



Memorandum

To: All Referees Working Professional League Matches

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: Changes in the Laws of the Game for 2005

Date: March 29, 2005

Changes in the Laws of the Game recently announced by FIFA are not due to be implemented until July 1, 2005. Under the rules of the International Football Association Board, member associations are required to delay the introduction of alterations in the Law if their playing season begins prior to July 1, 2005.

Certain decisions taken by the International Board were clarifications rather than changes in existing Law. These **and only these** are adopted now by USSF and should be implemented immediately:

- In the definition of offside position, “nearer to his opponents” goal line means that any part of the attacker’s head, body or feet is nearer to his opponents’ goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent. The arms are not included in this definition.
- A tackle, **regardless of direction**, which endangers the safety of an opponent must be sanctioned as serious foul play.
- The referee has the authority to take disciplinary sanctions (including the display of red and yellow cards) from the moment he enters the field of play until he leaves the field of play after the final whistle.