



FIFA

For the Game. For the World.



Law 3 The Number of Players

- The Substitution Process
- Extra Persons on the Field of Play
- Goal Scored with an Extra Person on the Field of Play
- Minimum number of players





A substitution may be made only during a stoppage in play.

The assistant referee, if appointed, signals that a substitution has been requested.

The player being substituted receives the referee's permission to leave the field of play, unless he is already off the field of play for reasons that comply with the Laws of the Game.

The referee gives the substitute permission to enter the field of play.

Before entering the field of play, the substitute waits for the player he is replacing to leave the field of play.

The player leaving the field is not obliged to exit at the midfield line.

- **if necessary to prevent time wasting, the player may be directed to leave the field of play at the closest perimeter line**

Permission to proceed with a substitution may be refused under certain circumstances, e.g. if the substitute is not ready to enter the field of play.





The Substitution Process

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A substitute who has not completed the substitution process by setting foot onto the field of play cannot restart play by taking a throw-in or corner kick.

If a player who is about to be replaced refuses to leave the field of play, play continues.

If a substitution is made during the half-time interval or before extra time, the process is to be completed before the second half or extra time kicks off.



Extra Persons on the Field of Play

1. Outside Agent

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Outside Agent.

- anyone not indicated on the team list as a player, substitute or team official is deemed to be an outside agent as is a player who has been sent off (red card)



Extra Persons on the Field of Play

1. Outside Agent

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If an outside agent enters the field of play:

- the referee shall stop play (although not immediately if the outside agent does not interfere with play)
- the referee shall have him removed from the field of play and its immediate surroundings
- if the referee stops the match, he shall restart play with a dropped ball in the position where the ball was at the time when the match was stopped*



Extra Persons on the Field of Play

2. Team Officials

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If a team official enters the field of play:

- the referee shall stop play (although not immediately if the team official does not interfere with play or if the advantage can be applied)
- the referee shall have him removed from the field of play and if his behaviour is irresponsible the referee shall expel him from the field of play and its immediate surroundings
- if the referee stops the match, he shall restart play with a dropped ball in the position where the ball was at the time when the match was stopped*



Extra Persons on the Field of Play

3. Player outside the field of play

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If, after leaving the field of play to correct unauthorised equipment or kit, be treated for an injury or bleeding, because he has blood on his kit or for any other reason with the referee's permission, a player re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission, the referee shall:

- **stop play (although not immediately if the player does not interfere with play or if the advantage can be applied)**
- **caution the player for entering the field of play without permission**
- **order the player to leave the field of play if necessary (infringement of Law 4)**



Extra Persons on the Field of Play

3. Player outside the field of play

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If the referee stops play, it shall be restarted

- **with an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped* if there is no other infringement**
- **in accordance with Law 12 if the player infringes this Law**

If a player accidentally crosses one of the boundary lines of the field of play, he is not deemed to have committed an infringement. Going off the field of play may be considered to be part of a playing movement.



Extra Persons on the Field of Play

4. Substitute or Substituted Player

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A substitute is a player who has not received the referee's permission to enter the field and remains on the bench.

If a substitute or a substituted player enters the field of play without permission.

- **the referee shall stop play (although not immediately if the player in question does not interfere with play or if the advantage can be applied)**
- **the referee shall caution him for unsporting behaviour**
- **the player shall leave the field of play**
- **if the referee stops play, it shall be restarted with an indirect free kick for the opposing team from the position of the ball when play was stopped***



Goal Scored with an Extra Person on the Field of Play

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If, after a goal is scored, the referee realises, **before play restarts**, that there was an extra person on the field of play when the goal was scored:

- **the referee shall disallow the goal if:**
 - the extra person was an outside agent and he interfered with play
 - the extra person was a player, substitute, substituted player or team official associated with the team that scored the goal



Goal Scored with an Extra Person on the Field of Play

13

If, after a goal is scored, the referee realises, **before play restarts**, that there was an extra person on the field of play when the goal was scored:

- **the referee shall allow the goal if:**
 - the extra person was an outside agent who did not interfere with play
 - the extra person was a player, substitute, substituted player or team official associated with the team that conceded the goal



Goal Scored with an Extra Person on the Field of Play

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If, after a goal is scored, the referee realises, **after play restarts**, that there was an extra person on the field of play when the goal was scored:

- **the referee shall**
 - **shall stop play (although not immediately if the player in question does not interfere with play or if the advantage can be applied)**
 - **handle misconduct as appropriate**
 - **report to the competition authority the incident**



Minimum number of players

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If the rules of a competition state that all of the players and substitutes must be named before kick-off and a team begins a match with fewer than 11 players, only the players named in the starting line-up may complete the 11 upon their arrival.

If a player who is not named in the starting line-up takes to the field of play, it shall be considered a substitution.



Minimum number of players

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In the opinion of the International F.A. Board a match shall not be considered valid and shall be abandoned by the referee if fewer than seven players remain on either team.

However, if a team has fewer than seven players because one or more players has deliberately left the field of play, the referee is not obliged to stop the match and the advantage may be played. In such cases, the referee should not allow the match to resume after the ball has gone out of play if a team does not have the minimum number of 7 players.