

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1362

Zurich, June 2013

SG/chb

Amendments to the Laws of the Game – 2013/2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 127th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) took place in Edinburgh (Scotland) on 2 March 2013. The amendments to the Laws of the Game approved at this meeting and the various instructions and directives issued are listed below.

LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Law 11 – Offside interpretation of the Laws of the Game

Discussion on “interfering with an opponent/gaining an advantage” (submitted by FIFA)

Present text	New text
<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply:</p> <p>(...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate• “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent	<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply:</p> <p>(...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate• “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I) that rebounds or is deflected to him off the goalpost, crossbar or an opponent having been in an offside position II) that rebounds, is deflected or is played to him from a deliberate save by an opponent having been in an offside position <p>A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.</p>
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Reason

The current wording creates many discussions as it gives too much room for interpretation and is not precise enough. The new text is more in line with actual game situations and will eliminate the confusion regarding what is meant by rebound, deflection and when the ball has been deliberately saved.

We are enclosing 3 copies of a CD with some clips for a better understand of the amendment of the Offside Law.

Other decisions of the IFAB

1. Goal-line technology

(submitted by FIFA)

It was decided that the competition organiser should decide on the use of GLT in its competitions. There was unanimous agreement that if the facility of GLT was available in a stadium, it should be used as there was no advantage to either team.

2. Additional assistant referees

(submitted by FIFA)

As approved at the previous Annual Business Meeting in October 2012, the new text relevant to additional assistant referees (cf. circular no. 1322 from 25 October 2012) will be incorporated into the printed version of the Laws of the Game for 2013/2014.

Implementation

The decisions of this year's Annual General Meeting of the Board regarding changes to the Laws of the Game are binding for confederations and member associations as from 1 July 2013, but confederations or member associations whose current season has not ended by 1 July may delay the introduction of the adopted alterations to the Laws of the Game in their competitions until the beginning of their next season.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Markus Kattner
Deputy Secretary General

cc: FIFA Executive Committee
FIFA Referees Committee
Confederations