

# UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION

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Julie Ilacqua, Chair, Referee Committee

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## Memorandum 1999

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Esfandiar Baharmast  
Director of Officials

Alfred Kleinaitis  
Manager of Referee Development and Education

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The 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Football Association Board was held in the Vale of Glamorgan (Wales) on 20 February 1999. A number of proposals for changes to the Laws had been put forward for discussion. The actual amendments are now listed below.

## I. AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME

### 1. Notes on the Laws of the Game

#### *Modifications*

*Subject to the agreement of the national association concerned and provided the principles of these Laws are maintained, the Laws may be modified in their application for matches for players of under 16 years of age, for women footballers and for veteran footballers (over 35 years).*

*any or all of the following modifications are permissible:*

- *size of the field of play*
- *size, weight and material of the ball*
- *width between the goalposts and height of the crossbar from the ground*
- *duration of the periods of play*
- ***substitutions***

Reason:

The new wording allows the right to use flying substitutions **only for the above-mentioned categories** (i.e., under 16-year-olds, women and veterans) and then only with the agreement of the national associations.

*USSF Advice to Referees: The term "flying substitutions" as used above refers to what is usually called in this country "free substitutions" -- unlimited substitutions with the right to return.*

### **Law 5 -- The Referee**

Amendment to point 3 under "Powers and Duties":

- *ensures that **any ball used meets** the requirements of Law 2*

Reason:

Following the introduction of the multiple ball system now in use at major matches, the wording should reflect the plural rather than the singular "ball".

*USSF Advice to Referees: Attention is drawn to Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game 2.1 which notes that "When more than one game ball is provided for a match, the referee must inspect all balls ... to ensure they meet the requirements of Law 2."*

## Law 12 -- Fouls and Misconduct

### **New Decision 6**

*Any simulating action anywhere on the field, which is intended to deceive the referee, must be sanctioned as unsporting behaviour.*

Reason:

It has been noticed that more and more players are trying to deceive the referee in an effort to gain a decision in favour of their team. This trend must be curbed and any player attempting to mislead the referee must be sanctioned.

*USSF Advice to Referees: Section 12.29.1 of Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game lists a number of "specific actions considered cautionable as unsporting behavior," including "fakes an injury or exaggerates the seriousness of an injury" and "fakes a foul (dives) or exaggerates the severity of a foul." In response to growing concern over such behavior, the International Board has identified simulation of fouls to deceive the referee as a **mandatory caution** requiring display of the yellow card.*

### The Fourth Official

#### **New wording -- 6<sup>th</sup> point:**

*He has the authority to check the equipment of substitutes before they enter the field of play. If their equipment does not comply with the Laws of the Game, **he informs the referee.***

#### **New point 7:**

*He has the authority to inform the referee of irresponsible behaviour by any occupant of the technical area.*

At the request of the International Football Association Board, the national associations are furthermore recommended to appoint a fourth official to top division matches in competitions organised by national associations or their leagues.

*USSF Advice to Referees: The purpose of the above modifications is to increase the responsibility of the fourth official and to give that person the authority to bring matters directly to the attention of the referee rather than requiring that all such communications go through the assistant referee.*

## II. OTHER DECISIONS PASSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD

### 1. Use of two referees

IFAB has authorised FIFA to conduct an experiment in which two referees officiate on the field at the same time. The IFAB sub-committee will draw up the technical conditions for the experiment in April and FIFA will then choose the leagues(s) in those national associations in which the experiment will be carried out.

**National associations are reminded that no experiment of this kind may be made in any match without prior written permission from FIFA.**

*USSF Advice to Referees: Although this experiment has been authorized, no procedures, techniques, or mechanics have as yet been developed. All leagues, competitions, and referees are reminded that the use of two referees is not permitted. Only the diagonal system of control (DSC) is authorized.*

### 2. Fouls and misconduct

The International Football Association Board wishes to draw your attention to the decision passed at its meeting on 6 March 1998:

***A tackle from behind, which endangers the safety of an opponent, must be sanctioned as serious foul play.***

IFAB has noticed that many tackles from behind have not been punished by the referee in the way dictated by this decision. Instructions will therefore be issued for referees to be monitored and any referee who does not apply this decision will be sanctioned.

*USSF Advice to Referees: The International Board has emphasized the importance of carrying out its mandate to show the red card and send off the field any player who endangers the safety of an opponent by the use of a tackle from behind. Referees are reminded that, although this does **not** mean every tackle from behind must be punished by a send off, their discretion in this area is strictly limited to deciding if such action has endangered an opponent's safety. If it has, the player **must** be shown the red card. USSF joins the International Board in warning referees that their performance in this area will be monitored closely, with appropriate action taken for a failure to follow IFAB's mandate.*

The amendments to the Laws will come into force on 1 July 1999.