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Clarification on Futsal Laws of the Game Amendments

Dear All Clubs/Match Officials/Assessors

As you are aware there were some changes to the Futsal Laws of the Game in July 2010 and in particular the laws concerning Goalkeepers and Number of Players. Therefore I would like to clarify from the new FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game book (*this can be downloaded from www.fifa.com*) examples of the amendments. You may have had some confusion relating to matches that commenced on the league this season. The areas clarified are as follows;

Goal Clearance: Law 16 - page 56

Law - If the ball is in play and the goalkeeper touches the ball again (except with his hands) before it has touched an opponent (except if it has accidentally touched another player in his team) an indirect free kick is awarded.

Example 1. When the Goalkeeper restarts play with a Goal Clearance they cannot touch the ball again unless it has been touched by an opponent. (Previously they could if the ball crossed the halfway line and that part of the law is now deleted)

Example 2. If the Goalkeeper restarts play with a Goal Clearance and is then substituted by a 'Flying Goalkeeper' the flying goalkeeper takes full responsibility of this position and cannot touch the ball unless it has touched an opponent. This includes receiving the ball in the opponents half.

Fouls and Misconduct - Law 12 page 39

Law - An indirect free kick is awarded if the goalkeeper after playing the ball, he touches it again in his own half of the pitch after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate without an opponent playing or touching it.

Example 1 - If the Goalkeeper makes a save and then restarts play by throwing the ball to a team member, they cannot touch the ball again unless it has been touched by an opponent. The only time they can touch the ball before an opponent is if they receive it in the opponents half. (Previously they could if the ball had crossed the halfway line and receive it in their own half and that part of the law is now deleted)

Example 2 - If the Goalkeeper is substituted by a 'Flying Goalkeeper' once they have restarted play, the flying goalkeeper takes full responsibility of this position and cannot touch the ball again unless they receive it in the opponents half or it has touched an opponent.

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The Number of Players - Law 3 - page 16

Law - A player or substitute replacing the goalkeeper must wear a goalkeeper's jersey with his number on the back.

Example - Flying Goalkeeper is where this occurs and to be practical in this situation, I would strongly advise that your flying goalkeeper wears either a spare goalkeepers jersey that does not clash with the opponents and referees or if not available a away colour shirt that your team wears. Please note that bibs are not allowed. (The above advice is if you are not able to produce a goalkeeper shirt with a player's number on it)

The Number of Players (Players and Substitutes sent off) - Law 3 - page 18

Law - A substitute player may replace a sent-off player and enter the pitch two full minutes after the sending off, providing he has authorisation from 3rd Referee/Timekeeper unless a goal is scored before the two minutes have elapsed.

Example - Player sent off:

It is two minutes of match time and not running clock time before a player sent off can resume to join his team (unless a goal has been scored against them) There has been some confusion on this and this should now be clear.

Number of Substitutes - page 15

Official competitions - up to a maximum of seven substitutes may be used.

Other matches - National "A" team matches refers to Internationals and UEFA competitions.

Therefore the FA Futsal League is to have a maximum of seven substitutes (official competitions)

I hope the above clarifies this and for clubs you advise your players and for match officials to apply. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions relating to the Law amendments as I am conscious that there is good communication between clubs and match officials. I also wish you a very successful season.

Sean Dipple
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