

Text in red is changed

The International Floorball Federation

Rules of the Game

Rules and Interpretations

Valid from 1st July 2018

International Floorball Federation, Rules and Competition Committee

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CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	5	5	FIXED SITUATIONS.....	16
			501 General regulations for fixed situations.....	16
			502 Face-off.....	16
			503 Events leading to a face-off.....	17
CONDITIONS OF THE GAME.....	6		504 Hit-in.....	18
			505 Events leading to a hit-in.....	18
1 RINK.....	7		506 Free-hit.....	18
101 Dimensions of the rink.....	7		507 Offences leading to a free-hit.....	19
102 Markings on the rink.....	7		508 Penalty shot.....	22
103 Goal cages.....	7		509 Delayed penalty shot.....	23
104 Substitution zones.....	7		510 Offences leading to a penalty shot.....	23
105 Secretariat and penalty benches.....	8			
106 Inspection of the rink.....	8	6	PENALTIES.....	24
			601 General regulations for penalties.....	24
2 GAME TIME.....	9		602 Bench penalty.....	25
201 Regular game time.....	9		603 2-minute bench penalty.....	26
202 Time out.....	9		604 Delayed penalty.....	27
203 Extra time.....	10		605 Offences leading to a 2-minute bench penalty..	28
204 Penalty shots after extra time.....	10		606 5-minute bench penalty.....	30
			607 Offences leading to a 5-minute bench penalty..	31
3 PARTICIPANTS.....	11		608 Personal penalty.....	31
301 Players.....	11		609 10-minute personal penalty.....	31
302 Substitution of players.....	11		610 Offences leading to a 2-minute bench penalty + 10-minute personal penalty.....	32
303 Particular regulations for goalkeepers....	11		611 Match penalty.....	32
304 Particular regulations for team captains .	11		612 Match penalty 1.....	32
305 Team staff.....	12		613 Offences leading to match penalty 1.....	32
306 Referees.....	12		614 Match penalty 2.....	34
307 Secretariat.....	12		615 Offences leading to match penalty 2.....	34
			616 Match penalty 3.....	35
			617 Offences leading to match penalty 3.....	35
			618 Penalties in connection with a penalty shot.....	35
4 EQUIPMENT.....	13	7	GOALS.....	36
401 The players' clothing.....	13		701 Allowed goals..	36
402 The referees' clothing.....	13		702 Correctly scored goals.....	36
403 Particular goalkeeper's equipment.....	13		703 Incorrect scored goals.....	36
404 Particular team captain's equipment.....	13			
405 Personal equipment.....	14	8	CONSEQUENCE SIGNS (801-811).....	38
406 Ball.....	14			
407 Stick.....	14	9	OFFENCE SIGNS (901-925).....	42
408 The referees' equipment.....	15			
409 The secretariat's equipment.....	15	10	ILLUSTRATION OF THE RINK.....	50
410 Control of equipment.....	15			

PREFACE

This 2018 edition of the game rules was published in November 2017.

Even though we now consider that another milestone has been reached in our work with the rules of floorball, we are well aware that there might be some deficiencies and loop-holes which will have to be adapted before we have the 'perfect' set of rules.

Everyone involved in the game is encouraged to read the rules fully and carefully. It is important that the game is enjoyable, safe, played fairly, and is easily understood by players, coaches, referees, spectators and the media alike.

We will be very grateful for any suggestions, ideas or constructive criticism, which will help our continuing work. It must be appreciated that the rules will have to change constantly in line with the rapid developments in playing style.

Please note that the rules are equally valid for both men's and women's floorball at all levels of competition. The sole use of masculine pronouns is merely to ensure that the text remains as simple as possible.

As written in the rules all equipment shall be "marked accordingly". The marking of boards, goal cages, sticks and balls are quite easily understood since the IFF logotype is included in the approval mark **as well as the grilles to the face masks that has an IFF plate on the left side.**

When it concerns personal protection equipment such as helmets (the face mask) and protective goggles these are CE-marked and not necessarily marked with the IFF logotype.

IFF however recommends those that are approved for use in Floorball, shown by CE-marking and the text 'Recommended by IFF'.

The IFF advise the National Associations to move to mandatory use of protective goggles for players under 17 years old during the validity period of these Game Rules and at the same time recommend the use for players under 19 years old.

Material Regulations and Competition Regulations are found at www.floorball.org under Regulations.

Any exemption to the Rules of the Game shall be applied for to the IFF. Granted exemptions are published at www.floorball.org under Regulations / Rules of the Game.

Suggestions concerning alterations and improvements, and enquiries about reprinting within the copyright laws by national associations, should be sent to:

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IFF Rules and Competition Committee (RACC)
Martin **Klabere**
Chairman

1 RINK

105 Secretariat and penalty benches

- 1) A secretariat with penalty benches shall be placed opposite the substitution zones, by the centre line.
*The secretariat and the penalty benches shall be placed at an appropriate distance from the board. There shall be separate penalty benches for each team, placed on each side of the secretariat. The penalty benches shall have room for at least two persons each. **The penalty bench zones with a length of 2 m and placed at least 1 m from the centre line shall be marked and visible on both sides of the board.** Exemption for the placing of the secretariat and the penalty benches may be given by the administrating authority. If this is the case there shall be left a minimum of 2 m space in between the penalty bench and the substitution benches.*

2 GAME TIME

201 Regular game time

- 1) Regular game time shall be 3 x 20 minutes with two 10-minute intermissions, when the teams shall change ends.
*Exemption for shorter game time however not less than 2 x 15 minutes and/or shorter/longer intermissions may be given by the administrating authority. When changing ends, the teams shall also change substitution zones. The home team shall choose ends at an early stage before the match. Every new period shall start with a face-off at the centre spot. At the end of every period the secretariat is responsible for providing a siren or other suitable sound device, unless this is automatic. **A period or a match is over as soon as the final signal has started sounding.** The timing of the intermission shall start immediately at the end of the period. The teams are responsible for being back onto the rink in time to resume play after the intermission. If the referees consider one end of the rink to be better, the teams shall change ends after half the third period, but this has to be decided before the start of the third period. If such a changing of ends takes place, play shall be resumed with a face-off at the centre spot.*

4 EQUIPMENT

405 Personal and protective equipment

- 1) A player shall not wear personal equipment which may cause injury.
*Personal equipment includes protective and medical equipment, protective goggles, watches, earrings, etc. The referees decide what shall be considered dangerous. All protective equipment shall, if possible, be worn underneath the clothing. **Unless otherwise defined by National Association uniform regulations, visible parts of undershirts, undershorts, tights and compression wear shall be of the same colour as the main colour of the match uniform shirt or the shorts. For leg wear black is also allowed.** With the exception of elastic headbands without knots, no headgear may be worn. All forms of long tights are prohibited for field players. Exceptions shall be allowed only by the administrating authority upon written request.*
- 2) **If a player is wearing protective goggles they shall be in accordance with the IFF Material Regulations and marked accordingly.**
All tampering with the goggles is prohibited. If a player loses the goggles during play, he may continue playing until the next interruption

410 Control of equipment

- 2) Measuring of a hook, **control of approval mark on a stick or face mask grill** and control of a shaft/blade combination may be requested by the team captain.
*The team captain also has the right to point out to the referees' other incorrectness in the opponents' equipment, but in this case the referees decide whether or not to take action. Measuring and control of shaft/blade combination **and control of approval mark on a stick or face mask grill** may be requested at any time, but shall not be carried out until play is interrupted. If control is requested during an interruption, it shall be carried out immediately, including in connection with goals and penalty shots, unless, in the referees' opinion, it negatively affects the situation for the opposing team. In this case the control shall be carried out at the next interruption. The referees are obliged to check a hook or shaft/blade **and control of approval mark on a stick or face mask grill** at the team captain's request, but only one control per team per interruption shall be allowed. No other players than the team captains and the player with the equipment being controlled may be at the secretariat during the control of equipment. After control of equipment, play shall be resumed according to what caused the interruption.*

5 FIXED SITUATIONS

502 Face-off (802)

- 5) **The ball shall be played with the stick and A face-off** shall be taken by one field player from each team. The players shall be facing the opposing team's short side and must not have physical contact before the face-off. The feet shall be placed perpendicular to the centre line. Each player shall have both his feet at the same distance from the centre line. The sticks shall be held with a normal grip and with both hands above the grip mark. The blades shall be placed perpendicular to the centre line on either side of the ball, but without touching it.
Normal grip implies the way the player holds his stick during play. The defending team's player chooses on which side of the ball to place his stick. If the face-off is on the centre line, the visiting team's player chooses. The ball shall be at the centres of the blades. ~~If a player taking a face-off does not obey the referees' instructions, another player who is on the rink shall take the face-off.~~ In case of a dispute in connection with a substitution before a face-off is taken, the away team is obliged to carry out their substitution first.

503 Events leading to a face-off

- 6) When an unnatural situation occurs during play.
*The referees decide what shall be considered an unnatural situation, but this always includes, amongst others, unauthorized persons or objects on the rink, the lights going out either completely or partly, and the final signal being sounded by mistake, **when a broken stick causes a dangerous situation or directly affects the play** or when a referee is hit by the ball and this has a significant effect on the play.*
- ~~10) When a penalty is imposed for an offence which is not in connection with play, but is committed or noticed during play.
This includes when a penalized player enters the rink before his penalty expires or terminates.~~
- 10) When the referees are unable to decide the direction of a hit-in or a free-hit.
This includes when players from both teams commit offences simultaneously.
- 11) When the referees consider their decision to be incorrect.

507 Offences leading to a free-hit

- 4) When a field player uses any part of his stick, ~~or his~~ foot or lower leg, to play or try to play the ball above knee level. (904, 913)
Stopping the ball with a thigh is not considered to be playing the ball above knee level, unless considered dangerous. As knee level is considered the level of the knees when standing upright.
- 12) When a field player jumps up and stops the ball. (916)
As jumping is considered to be when both feet entirely leave the floor. Running is not considered as jumping. A player is allowed to jump over the ball ~~if he does not touch it~~ as well as play, touch and stop the ball below knee level. As knee level is considered the level of the knees when standing upright.
- 16) When a face-off, hit-in or a free-hit is incorrectly performed or intentionally delayed. (918)
This includes when the non-offending team takes the ball away when the play is interrupted, when the ball is dragged, flicked, or lifted on the stick and when any player delays a face-off. If a hit-in or a free-hit is taken from the wrong place or when the ball is not entirely still, it may be taken again. If, in the referees' opinion, play is not affected, the ball does not have to be entirely still or in exactly the right place.

5 FIXED SITUATIONS

- 18) When a goalkeeper receives a pass, or takes the ball, from a field player in the same team. (924)
This shall be considered an offence only if the ~~pass ball~~, in the referees' opinion, is played intentionally. Receiving implies that the goalkeeper touches the ball with either his hands or arms, also even after the goalkeeper has possibly touched or stopped the ball with any other part of his body. A goalkeeper may receive a pass from a player in the same team if the goalkeeper is completely outside his goal crease when he receives the pass, and is thereby considered a field player. If the goalkeeper leaves his goal crease entirely, stops the ball, returns to his goal crease and picks the ball up this shall not be considered a pass to the goalkeeper. A pass to the goalkeeper is not considered a goal situation and can not result in a penalty shot.
- 19) When a penalty is imposed ~~during play for an offence committed in connection with play~~. (prescribed offence sign)
The free-hit shall be taken where the offence was committed. If the referees are unable to decide where the offence occurred, the free-hit shall be taken at the nearest face-off dot, according to where the ball was at the interruption.
- 20) When a player delays play. (924)
This includes when a field player, in order to waste time, places himself against the rink or goal cage in such a manner that the opponent is unable to reach the ball in a correct way. This also includes when the goalkeeper blocks the ball through the goal net. The player should, if possible, be made aware of this before any actions are taken.
- 21) When a team delays play. (924)
This includes when a team plays in a systematically passive way behind the own goal cage. The team should, if possible, be made aware of this before any actions are taken.
- 22) When a field player plays the ball with his head. (921)

508 Penalty shot (806)

- 1) When an offence leading to a penalty shot is committed, a penalty shot shall be awarded to the non-offending team.
~~If a penalty shot is awarded during a delayed penalty or caused by an offence leading to a penalty, the rules concerning penalties in connection with a penalty shot shall also be applied.~~
- 2) The penalty shot shall be started with the stick and taken from the centre spot.

- 3) All players except the player taking the penalty shot and the defending goalkeeper shall be in their substitution zones during the entire penalty shot. The goalkeeper shall be on the goal line when the penalty shot starts.
In case of a dispute the goalkeeper shall enter the rink first. The goalkeeper must not be replaced by a field player. If the goalkeeper commits an offence during the penalty shot, a new penalty shot shall be awarded and any prescribed penalty carried out. If another player or member of the team staff in the offending team commits an offence during the penalty shot, a new penalty shot shall be awarded and the offence considered sabotage of play. If a player, except from the player taking the penalty shot, or member of the team staff in the non-offending team commits an offence during the penalty shot the penalty shot is considered incorrectly performed.
- 4) The player taking the penalty shot may play the ball an unlimited number of times and shall follow a continuous movement towards the goal cage. ~~but the ball has to be in a forward movement during the entire penalty shot. As soon as the goalkeeper has touched the ball, the player taking the penalty shot must not touch the ball again during the penalty shot.~~
Continuous implies that the player and the ball are not allowed to come to a full stop or change direction away from the goal cage simultaneously. As soon as the goalkeeper has touched the ball or the ball has touched the front face of the goal cage, the player must not touch the ball again during the penalty shot. If the ball hits the front face of the goal then the goalkeeper, and without passing the imaginary extended goal line passes the goal line from the front, the goal shall be allowed. Game time shall be stopped during the entire penalty shot. Forward movement implies away from the centre line. If the ball at the very start of a penalty shot is drawn backwards the penalty shot shall be interrupted and started all over again.
- ~~5) A 2-minute bench penalty imposed in connection with a penalty shot shall be noted in the match record only if the penalty shot does not result in a goal.
The penalized player shall be on the penalty bench during the penalty shot.~~
- 5) A player who has incurred a 5-minute bench penalty shall be on the penalty bench during the penalty shot.
If player incurring a match penalty the team captain shall choose a field player, who is not already penalized, to serve the bench penalty.

5 FIXED SITUATIONS

509 Delayed penalty shot (807)

- 1) A delayed penalty shot shall be applied when the non-offending team still controls the ball after an offence leading to a penalty shot, and the goal situation is still in progress.
~~*If a delayed penalty shot is awarded during a delayed penalty or caused by an offence leading to a penalty, the rules concerning penalties in connection with a penalty shot shall also be applied. A delayed penalty shot may be caused by an offence leading to a penalty even if a delayed penalty is already in progress. During a delayed penalty shot each offence committed by the offending team and leading to a free-hit shall be penalized as repeated offences. Offences leading to penalties shall be penalized according to the offence. All penalties shall be served by the players having committed these.*~~

6 PENALTIES

601 General regulations for penalties

- 1) When an offence leading to a penalty is committed, the offender shall be penalized.
If the referees are unable to point out the offender, or if the offence is committed by a member of the team staff, the team captain shall choose a field player, who is not already penalized, to serve the penalty. If the team captain refuses to do this, or is penalized, the referees shall choose the player. All penalties carried out shall be noted in the match record with the time, number of the player, type of penalty and cause of penalty. ~~If the penalty is caused by an offence in connection with play, the non-offending team shall be awarded a free-hit. If the penalty is caused by an offence not in connection with play, play shall be resumed with a face-off.~~ If the penalty is caused by an offence committed during an interruption, play shall be resumed according to what caused the interruption. A penalized team captain loses his right to speak to the referees, unless he is addressed by them.

- 2) A penalized player shall be on the penalty bench during the entire penalty.
A player penalized during penalty shots after extra time shall not be placed on the penalty bench. A penalty, which has not expired at the end of regular game time, shall continue during extra time. After the extra time all penalties except match penalties are considered to be terminated. A penalized player shall be on the same side of the centre line as his team, with the exception of when the secretariat and the penalty benches are situated on the same side of the rink as the substitution zones. During regular game time a penalized player may leave the penalty bench during an intermission. A penalized player shall not leave the penalty bench during the intermission between regular game time and extra time. A penalized player is not allowed to participate in a time out. A player, whose penalty expires, shall immediately leave the penalty bench, unless the number of penalties for his team makes this impossible or the penalty expiring is a personal penalty. A goalkeeper, whose penalty expires, shall not leave the penalty bench until the next interruption. A penalized player who is injured may be replaced on the penalty bench by a field player who is not already penalized. Both players shall be noted in the match record with the number of the player actually serving the penalty in brackets. If the injured player enters the rink before the penalty expires, match penalty 2 will be imposed. If the secretariat is responsible for a player being admitted to the rink too soon and the mistake is noticed during regular penalty time, the player shall resume his position on the penalty bench. There shall not be any additional penalty time and the player shall return to the rink when his regular penalty time expires.

602 Bench penalty

- 2) No more than one bench penalty per player and two bench penalties per team shall be measured simultaneously.
All bench penalties shall be measured in the order they are imposed. A player, whose penalty can not be measured, shall be on the penalty bench from the moment his penalty is carried out. If more than one penalty is imposed simultaneously on a team ~~already having a bench penalty~~, the ~~team captain referees~~ decides which of the new penalties shall be measured first. Shorter bench penalties shall, in this case, always be measured before longer.

603 2-minute bench penalty

- 1) If the opposing team scores during a 2-minute bench penalty that is being measured, the penalty shall terminate, unless the opposing team is outnumbered on the rink or the teams play with equal strength.
The penalty will not terminate if the goal is scored ~~either during a delayed penalty or from a penalty shot or a delayed penalty shot. caused by an offence leading to a penalty.~~

6 PENALTIES

604 Delayed penalty

- 1) All penalties may be delayed. A delayed penalty shall be applied when the non-offending team still controls the ball after an offence leading to a penalty. Only one penalty at a time can be delayed except when a goal situation is in progress, ~~in which case a second penalty may also be delayed.~~
~~If one or several delayed penalties are imposed in connection with a penalty shot or a delayed penalty shot, the rules concerning penalties in connection with a penalty shot shall also be applied.~~

605 Offences leading to a 2-minute bench penalty

- 3) When a field player plays the ball above waist level with any part of his stick, ~~or his foot or lower leg.~~ (904, 913)
As waist level is considered the level of the player's waist when standing upright.
- 9) When a field player **in the rink** fetches a stick from a place other than the team's own substitution zone. (no offence sign)
- 14) When a field player, **lying or sitting down**, stops or plays the ball **or in another way affects the situation when lying or sitting down.** (919)
This also includes stopping or playing the ball with both knees or one hand on the floor, stick holding hand excluded.
- 15) When a field player stops or plays the ball with his hand **or arm or head.** (920, 924)
- 19) When a team systematically disrupts play by committing repeated offences leading to a free-hit. (923)
This also includes when a team commits a number of minor offences during a short time. The player committing the last offence shall serve the penalty ~~and be penalized according to that offence.~~ During a delayed penalty shot each offence committed by the offending team and leading to a free-hit shall be penalized as repeated offences. Offences leading to penalties shall be penalized according to the offence. All penalties shall be served by the players having committed these.
- ~~27) When a player prevents a goal or a goal-scoring situation by committing an offence which is normally punished with a free hit. (no offence sign)~~

607 Offences leading to a 5-minute bench penalty

- 1) When a field player, performs violent or dangerous strikes with his stick. (901)
~~This includes when a field player raises his stick over an opponent's head and the opponent is hit.~~

610 Offences leading to a 2-minute bench penalty + 10-minute personal penalty

- 1) When a player or a member of the team staff is guilty of unsportsmanlike behaviour. (925)
*Unsportsmanlike behaviour implies: Behaving in an insulting or unfair way towards referees, players, team staff, officials, spectators, ~~being too many team staff in the substitution zone~~ or any simulating action intended to deceive the referees. Intentionally kicking, upsetting or hitting the board or the goal cage.
Throwing the stick or any other equipment, even during an interruption or in the substitution zone.*

613 Offences leading to a match penalty 1

- ~~3) When an injured player, who has been replaced on the penalty bench, participates in play before his penalty time has expired. (no offence sign)~~

6 PENALTIES

613 Offences leading to a match penalty 1 (continued)

- 3) When a player is guilty of continued or repeated unsportsmanlike behaviour. (925)
The match penalty replaces the second 2-minute bench penalty + 10-minute personal penalty, but shall still be followed by a 5-minute bench penalty. Continued implies in the same sequence and repeated for the second time in the same match.
- 4) When a player, in anger, breaks his stick or other equipment. (925)
- 5) When a player is guilty of dangerous physical play. (909)
~~*This includes dangerous, violent or unsportsmanlike offences considered deliberate.*~~
The offence shall be committed in a game situation and includes when a player, in a game situation, throws himself towards an opponent, attacks an opponent violently or tackles, throws or trips an opponent against the board or goal cage to stay in control of the ball or with no possibility of reaching the ball.

615 Offences leading to a match penalty 2

- 5) When a player or a member of the team staff commits an offence clearly intending to sabotage play. (925)
This includes when:
A penalized player intentionally enters the rink during play, before his penalty expires or terminates. If the rink is entered during an interruption in play a 2-minute bench penalty shall be imposed. If the secretariat is responsible for a player being admitted to the rink too soon, and the mistake is noticed during regular penalty time, the player shall resume his position on the penalty bench. There shall not be any additional penalty time and the player shall return to the rink when his regular penalty time expires. If the mistake is noticed after the regular penalty time has expired, no action shall be taken. ~~When an injured player, who has been replaced on the penalty bench, participates in play before his penalty time has expired.~~ If a player, whose penalty has expired, enters the rink despite the numeric situation does request him to wait for the next interruption, it can, depending on its cause, be considered to be 'playing with too many players'.
Offences are committed by either team from the substitution zone or penalty bench during a penalty shot.
Equipment is thrown from the substitution zone during play.
A player, not in the process of changing, takes part or tries to take part in play from the substitution zone. ~~This includes also if player or team staff intentionally kicks the board outside of the rink so that play is affected.~~
A player participates as a field player after having participated as a goal keeper in the same game.
A team intentionally has too many players on the rink.

~~618 Penalties in connection with a penalty shot~~

- ~~1) If a penalty shot results in a goal, the penalty causing the penalty shot, if it is a 2-minute bench penalty, shall be terminated.~~
~~*This includes a delayed penalty shot. If during a delayed penalty shot, the offending team commits another offence leading to a penalty shot, the second offence shall be considered the offence causing the penalty shot. If a penalty shot is interrupted due to an offence caused by the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper's offence shall be considered the cause of the new penalty shot. If a 5-minute bench penalty is imposed in connection with a penalty shot or a delayed penalty shot an already existing 2-minute bench penalty shall be terminated if the penalty shot results in a goal.*~~

7 GOALS

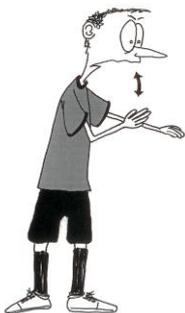
702 Correctly scored goals

- 1) When the entire ball passes the goal line from the front, having been played in a correct way with a field player's stick, and no offence leading to a free-hit or a penalty has been committed by the attacking team in connection with, or immediately before, the goal.
This includes:
~~When a player in the defending team has moved the goal cage is out of position and the ball passes the goal line from the front between the marks for the posts and below the imaginary position of the bar.~~
When an own goal is scored. An own goal is considered own goal when a player actively with the stick or body directs the ball into the own goal. If the non-offending team scores an own goal during a delayed penalty, the goal shall be allowed.
An own goal shall be noted as OG.
- 2) When the entire ball passes the goal line from the front after a player in the defending team has directed the ball with his stick or his body, or a player in the attacking team has unintentionally directed the ball with his body, and no offence leading to a free-hit or a penalty has been committed by the attacking team in connection with, or immediately before the goal.
~~The goal shall not be considered correctly scored if a field player in the attacking team intentionally kicks the ball immediately before it is directed into goal.~~ *If a player has scored with an incorrect stick and the mistake is noticed only after the ball has passed the goal line, the goal shall be allowed.*
- 3) When a player who is not noted in the match record, ~~or is incorrectly numbered,~~ is involved in the scoring of a goal.
Involved implies scoring or assisting.

703 Incorrectly scored goals

- 2) When a player in the attacking team intentionally ~~kicks or~~ directs the ball ~~into goal~~ with any part of his body ~~and the ball goes into the goal even after having touched an opponent, an opponent's equipment or a player in the attacking team.~~
Since this is not considered an offence, play shall be resumed with a face-off.
- 3) When the ball passes the goal line during, or after, a signal.
~~A period or a match is over as soon as the final signal has started sounding.~~
- 4) When the ball goes into the goal cage without passing the goal line from the front.
- 5) When a goalkeeper throws or kicks the ball into the opposing team's goal ~~even if the ball touched an opponent, an opponent's equipment or a player in the attacking team. in an otherwise correct way.~~
Since this is not considered an offence, play shall be resumed with a face-off. ~~The ball has to touch another player or another player's equipment before it goes into goal.~~
- ~~6) When a field player in the attacking team intentionally kicks the ball and it goes into goal after having touched an opponent or opponent's equipment.~~
~~Since this is not considered an offence, play shall be resumed with a face-off.~~
~~An intended foot pass directed into goal by the opponent shall however be allowed.~~
- ~~8) When the ball bounces off one of the referees and directly into goal.~~

9 OFFENCE SIGNS



923
Repeated offences