



Summary of the 2014 Changes to the Laws of the Game

The 128th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) was held in Zurich on March 1, 2014. The 2014 revisions to the Laws of the Game became mandatory on July 1, 2014. A summary of the changes follows (quotations are italicized; **new or revised wording is in bold text**; deleted text has a strikethrough; comments represent AYSO's official position).

Law 4 – The Players Equipment (Laws of the Game – International FA Board Decision 1).

Basic compulsory equipment

~~*Players must not reveal undergarment showing slogans or advertising*~~

The basic compulsory equipment must not have any political, religious or personal **slogans, statements or images**.

~~*A player removing his jersey or shirt to reveal slogans or advertising will be sanctioned by the competition organizers.*~~ The team of a player whose basic compulsory equipment has political, religious or personal slogans ~~or~~, statements **or images** will be sanctioned by the competition organizer or FIFA.

Undergarments

Players must not reveal undergarments that show political, religious, personal slogans, statements or images, or advertising other than the manufacturer logo.

A player/team of a player that reveals an undergarment that shows political, religious, personal slogans, statements or images, or advertising other than the manufacturer logo will be sanctioned by the competition organiser or FIFA.

Comments:

- Referees must ask the team coach to fix all issues with the players' compulsory equipment.
- Referees must not allow the use of any equipment that is not safe to players.
- Pertinent to this IFAB Decision, referees must report all issues with the players' compulsory equipment to the competition organizers.

Law 4 – The Players Equipment (Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees – Head covers).

Where head covers are worn, they must

- **be black or of the same colour as the jersey (provided that the players of the same team wear the same colour)**
- **be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment**
- **not be attached to the jersey**
- **not pose any danger to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck)**
- **not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)**

Comments:

- Referees must not allow the use of any equipment that is not safe to players.
- Referees must apply common sense in regards to the color of a head cover. If a player wears a head cover, deemed safe by the referee, of a color not black and different than the shirt color, the referee should let the player participate and report the issue to the coach.



AYSO RULES

In addition to the AYSO modifications and Rules of Competition identified in the AYSO edition of the LAWS OF THE GAME, the following AYSO Rules also apply to all AYSO games (see the AYSO National Rules & Regulations for the complete text):

PLAYERS

- All eligible team members in attendance must play at least half of the game, excluding overtime, except players arriving during the second or third “quarters” who must play a minimum of one “quarter.”
- Except for injuries, substitution is permitted only at approximately the mid-point of each half upon the referee’s stoppage of the game (the “quarters”), at halftime, and at the start of any overtime periods. When substituting for an injured player, only the injured player is credited with a “quarter’s” play. Monitored substitutions is allowed in U-16 and U-19 age divisions, only if it is handled in a manner which will ensure that every participant plays at least one half of every game by requiring a separate time monitor, independent of either team or coach, who checks each player in or out of the game.”
- Small-sided games (i.e., fewer than 11 vs.11) are permitted for all divisions and are strongly encouraged for younger players to help develop their soccer skills.

COACHES

- Sideline participation by coaches is limited to comments that are positive, instructional, and/or encouraging.
- A maximum of two coaches is permitted for each team. Coaches must remain within the coaches’ area.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES, REFEREES, OFFICIALS, OTHER VOLUNTEERS, SPECTATORS, TEAM MEMBERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- Prohibit and abstain from making negative comments and complaints about officiating
- Present a healthy, athletic environment for team members, including but not limited to, by not consuming alcoholic beverages, using tobacco products or smoking or simulating smoking or the use of tobacco products during practices or games or in the immediate vicinity of the soccer fields.

REFEREEING PHILOSOPHY

The Laws of the Game are intended to provide that games should be played with as little interference as possible, and in this view it is the duty of referees to penalize only deliberate breaches of the Law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches produces bad feeling and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators.