



COMMENTS ON THE 2019-20 RULES CHANGES

3-4-3 – The procedure for substitution change was necessary because of the change made to 7-4-3 when substitutes are made in the last five minutes of the contest.

4-3 – In the case of Improper Equipment, the offending player was previously required to leave the field and could not be replaced. Further, he could not come back onto the field of play until the next opportunity to substitute. With this change, the offending player now has the opportunity to immediately correct the issue without having to leave the field. If this is not possible, that player must still leave the field, but may be replaced. If the team chooses to play short (instead of replacing), the offending player may re-enter the game at the next stoppage so long as they have reported to an official who will ensure the issue has been corrected.

5-3-1-d – This rule change allows officials to use either one arm or both to signal advantage during the game.

7-4-3 – This change helps prevent potential time wasting tactics utilized at the end of the game. The clock will now be stopped in the last five minutes of the game any time the team in the lead makes a substitution.

9-2-1 – In situations where play is temporarily suspended for an injury or unusual situation, play will now be resumed with a drop ball unless the goalkeeper was in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage. This change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick to a team and prevents an otherwise undeserved potential goal scoring opportunity.

9-2-3 – This change clarifies the procedure followed when resuming play through a dropped ball. It allows any number of players to take part in the dropped ball (including only one player) and specifically states the referee cannot decide who may take part in the dropped ball.

9-2 (5,6) – A goal may no longer be scored directly from a dropped ball until at least two players touch the ball. This change helps ensure equity when resuming play through the use of a dropped ball.

9-3 – Consistent with changes made in 9-2, this change eliminates the awarding of an indirect free kick when play is temporarily suspended due to an injury or other unusual situation. The only exception to this is when the goalkeeper is in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage.