



FIFA

For the Game. For the World.

Laws of the Game

2008/2009



Laws of the Game 2008/2009

Fédération Internationale de Football Association

President: Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland)

Secretary General: Jérôme Valcke (France)

Address: FIFA
FIFA-Strasse 20
P.O. Box
8044 Zurich
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 (0)43 222 7777

Telefax: +41 (0)43 222 7878

Internet: www.FIFA.com



Laws of the Game 2008/2009

July 2008

Authorised by the International Football Association Board

This booklet may not be reproduced or translated in whole
or in part in any manner without the permission of FIFA.

Published by
Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FIFA-Strasse 20, 8044 Zurich, Switzerland

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

President: Joseph S. Blatter (Switzerland)
Secretary General: Jérôme Valcke (France)
Address: FIFA-Strasse 20
P.O. Box
8044 Zurich
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 (0)43 222 7777
Telefax: +41 (0)43 222 7878
Internet: www.FIFA.com

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD (IFAB)

Members: The Football Association
The Scottish Football Association
The Football Association of Wales
Irish Football Association
(1 vote each)

Fédération Internationale
de Football Association (FIFA)
(4 votes)

Next meeting of the International Football Association Board:
Northern Ireland, 27 February – 1 March 2009

In the twelve years since its last major revision of the Laws of the Game, the International Football Association Board has made a significant number of additions and amendments to the Laws themselves, and various accompanying publications and teaching materials have been produced and distributed by football's governing bodies in order to assist match officials in their duties and to clarify concepts for the football community as a whole.

While this year's edition of the Laws of the Game features only one amendment to the 2007/2008 edition in terms of substance, the overall wording and structure has been reviewed and revised to consolidate and reorganise the content for the sake of consistency, simplification and clarification. Among the most notable changes in this respect, some of the Decisions of the International Football Association Board from last year's edition of the Laws of the Game are now either incorporated in the Law to which they were previously appended or appear in the section now entitled "Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees". With this new title, the International Football Association Board wishes to underline that, while the content of this section is intended to complement the Laws of the Game themselves, its application is indeed a compulsory requirement.

In addition, certain principles that were previously implicitly understood throughout the game but did not explicitly feature in the Laws of the Game have been included in this new edition for completeness.

Finally, the International Football Association Board reminds the associations and confederations that it is their duty, under the FIFA Statutes, to ensure the Laws of the Game are implemented strictly and consistently at all levels of competition.

Modifications

Subject to the agreement of the member 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, for veteran footballers (over 35 years of age) and for players with disabilities.

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

Further modifications are only allowed with the consent of the International Football Association Board.

Male and Female

References to the male gender in the Laws of the Game in respect of referees, assistant referees, players and officials are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

Key

| A single line in the left-hand margin indicates new Law changes.

CONTENTS

Law		Page
1	THE FIELD OF PLAY	6
2	THE BALL	13
3	THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS	15
4	THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT	18
5	THE REFEREE	21
6	THE ASSISTANT REFEREES	24
7	THE DURATION OF THE MATCH	25
8	THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY	27
9	THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY	30
10	THE METHOD OF SCORING	31
11	OFFSIDE	32
12	FOULS AND MISCONDUCT	33
13	FREE KICKS	37
14	THE PENALTY KICK	41
15	THE THROW-IN	44
16	THE GOAL KICK	46
17	THE CORNER KICK	48
	PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE THE WINNER OF A MATCH OR HOME-AND-AWAY	50
	THE TECHNICAL AREA	52
	THE FOURTH OFFICIAL AND THE RESERVE ASSISTANT REFEREE	53
	INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES	55
	RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD	129