



Memorandum

To: State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
State Directors of Referee Instruction
State Directors of Referee Assessment
National Referee Instructors and Trainers
National Assessors
National Referees

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: *No Replacement for Player Sent Off after the Game Has Started*

Date: November 22, 2002

International Football Association Board (IFAB) Decision 3, Law III, formerly stated: "A player who has been ordered off after play has started may not be replaced." The rewrite of the Laws of the Game in 1997 was extensive and included both new language and revisions of existing language: numerous provisions in the 1996 edition of the Laws of the Game, including this one, were also removed. Nevertheless, the provisions of IFAB Decision 3, Law III, remain valid to this day.

The intention of the IFAB was to clarify and simplify concepts, to replace older terminology, to present concepts which are more easily translated into languages other than English and to shorten the Laws of the Game overall. The removal of the IFAB decision should not be considered a rejection of the requirement but an affirmation that a separate, additional statement of the concept involved was unnecessary. In other words, the IFAB believed that the basic principle that a player sent off after the game has started may not be replaced was so well understood by the entire soccer community that it did not need to be mentioned in the Laws.

In applying the rewritten Laws of the Game, affiliated leagues, associations, officials and competitions are accordingly reminded that, except as described in "Memorandum 1997" or in subsequent memoranda regarding amendments to the Laws of the Game, there should be no change in either the understanding of the Laws or in their substantive application to game situations. Unless noted otherwise, the absence in later versions of the Laws of the Game of any language from the 1996 version is not to be interpreted as an indication IFAB intended that matches would no longer be governed by that language.

Law 3 currently states "A player who has been sent off before the kick-off may be replaced only by one of the named substitutes." Implied in that statement is a reiteration of the former IFAB Decision 3, Law III, that "A player who has been ordered off after play has started may not be replaced."