Errata or contradictions:

A number of errors or inconsistencies are noted here as likely errata that need to be fixed. Some previous ones were discovered and removed in this edition. Others are likely yet to be discovered and your feedback is welcome to make the list more complete.

INTRODUCTION AND TITLE PAGES:

Acknowledgment page left the wording at "eighth, updated" edition. Should be "ninth" as the word "seventh" was repeated in two editions

They introduced a new paragraph in the introduction and in 12.9 that states:

In most cases in the Laws of the Game, the words "touch," "play," and "make contact with" are synonymous. This is not true in the case of deliberate handling, where the touch, play, or contact with the ball by the offending player must be planned and deliberate.

Seems they should have called out the offside issue as well in this new paragraph. The ball must be played, not just touched or made contact with, by a defender to alleviate the offside judgment and potential offence. Whereas it just has to touch or make contact, not necessarily be played, by a teammate to be considered another snapshot or judgment of the offside position. This is critical with goalkeeper deflections as well as incidental deflections off of other defenders.

1.5 FIELD MARKINGS

Likely should clarify in the last paragraph that the "optional line" drawn outside the field of play is allowed near the touch line as well as the goal line. A subtle change added everywhere to the 2008 edition of the FIFA LOTG but not otherwise mentioned here.

3.10 ILLEGALLY ENTERING THE GAME

When copying a sentence down last year to form the new second paragraphs' third sentence -- "stopped the game to deal with this person" was updated to "stopped play to deal with the matter". This should likely have been updated in the original sentence still in the first paragraph.

Still missing a new paragraph space before the start of 3.11

5.4 REFEREE SIGNALS

In introducing their bulleted list to similarly match the IGR section on whistle, they awkwardly worded the bullets. Would suggest the following changes in the section as show:

The whistle is NOT needed

- to stop play for a goal kick, corner kick, ~~or~~ throw-in, or goal*
 - to restart play from a free kick, goal kick, corner kick, throw-in, or dropped ball*
- ~~No whistle is needed when play is restarted with a dropped ball. Except where~~*

5.6 ADVANTAGE

USSF continues to clarify that Advantage is only applied to infringements of Law 12 (fouls) and not other procedural infringements (for example, throw in technique) or offenses (for example, offside). But FIFA specifically introduced a sentence (page 66, 2008 edition, Law 5 – Referee, Advantage) that says "The referee may play advantage whenever an infringement or offense occurs". This seems in potential conflict although USSF works hard to clarify their position and does define the concept quite clearly that you are not applying advantage but judging something trifling when not calling an infringement or offense that is not a foul with possible misconduct.

5.17 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE GAME

Needs a paragraph break (blank line) between new paragraph 5 and paragraph 6.

5.19 DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT

The introduction of the table replicated from 12.35 but changed in key ways is quite confusing.

Specifically, table 12.35 indicates it is for violent conduct but then includes the SFP case in the table (DFK/PK entry in table). 12.33 indicates SFP will not apply to off-the-ball violence against an opponent by a player. So table 12.35 seems to apply to forms of VC where it could be a foul (i.e. DFK/PK restart) but still listed as VC because it was not while challenging for the ball. Now add that this new table in 5.19 implies it applies to all misconduct other than that mentioned in 12.45 (SFP/VC) and gives a "caution" as the punishment. What happened to Abusive Language and DOGSH? Spitting, DOGSH and DOGSO imply it may be a foul as well and thus are not adequately covered. This all appears it needs to be thought through and made more consistent in language and specific in applicability in each section. At least the new 5.19 entry has a trailing paragraph trying to point out the other places they discuss this and alerts the reader to the issue.

Needs a blank line (paragraph break) after "Note:" paragraph (second paragraph).

8.6 COMMON ELEMENTS OF THE EIGHT METHODS OF RESTARTING PLAY

Should likely use the asterisk in place of wording "(see special circumstances in Law 8)" in three places in the table.

12.9 DELIBERATE HANDLING

See note in introduction section about new paragraph on synonymous "touched" versus "played".

12.16 GOALKEEPER POSSESSION OF THE BALL

The LOTG have changed the word "possession" to "control" when related to the goalkeeper handling the ball.

12.19 SECOND TOUCH BY THE GOALKEEPER

"Second touch" was changed to "touch again" (or "touched again") in the LOTG everywhere

12.35 RESTARTS

Chart should be corrected as it has the asterisk and then text "* Subject to the special circumstances listed in Law 8". Such special circumstances no longer exist there.

13.3 ENFORCING THE REQUIRED DISTANCE

Forgot to introduce a blank line before the newly introduced last paragraph.

13.4 QUICK FREE KICK VS CEREMONIAL FREE KICK

As part of chart, on phrase "Look for confirmation of ceremonial kick from attackers" should likely add "or indicate will be a ceremonial kick due to issuing misconduct first".

As the chart is meant to show the "Sequence of Actions to Manage [ALL] Free Kicks", seems that the last 5 bullet phrases should all be under the "Ceremonial Free Kick" column and not spanning both

columns that include the “Quick Free Kick”. These five start with “Get to ball” and end with “Whistle for Restart”.

16.1 BALL PLACEMENT AT A GOAL KICK

Starts first sentence of first paragraph with “The ball is placed so that it touches the ground **within the goal area**, “ but then the diagram goes to show that a ball resting on the field outside the goal area is allowed if it still intersects the vertical plane formed by the outside of the goal area line. Should likely reword this sentence to account for this subtle issue.

INDEX

Neglected to add new sections to the index that were added last year:

5.19 DEALING WITH MISCONDUCT

6.9 RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE

7.5 EARLY TERMINATION

14.3 WHEN IS THE PENALTY KICK COMPLETED

Still lists PLAYER COUNT ... 8.3 instead of new title THE START OF PLAY

Still lists HOLDING ... 12.7 instead of new section 12.8

Still lists MAKING CONTACT WITH AN OPPONENT ... 12.8 instead of change to TACKLING ... 12.7

Did not change reference QUICK FREE KICK to the new title introduced this year of QUICK FREE KICK VS CEREMONIAL FREE KICK

Still lists section reference as 13.,2 (comma inserted) in “Fails to respect the required distance”.

Still lists section reference as 12.289 in “Interfering with play (not Offside)”. Not clear what they intended to reference.

Still lists section reference as 3.123 in “Returns after an injury”. Should be 3.13 and possibly retitled “RETURN OF A PLAYER TEMPORARILY OFF THE FIELD”.

Missing space after “Part D,” on reference in “Unsporting Behavior”