

Memorandum

Subject: Clarification for the Laws of the Game - FIFA

Date: March 11, 2002

To: Provincial Technical Directors  
c.c.: CSA (Canada Soccer Association) Referee Committee members  
National Instructors and National Assessors  
FIFA referees and FIFA Assistant referees

From: Sonia Denoncourt / CSA Referee Development Coordinator  
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**Restarts after striking, throwing or spitting.**

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) has provided a new interpretation of where a foul has occurred when there has been no direct contact or when the contact has occurred off the field of play. Prior to now, for example, striking using a thrown object was punished where the action originated.

**The IFAB now instructs that all such infringements are to be punished where the contact occurs or would have occurred if the action had been successful, provided this location is on the field of play.**

The July 2000 version of FIFA's Questions and Answers to the Laws of the Game incorporates this new interpretation and referees in Canada should implement this guidance.

There are few exceptions to this rule:

- 1 - If the striking or attempted striking was misconduct (i.e., the actual striking contact occurred off the field or was committed against someone other than an opposing player or substitute), the restart is an indirect free kick from the point of initiation. The guilty player should be sent off for violent conduct and shown the red card.
- 2- If a substitute, standing outside the field of play, strikes or attempts to strike a player on the field of play, the restart is a dropped ball at the place where the ball was when the blow was struck. The substitute is sent off for violent conduct and shown the red card.
- 3- If a player, taking a throw-in, throws the ball at an opponent, the referee is presented with a gray area involving sound reading of the conditions of the game. This throw could be considered to be trifling, unsporting behaviour, or violent conduct, depending on the force used. If the throw-in was correctly taken and the referee considers that a foul has been committed, the restart would be a direct free kick from the point of contact. If the throw-in was not correctly taken and the referee considers that misconduct has been committed, the restart would be a retake of the throw-in, because the game was not restarted properly.

For more information, you can refer to the:

1. Questions and Answers in FIFA web site: [www.fifa.com](http://www.fifa.com)
2. <http://www.ussoccer.com/temDlates/includes/services/referees~/pdfs/~osition pqpers/restarts.pdf>

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