



# LAWS OF THE GAME 2021/22

CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

## Individual Law changes (in Law order)

### Law 11 - Offside

- Inclusion of the Law 12 definition of where the arm ends (bottom of the armpit) for the purposes of determining an offside/onside position

### Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

- Handball:
  - Not every contact of the ball with the hand/arm is an offence
  - A player's hand/arm position should be **judged in relation to their body movement** in that **particular situation**
  - Removal from the accidental attacking handball offence of the references to a 'team-mate' and 'creating a goal-scoring opportunity'
- The offence of using a 'trick' to circumvent the Law against the goalkeeper handling the ball from a deliberate kick from a team-mate applies at goal kicks; the instigator is to be cautioned (YC)
- A free kick/penalty kick can only be awarded for an offence against someone on the team lists or a match official

## Law 11 – Offside

### 1. Offside position

#### Additional text

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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.

- important to note the bottom of the armpit is not the same as the bottom of the T-shirt
- primarily talking about the shoulder

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

### 1. Direct free kick

#### Additional text

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A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:

- (...)
- bites or spits at someone on the team lists or a match official

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

### 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~~

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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

It is an offence 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 penalised
- 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

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball

Examples of Deliberate Handball:

- moving towards the ball
- moving into the path of the ball

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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- 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 penalised

Unnaturally bigger – Handball – key considerations - consequence / justifiable / risk

- clearly extended away from the body – creating a barrier
- clearly extended above the shoulder – creating a barrier
- moves towards or is on the ground and does not support the player's body



# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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- 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 penalised

NOT Unnaturally bigger – No Handball -

Justifiable position – players can't be expected to move with arms by their sides

- position can be understood/explained by the player's body movement
- position is a result (consequence) of the player's normal movement
- hand/arm is moving into the body to avoid contact with the ball
- close to the body – not necessary against the body

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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- 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 penalised

### NOT Unnaturally bigger – No Handball

- away from the body because of the player's normal/natural movement
- contact is a consequence of the player deliberately playing the ball (against himself/herself) – no reason to make bigger vs stopping the opponent
- moves towards, or is on, the ground to support the player's body, or is getting up

Offence if ball makes contact =  
hand/arm making body bigger



No offence if ball makes  
contact = hand/arm  
supporting body



# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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- 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 penalised

## NOT Unnaturally bigger – No Handball – ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

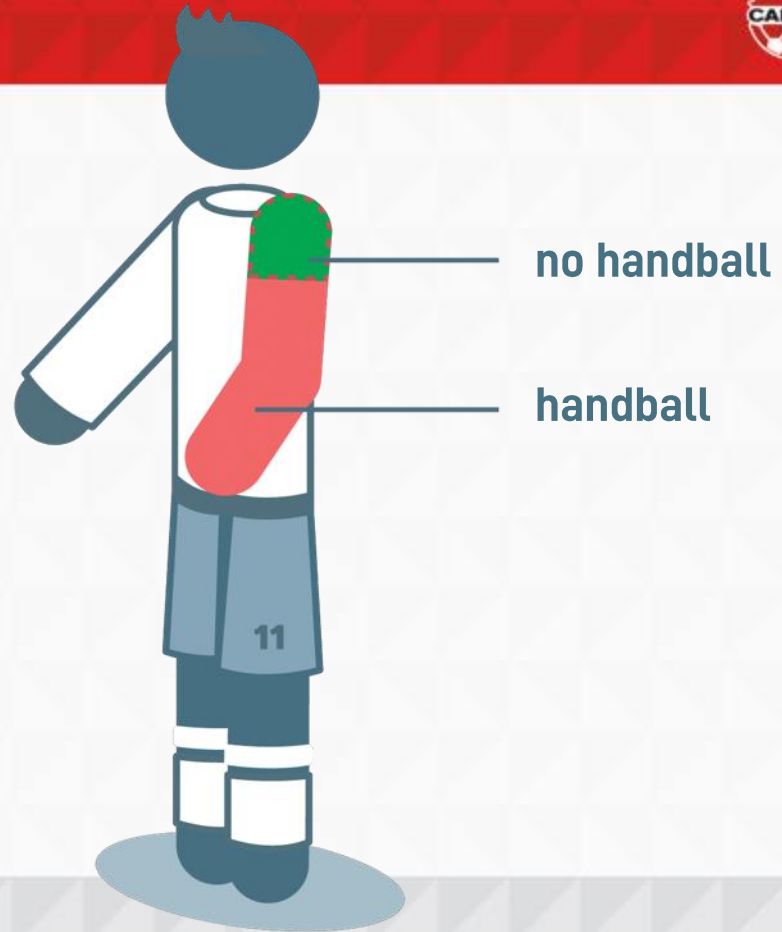
- exceptions, e.g. player's arm already extended and no expectation of the ball coming at, or near, the player from a teammate

# Law 12 – Handling the ball



## Handling the ball

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



# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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- 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

### Examples of Handball by Scorer:

- Directly
- Immediately after making contact

# Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct



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## New text

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- 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

### Examples of NO Handball by Scorer:

- accidental which is not Immediately before scoring

No Longer in Law – accidental handball by scorer's teammate before a goal is scored or that creates a goal scoring opportunity:

- even if immediately goes to eventual scorer

## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

### 2. Indirect free kick

#### Additional text

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An indirect free kick is awarded if a player:

- (...)
  - initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is penalised if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick
  - commits any other offence
- (...)



## 3. Disciplinary action – Cautions for unsporting behaviour

### Amended text

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour, including if a player:

- (...)
- ~~uses~~ **initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed to pass the ball** (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; **the goalkeeper is cautioned if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick**

## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

### 4. Restart of play after fouls and misconduct

#### Amended text

If the ball is in play and a player commits a physical offence inside the field of play against:

- an opponent – an indirect or direct free kick or penalty kick
- a team-mate, substitute, substituted or sent-off player, team official or a match official – a direct free kick or penalty
- ~~Any other person – a dropped ball~~

All verbal offences are penalised with an indirect free kick

If the referee stops play for an offence committed by a player, inside or outside the field of play, against an outside agent, play is restarted with a dropped ball, unless a free kick is awarded for leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

## Glossary – Football terms

### Offensive, insulting or abusive language/action(s)

Verbal or physical behaviour which is rude, hurtful, disrespectful; punishable by a sending-off (red card)

Applicable in laws 4, 5, 12

**To allow some forms of non-violent inappropriate behavior (e.g. offensively touching another person) to be considered 'offensive, insulting or abusive' and thus a sending-off offence**

'Action(s) / acting' replaces 'gestures/gesturing'