

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION



THE EIGHT MANDATORY CAUTIONS 2000

**Esfandiar Baharmast
Director of Officials**

**Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education**

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There are only eight *mandatory* cautions in the current edition of the Laws of the Game. All other cautionable offenses mentioned in the Laws are *discretionary*. In other words, they are cautionable if they meet the standards set by the individual referee in a particular game at a particular time and if the caution is used to meet a particular game-management or game-control need.

The eight MANDATORY cautions are:

- **Law 3 — The Number of Players**

If a substitute enters the field of play without the referee's permission:

- play is stopped
- the substitute is cautioned, shown the yellow card, and required to leave the field of play.
- play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place it was located when play was stopped (keeping in mind the special circumstances described in Law 8).

- **Law 3 — The Number of Players**

If a player changes places with the goalkeeper without the referee's permission before the change is made:

- play continues
- the players concerned are cautioned and shown the yellow card when the ball is next out of play.

- **Law 3 — The Number of Players**

For any other infringement of this Law:

- the players concerned are cautioned and shown the yellow card.

If play is stopped by the referee to administer a caution:

- the match is restarted by an indirect free kick, to be taken by the opposing team from the place where the ball was when play was stopped, subject to the special circumstances described in Law 8.

Here are some "other infringements" of Law 3 that could occur:

a. More than the allowed number of players

After the kickoff and before any substitutions, if the referee finds that a team has more than the allowed number of players, he must stop play or delay the restart of play and remove and caution a player. The player to be cautioned would be whoever was not listed on the team lineup as a "starter" or who had not already been formally substituted for a "starter." In other words, probably a named substitute.

Simply because the Law sets the maximum *allowed* number of players at eleven, it does not mean that there cannot be more than the maximum amount on the

field *illegally*. The referee and assistant referees must be alert to possible infringements of this nature. The situation of too many players is recognized by the lawgivers and must be enforced by the referee.

b. Replaced player illegally returning to play

A player who has been replaced returns to the field as a substitute and the referee detects this only after play has been restarted. The Law requires the referee to stop play and to remove and caution this player.

While the "former player" may indeed be such, he is still subject to the discipline of the referee as long as he remains in the area of the team bench. If he chooses to participate in the game and the referee mistakenly recognizes the substitution and allows him to enter the game, then that "former player" must be dealt with.

NOTE:

(1) This situation will not arise if the competition is using the "flying substitutions" permitted as of 1 July 1999 (see the Memorandum 1999), but will arise if the competition follows the substitution requirements outlined in Law 3 to the letter.

(2) This situation is different from the case of a person who is not a nominated substitute yet enters the game as a substitute. Such a person is regarded as "illegal" and must be removed from the game, but cannot be cautioned, as he is neither a player nor a substitute. If the referee stopped the game to deal with this person, the restart would be a dropped ball at the place where the ball was, subject to the special circumstances imposed in Law 8. The referee must provide a full report on the matter to the competition authorities.

c. Too many substitutions allowed

The referee allows more than the required or agreed-upon number of substitutions, and discovers this only after play has been restarted. This is a grave error on the part of the referee, but it is a violation of Law 3 and therefore covered by the third sanction.

NOTE:

A player who has been dismissed from further participation in a match may not re-enter the game under any circumstances. If he does so, he may not be cautioned, as he has already received the ultimate punishment and is no longer either a player or a substitute. Such a person must be removed from the field of play again and the referee must submit a full report on the matter to the competition authorities. The game would be restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was, subject to the special circumstances imposed in Law 8.

• Law 4 — The Players' Equipment

A player who has been required to leave the field of play because of an infringement of this Law and who enters (or re-enters) the field of play without the referee's permission is cautioned and shown the yellow card.

If play is stopped by the referee to administer a caution:

- the match is restarted by an indirect free kick taken by a player of the opposing side, from the place where the ball was located when the referee stopped the match (subject to the special circumstances imposed in Law 8).

- **Law 12 — Fouls and Misconduct**

- **IFAB Decision 4:**

If, . . . in the opinion of the referee, a player uses a deliberate trick while the ball is in play in order to circumvent the Law, the player is guilty of unsporting behavior. He is cautioned, shown the yellow card and an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred (keeping in mind the special circumstances described in Law 8).

- **Law 12 — Fouls and Misconduct**

- **IFAB Decision 4:**

A player using a deliberate trick to circumvent the Law while he is taking a free kick, is cautioned for unsporting behavior and shown the yellow card. The free kick is retaken.

- **Law 12 — Fouls and Misconduct**

- **IFAB Decision 6:**

Any simulating action anywhere on the field, which is intended to deceive the referee, must be sanctioned as unsporting behavior.

USSF Memorandum 1999 quoted the International Board: "It has been noticed that more and more players are trying to deceive the referee in an effort to gain a decision in favor of their team. This trend must be curbed and any player attempting to mislead the referee must be sanctioned."

And goes on to say:

"USSF Advice to Referees: Section 12.29.1 of *Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game* lists a number of "specific actions considered cautionable as unsporting behavior," including "fakes an injury or exaggerates the seriousness of an injury" and "fakes a foul (dives) or exaggerates the severity of a foul." In response to growing concern over such behavior, the International Board has identified simulation of fouls to deceive the referee as a mandatory caution requiring display of the yellow card.

NOTE:

In applying this decision, referees must first consider each situation carefully and critically, deciding if the "simulation" influenced their decision or if the player was actually fouled. If no stoppage has resulted directly from the simulation, the referee should not waste game time by stopping the game simply to issue the caution and show the yellow card or by admonishing a player who has feigned injury or simulated being fouled to get up. He should come back to that player at the next stoppage and administer the caution and show the yellow card.

Law 15 — The Throw-In

If an opponent unfairly distracts or impedes the thrower he is cautioned for unsporting behavior and shown the yellow card.