

**TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA**

Circular no. 1315

Zurich, 3 August 2012

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**Further amendments to the Laws of the Game – 2012/2013**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) convened at the Home of FIFA in Zurich, 5 July 2012, for a Special Meeting under the chairmanship of FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter. 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. Goal-line technology (GLT)****i. Decision in principle on the use of GLT and implications**

The members unanimously approved, in principle and with immediate effect, the use of GLT on a non-mandatory, competition-specific basis, subject to the licensing and certification procedure laid down in the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT Testing Manual.

The members were also unanimous that the introduction of technology would be for the goal line only and that they did not support any technology in the game beyond GLT. Furthermore, the members agreed that GLT was only an aid to support the referee, whose decision would continue to be final.

Furthermore, the members approved both of the GLT systems that took part in phase 2 of the testing process: GoalRef and Hawk-Eye, subject to the final installation test in the relevant stadiums, in accordance with the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT Testing Manual. More information and details on the next steps for the potential use of GLT in your association's competitions can be found on [FIFA.com/quality](http://FIFA.com/quality).

**i. a) Amendments to the Laws of the Game**

As a consequence of their decision in principle to approve the use of GLT, the members further approved the following amendments to the Laws of the Game:

**Law 10 – The Method of Scoring**

| Present text   | Proposed text   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Goal scored</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Winning team</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Competition rules</b><br/>(...)</p> | <p><b>Goal scored</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Winning team</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Competition rules</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Goal-line technology (GLT)</b><br/>GLT systems may be used for the purpose of verifying whether a goal has been scored to support the referee’s decision. The use of GLT must be stipulated in the respective competition rules.</p> |

**i. a) Amendments to the Laws of the Game (continued)**

**Law 10 – The Method of Scoring**

(Interpretation of the Laws of the Game)

| Present text                    | Proposed text   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>No goal</b><br/>(...)</p> | <p><b>No goal</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Goal-line technology (GLT)</b></p> <p><i>Principles of GLT</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLT applies solely to the goal line and only to determine whether a goal has been scored</li> <li>• The GLT system must be in accordance with the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT</li> <li>• The indication of whether a goal has been scored must be immediate and automatically confirmed within one second</li> <li>• The indication of whether a goal has been scored will be communicated by the GLT system only to the match officials (via the referee’s watch, by vibration and visual signal)</li> </ul> <p><i>Requirements and specifications of GLT</i></p> <p>If GLT is used in competition matches, the competition organisers must ensure that the system meets the requirements set out in the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT Testing Manual. This manual must be approved by the International Football Association Board. An independent testing institute must verify the accuracy and functionality of the different technology providers’ systems according to the Testing Manual.</p> |

**i. a) Amendments to the Laws of the Game (continued)**

**Law 5 – The Referee**

(Decisions of the International F.A. Board)

| Present text  | Proposed text  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Decision 1</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 2</b><br/>(...)</p> | <p><b>Decision 1</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 2</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 3</b><br/>Where goal-line technology (GLT) is used (subject to the respective competition rules), the referee has the duty to test the technology’s functionality before the match. The tests to be performed are set out in the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT Testing Manual. If the technology does not function in accordance with the Testing Manual, the referee must not use the GLT system and must report this incident to the respective authority.</p> |

### i. b) FIFA Quality Programme for GLT

The members approved the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT Testing Manual 2012, laying down the licensing and certification procedure for GLT.

Furthermore, the members approved the following amendments to the Laws of the Game to allow GLT to be used with installations on the field of play (i.e. goals) or inside match balls:

#### Law 1 – The Field of Play

(Decisions of the International F.A. Board)

| Present text                       | Proposed text  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Decision 1</b><br/>(...)</p> | <p><b>Decision 1</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 2</b><br/>Where goal-line technology (GLT) is used, modifications to the goal frame may be allowed. They must be in accordance with the specifications stipulated in the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT and according to the above description, "Goals".</p> |

#### Law 2 – The Ball

(Decisions of the International F.A. Board)

| Present text  | Proposed text  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Decision 1</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 2</b><br/>(...)</p> | <p><b>Decision 1</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 2</b><br/>(...)</p> <p><b>Decision 3</b><br/>Where goal-line technology (GLT) is used, balls with integrated technology are allowed, but they must either be "FIFA APPROVED", "FIFA INSPECTED" or "INTERNATIONAL MATCHBALL STANDARD" (see "Decision 1").</p> |

## **2. Additional assistant referees (AAR) experiment**

### **i. Decision in principle on the use of AARs and implications**

The members unanimously approved, with immediate effect, the use of AARs on a non-mandatory, competition-specific basis. The member associations that wish to use AARs shall follow the attached guidelines, the "Additional Assistant Referees Protocol". This protocol is subject to change and will be discussed again at the Annual Business Meeting of the IFAB in October 2012.

### **ii. Amendments to the Laws of the Game**

As a result of this decision, it was further agreed that the necessary amendments to the Laws of the Game would be made in the form of a separate section entitled "The Additional Assistant Referees" after the section "The Fourth Official and the Reserve Assistant Referee" (p. 57) as well as a section in the Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees (p. 80). These amendments will be discussed and approved during the Annual Business Meeting of the IFAB in October 2012.

## **3. Law 4 – The Players' Equipment ("headscarf")**

### **i. Decision on use of the headscarf and implications**

The members unanimously agreed to temporarily approve the wearing of headscarves during a trial period on a non-mandatory, competition-specific basis. The design, colour and material permitted will be defined and confirmed at the IFAB Annual Business Meeting in Glasgow on 2 October 2012, following which the decision will come into force. As there is no medical literature concerning injuries as a result of wearing a headscarf, the decision will be reviewed at the IFAB Annual General Meeting in 2014.

As the approval of the headscarf is on a trial basis only, no amendment to the Laws of the Game is required for the time being. In any case, the members noted that no amendment to Law 4 would be required should the headscarf be allowed on a permanent basis, as the wearing of a headscarf by women could be permitted under the section "Modifications".

#### 4. Law 3 – The Number of Players

Further to circular no. 1302 of 31 May 2012, which provided information on the amendments to the Laws of the Game 2012/2013, we would like to inform you that the following amendment to the Law 3 (page 17) will be included in the new printed edition of the Laws of the Game:


| Present text   | New text   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Official competitions</b><br/>Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations. The rules of the competition must state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of seven.</p> | <p><b>Official competitions</b><br/>Up to a maximum of three substitutes may be used in any match played in an official competition organised under the auspices of FIFA, the confederations or the member associations. The rules of the competition must state how many substitutes may be nominated, from three up to a maximum of <b>twelve</b>.</p> |

#### **Implementation**

The decisions of the IFAB concerning the Laws of the Game regarding GLT, AARs and the number of players come into effect immediately.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

Enc: Additional Assistant Referees Protocol (2011/2012 version)

cc: FIFA Executive Committee  
FIFA Referees Committee  
Confederations



## **International Football Association Board**

### **Additional Assistant Referees Protocol**

#### Duties

Two additional assistant referees will assist the referee to control the match in accordance with the Laws of the Game, particularly inside the penalty area or when the additional assistant referee has a better view than the referee. Their duties will include communicating to the referee when the whole of the ball leaves the field of play and whether a goal has been scored or a corner kick or goal kick should be awarded. They will also indicate when, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked.

The final decision will always be taken by the referee.

An additional assistant referee will not replace the referee or an assistant referee if any of these match officials is unable to continue.

All additional assistant referees must be active referees, ideally of the same standard as the main referee, but otherwise of the highest level possible (since the decisions to be taken are those normally taken by referees and those occurring in critical match-changing positions).

The assistant referees will assist the referee in controlling the match but they will have no direct responsibility for adjudication on goal-line decisions or to indicate when, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked.

#### Signalling system

The additional assistant referees will use a radio communication system only and not flags to communicate decisions to the referee.

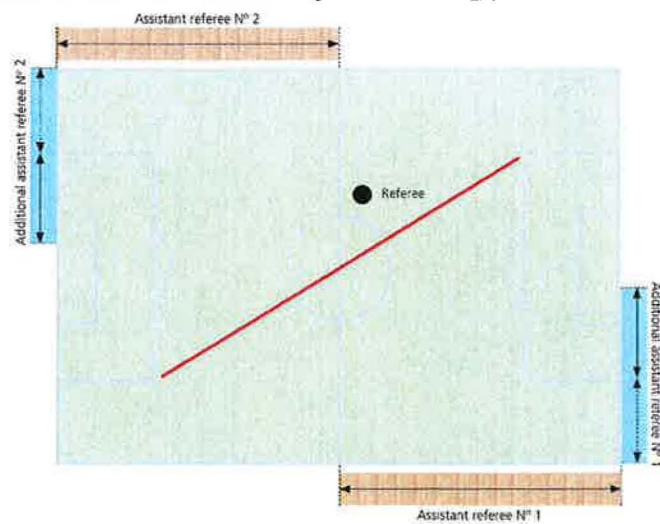
In the event of a breakdown of the radio communication system, the additional assistant referees will use electronic signal beep flagsticks to indicate their decisions. There will be no hand signals.



### Positioning

The additional assistant referees' position will be behind the goal line to the **right** of each goal (looking from the centre mark). They may move along the goal line in order to gain a better view but never enter the field of play.

The referee shall continue to use the normal diagonal running pattern.



The assistant referees' position will be on the touch line in line with the second last defender or the ball. At the taking of penalty kicks, an assistant referee should also take up a position in line with the second last defender.