

## **FA LAW CHANGES FEBRUARY 2025**

### **FA Law 1 Amendment- The Field of Play**

The penalty mark will now be 6.5m away from the goal line measured from the centrepoint of the goal posts.

This has been done to remove any issues about the penalty taker entering the penalty area whilst taking the penalty kick.

### **FA Law 4 Amendment- Players Equipment**

This change clarifies that players are responsible for the size and suitability of their shinguards.

### **FA Law 9 Amendment - Ball in and out of play.**

Previously when a goalkeeper made a save or block that sent the ball above the height restriction then the goalkeeper retained possession of the ball for the restart. NOW under the new amendment when a goalkeeper makes a save or block that causes the ball to exceed the height restriction, the game is stopped and possession changes to the opposing team and the game restarts with a sideline kick in/roll in at the nearest point to where the save/block was made.

### **Ball goes high off the keeper = ball out of play = sideline restart.**

One outcome for all eventualities. If the ball goes high and back into play, if the ball goes high and drops back into the penalty area, if the ball goes high and over the bar, ball goes high and into the goal , etc, the restart is exactly the same and is a sideline restart nearest to where the block/save took place.

So if a goalkeeper makes a save or block 5m away from goal line then the restart is at the nearest sideline and 5m away from the corner of the pitch. If the gk was 3m off their line then the restart is 3m away from the corner of the pitch. If the gk is on the goal line and the save or block goes high then the restart is at the corner of the pitch BUT it is not a corner and the ball MUST be placed on the line AND a goal cannot be scored directly from this restart as it is a kick in and NOT a corner.

### **FA Law 12 Amendment - Fouls and Misconduct**

The change here is purely the removal of the word hands from the offence relating to stopping a goalkeeper releasing the ball. Done because it is recognised that keepers have the choice of releasing the ball back into play by feet or hands.

So the outfield player who tries to block a pass out (throw or Kick) from the goalkeeper commits an offence.

### **FA Law 15 Amendment - The Kick In**

The change here is that before taking the kick in the ball MUST be placed ON the line.

This has been done to ensure that the ball comes back into play at the point it went out of play and to prevent any ambiguity about the previous wording of 'behind' the line which could allow a player to take a kick in from 3 or 4m behind the line.

Obviously for a Roll in this is not possible so players must just adhere to the position of their feet as described in law

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### **FA Law 18 Amendment - Walking**

It has been recognised that many of the movements made by a goalkeeper could be penalised as Not Walking.

So a goalkeeper is now exempt from Law 18 'whilst making a save or block' (for example diving or jumping to make a save, with both feet off the ground).