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THE
INTERNATIONAL
FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION
BOARD

Laws of the Game 2020/21

Summary of main changes



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Laws of the Game 2020/21

Clarifications and associated Law changes

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Handball

- ‘accidental’ handball by an attacking player (or team-mate) is only penalised if it occurs ‘immediately’* before a goal or clear goal-scoring opportunity

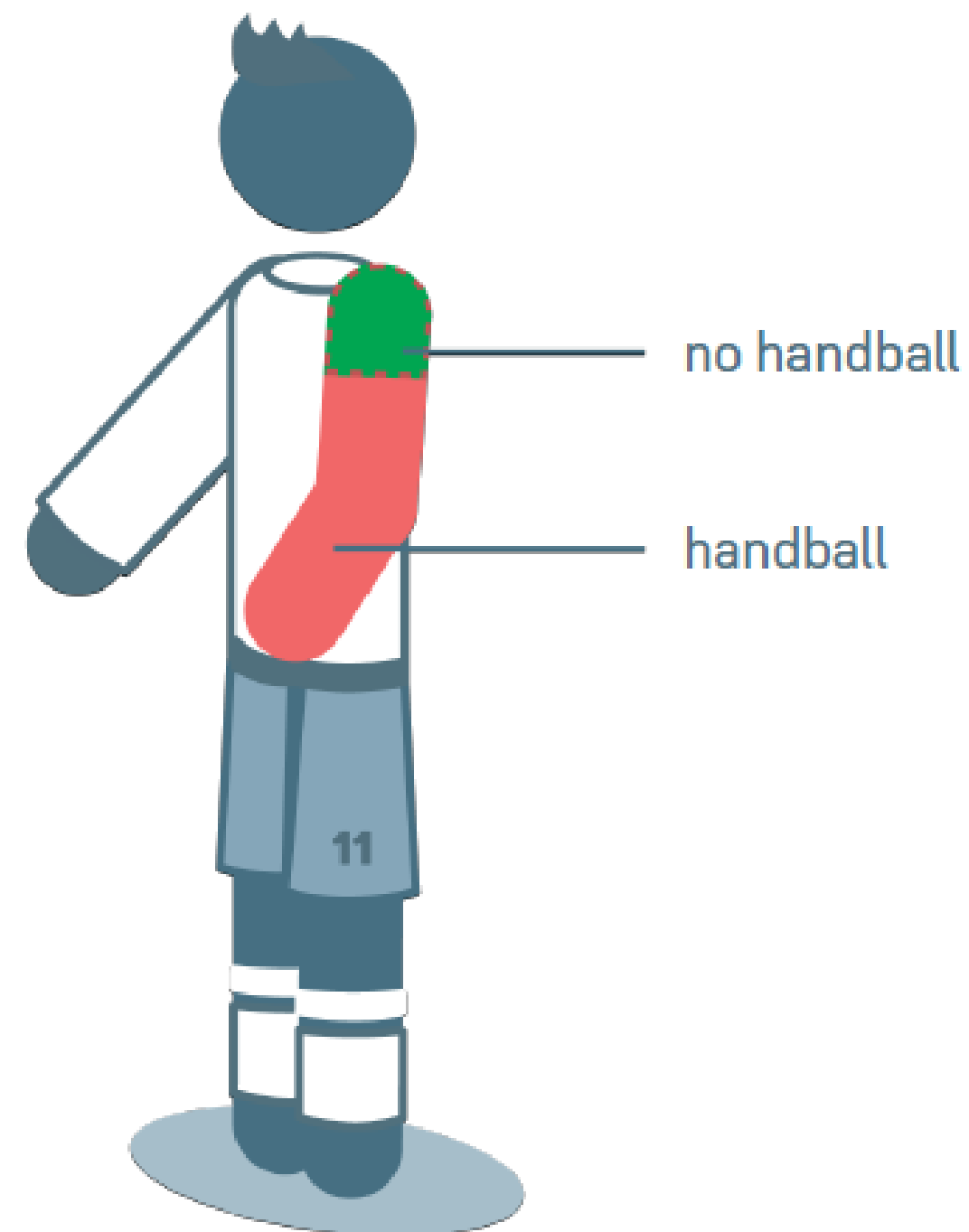
**ball travels short distance and/or very few passes*

Laws of the Game 2020/21

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- the boundary between the shoulder and the arm is defined as the bottom of the armpit



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Goalkeeper

- If the goalkeeper takes a FK or GK and then touches the ball again before it has touched another player it is an IDFK. If this stops a promising attacker it is a YC, if it is a DOGSO offence it is a RC – this applies even if the GK handles the ball

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Penalty Kicks and Kicks from the Penalty Mark (KFPM)

- Goalkeeper offence is not penalised if the kick misses or rebounds (no touch from the goalkeeper) unless kicker clearly affected

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- Goalkeeper offence is not penalised if the kick misses or rebounds (no touch from the goalkeeper) unless kicker clearly affected
- If goalkeeper offence results in a retake, goalkeeper is warned for 1st offence; YC for any further offence(s)
- YCs and warnings (players & team officials) are not carried forward into KFPM

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VAR protocol

- Only one 'TV signal' is required for a VAR-only review
- Expectation that reviews for subjective decisions will be 'on-field reviews'

Glossary

- Holding – only if impedes a player's movement
- A player's position at a restart is the position of the feet (or any part of the body touching the ground) - *except for Offside*

Corona virus (COVID 19)

- Top competitions ending in 2020 now have option to allow teams to use 5 substitutes, but:
 - only 3 substitutions opportunities (excluding half-time)
 - if both teams make a substitution at the same time it will count as one opportunity for both teams
- Competitions can discontinue using VAR; if continue ALL parts of protocol apply
- Spitting (unless directed at someone) is not a YC – post-match disciplinary matter