

FIFA Laws of the Game 2021-2022

Except for the modifications outlined in the “SABR Soccer Laws & Rules” tab, SABR follows the FIFA Laws of the Game. Each year FIFA announces its law changes, and below are summarized the 2021-2022 changes (see deleted text in ~~striketrough~~ and new text in *italics*) most relevant for a referee assigned to SABR games.

Changes to Law 11. Offside > 11.1. Offside position

Additional text:

The hands and arms of all players, including the goalkeepers, are not considered. *For the purposes of determining offside, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.*

Explanation:

The shoulder is not part of the arm for handball. It is therefore a part of the body with which a goal can be legitimately scored and so must be considered when judging offside.

Changes to Law 12. Fouls and Misconduct > 12.1. Direct free kick – Handling the ball

Old text (showing deletions):

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- scores in the opponents’ goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
- after the ball has touched their ~~or a team-mate’s~~ hand/arm, even if accidental, immediately:
 - scores in the opponents’ goal
 - ~~creates a goal-scoring opportunity~~
- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
 - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
 - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

~~The above offences apply even if the ball touches a player’s hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.~~

~~Except for the above offences, it is not an offence if the ball touches a player’s hand/arm:~~

- ~~directly from the player’s own head or body (including the foot)~~
- ~~directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close~~
- ~~if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger~~
- ~~when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body~~

New text

Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offense.

It is an offense if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- *touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized*
- *scores in the opponents' goal:*
 - *directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper*
 - *immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental*

Explanation:

- Not every contact between the hand/arm and the ball is a handball offence.
- Referees must judge the 'validity' of the hand/arm's position in relation to what the player is doing in that particular situation.
- Accidental handball by a teammate before a goal is scored and accidental handball creating a goal-scoring opportunity have been removed as offenses.

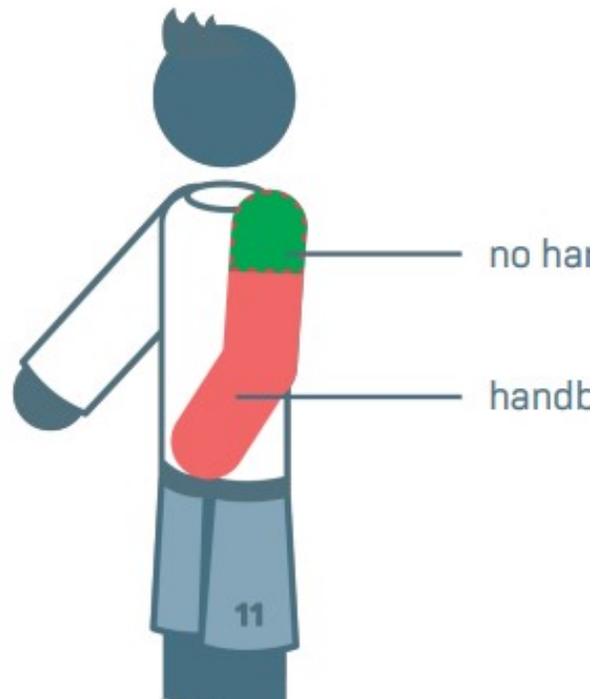
Below are links for a full listing of the laws and recent changes:

Laws of the Game 2021/22 [Laws of the Game 2021_22.pdf](#) | Powered by Box

Law Changes 2021/22 <https://downloads.theifab.com/downloads/changes-to-the-laws-of-the-game-2021-22-pdf?l=en>

As a reminder, the most relevant change for 2020-2021 was an amendment to Law 12:

For the purposes of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit



The most relevant changes for 2019-2020 were as follow:

Law 8 (Kickoff)

- *The team that wins the coin toss can now choose to take the kickoff or which goal to attack (previously they only had the choice of which goal to attack)*

Laws 8 & 9 (Dropped Ball)

- *If play is stopped inside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for the goalkeeper*
- *If paly is stopped outside the penalty area, the ball will be dropped for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the point of the last touch*
- *If the ball touches the referee and goes into the goal, team possession changes, or a promising attack starts, a dropped ball is awarded*

Law 13 (Free Kicks)

- *When there is a wall of three or more defenders, the attackers are not allowed within one yard of the wall.*

Law 14 (Penalty Kick)

- *The goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on/in line with the goal line when the kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line*

Note: Goalkeepers are not permitted to stand in front of or behind the line. Allowing the goalkeeper to have only one foot touching the goal line when the penalty kick is taken is a more practical approach as it is easier to identify if both feet are not on the line.

Law 16 (Goal Kick)

- *The ball is in play once the kick is taken; it can be played before leaving the penalty area*

Note: Defensive players may stand in the penalty area, receive the ball, and play the ball before it leaves the area. Attacking players must initially be outside the penalty area unless the defensive team plays the ball quickly. Once the ball is kicked and moves it is in play and the attacking team players can enter the penalty area and play the ball. (See exception for U9/U10 Build Out Line under "SABR Soccer Laws & Rules" tab.)