



THE IFAB
Amendments to the LOTG
Mar 1, 2025



The Miami Valley East Soccer League will implement the following changes to the Laws of the Game effective for its Fall 2025 Season:

The International Football Association Board (The IFAB) has **approved a number of changes** to the Laws of the Game **for 2025/26.**

1. After trials have shown a major positive impact where goalkeepers have been holding onto the ball for too long, The IFAB has unanimously decided to amend **Law 12.2 (Indirect free kick)**. The amendment means that if a goalkeeper holds the ball for longer than **eight seconds** (with the referee using a **visual five-second countdown**), the referee **will award a corner kick** to the opposing team (rather than the current indirect free kick for more than six seconds). The following decisions were also taken at the 139th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The IFAB, hosted by the Irish Football Association (IFA) in Belfast, Northern Ireland.
2. In relation to **Law 3.10 (Team captain)**, guidelines have been introduced into the Laws for any competitions wishing to apply the principle of only the captain approaching the referee in specific situations, which was successfully implemented in a number of competitions last year. The IFAB agreed that stronger cooperation and communication between captains and referees, who often face verbal and/or physical dissent when making decisions, can help instill higher levels of fairness and mutual respect, both of which are core values of the game. The AGM participants emphasised that competition organisers, players and match officials should work collaboratively to adhere to these guidelines.

Furthermore, the next edition of the Laws of the Game, which will come into effect on 1 July 2025, will feature the following amendments:

- **Law 8.2 (Dropped ball):** If the ball is outside the penalty area when play is stopped, it is dropped for the team that had or would have gained possession if this is clear to the referee; otherwise, it is dropped for the team that last touched it. The ball is dropped at its position when play was stopped.
- **Law 9.2 (Ball in play):** An indirect free kick with no disciplinary sanction will be awarded if a team official, substitute, substituted or sent-off player or player who is temporarily off the field of play touches the ball as it is leaving the field of play and there was no intention to interfere unfairly.