

TO: ALL CLUBS

FROM: FFV COMPETITIONS

DATE: 24 NOVEMBER 2016

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME 2017

Dear Clubs,

We write to you in relation to recent changes to the Laws of the Game (**LOTG**) which will take effect as of 1 January 2017 for all FFV Competitions. In preparation for the 2017 season and to assist Clubs, Coaches, Players, Referees and other relevant stakeholders with the changes to the LOTG, we provide to you the relevant documentation regarding all changes together with specific information regarding the application of changes to Law 1.

Summary of Changes - LOTG 2016/17

The International Football Association Board (**IFAB**) made changes to the LOTG in an effort to ensure that the Laws are up to date, consistent and promote 'fair play'. FFV has produced the following video summarising the changes to the LOTG for Clubs to share with and educate members:

- [2017 FFV Laws of The Game Amendments](#)

In addition to the above, IFAB have produced the following summary documentation to assist in communicating the changes to the LOTG:

- [Summary of Law Changes for Players, Coaches and Media](#)
- [Summary of Law Changes: Law by Law](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Further information regarding the changes to the LOTG 2016/17 can be found on theifab.com.

Law 1 - The Field of Play

Changes under Law 1, specifically in reference to '*Field Surface*', states:

"The field of play must be wholly natural or, if competition rules permit, a wholly artificial playing surface except where rules permit an integrated combination of artificial and natural materials (hybrid system)."

In that regard, FFV wishes to clarify that turf pitches which contain a hard-based cricket wicket within the Field of Play will be permitted within relevant FFV Competitions, provided such dual surfaces meet the standards outlined under Schedule 3 of the 2017 Rules of Competition or as promulgated by FFV from time to time. A hard-based cricket wicket is not permitted to be within the penalty area under any circumstance.

It is imperative that Clubs and Councils understand that the changes to Law 1 do not inhibit the usage of grounds where a cricket wicket is present.

Referees

FFV will provide all referees with information and education on the changes to the LOTG through a variety of forms. Firstly, referees have been informed of details of the changes in the November Referee HQ Newsletter. The annual referees seminar, held in late January will provide further practical guidance on the application of these changes, along with the regular Referee Branch Meetings. The Referee HQ Facebook page will be used to provide weekly coaching videos to analyse the changes.

Clubs are asked to provide feedback on referee performances, especially in relation to the new LOTG using the Referee Club Feedback form found [here](#).

Moving Forward

Clubs, Coaches, Players, Referees and other relevant stakeholders will need time to adjust to the changes and there will be challenges in the application of these new Laws to start with, as everybody in football becomes accustomed to them. FFV will be monitoring and providing feedback to relevant parties where necessary throughout the 2017 season to ensure any challenges encountered are addressed.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the FFV Competitions or Referees departments on 9474 1800 and press '1' when prompted, or via email competitions@ffv.org.au or referees@ffv.org.au.

Regards,



Matthew Annells
FFV GM - Football Operations