



LAWS OF THE GAME 2019/20

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHANGES

Applies to Capital Football Competitions in 2020

YC = yellow card (caution) RC = red card (sending-off)

Topic	Change
Dropped ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contested drop balls • Ball dropped for goalkeeper occurs if play stopped is in the penalty area or last touch was in penalty area • At all other times the ball is dropped for one player of the team in possession • All other players must be at least 4m away • If the ball touches the referee (or another match official) and goes into the goal, team possession changes or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded.
Attackers in the Wall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When there is a 'wall' of three or more defenders, the attackers are not allowed within 1m of the wall until the ball is in play
Goal kick and Defenders' Free Kick in Penalty Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defenders may position themselves wherever they like including inside the penalty area • Attacker must remain outside penalty area until ball is in play • The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves (does not need to leave the penalty area) • Once the ball is in play, attackers may enter the penalty area
Coin Toss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team that wins the toss can now choose to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ take the kick-off or ○ which goal to attack • If the team chooses to kick-off, the other team chooses which goal to attack
Penalty kicks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team's penalty taker can have (quick) treatment/assessment and then take the kick. • The goalkeeper must not be touching the goalposts/crossbar/nets; they must not be moving. • The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on/in line with the goal line when the kick is taken; they cannot stand behind the line.
Substitutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A player who is being substituted must leave the field by the nearest point on the touchline/goal line (unless the referee indicates the player can leave quickly/immediately at the halfway line or a different point because of safety, injury etc.)



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Team official misconduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YC/RC applies to team officials in <u>all</u> CF competitions • There are a range of offences which team officials may receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A warning ○ A YC (caution) or ○ A RC (sending-off) • If the offending team official cannot be identified, the senior coach will receive the YC/RC.
Handball	<p>It <u>is</u> a handball offence if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A player deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm • If the ball touches an <u>attacking player's</u> hand/arm, even if accidental, it will be a handball offence if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the ball goes into the goal ○ a player gains control/possession of the ball and then scores, or creates a goal-scoring opportunity; <p>It will <u>usually</u> be a handball offence if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ball touches a player's hand/arm which has made their body unnaturally bigger; • the ball touches a player's hand/arm when it is above their shoulder (unless the player has deliberately played the ball which then touches their hand/arm). <p>Unless one of the above situations apply, it will <u>not usually</u> be an offence if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ball comes directly from the player's own head/body/foot or the head/body/foot of another player who is close; • the player's hand/arm which is close to their body and has not made their body unnaturally bigger; • if a player is falling and the hand/arm is between their body and the ground to support the body (but not extended to make the body bigger)

For more information on the application of these rule changes and other minor rule changes, refer to the [IFAB Laws of the Games Summary](#) or Capital Football's Referees team via referees@capitalfootball.com.au.