



BY EMAIL

September 20, 2016

RE: Clarification on the Laws of the Game 2016/17 ~ Law 1 The Field of Play

Dear Executive Directors,

The most recent edition of the Laws of the Game (2016/17) has resulted in an improvement in text that may have been open to interpretation in previous editions. As such, in recent weeks there have been questions specifically related to the rewording of sections of Law 1 – The Field of Play.

Previous editions of the Laws stated that the field be composed of “natural or artificial surfaces”. The latest edition adds clarity to this and states “The field of play must be wholly natural or, if competition rules permit, a wholly artificial playing surface, except where competition rules permit an integrated combination of artificial and natural materials (hybrid system)”.

Emphasis is placed on “wholly” to clarify that the field must not be a patch work of artificial and natural surfaces but a surface that is only made of one material. For example, a field with the goal area as an artificial surface and the rest of the field as a natural surface is not permitted. A hybrid system is a “combination of artificial and natural materials” woven together to create a uniform surface. This surface is primarily grass reinforced with artificial fibres. “Hybrid” should not be interpreted as a patch work of different surfaces throughout the field.

Where a field exists that does not satisfy the requirements of the Law its use should be restricted to recreational competitions. Senior and high performance leagues and competitions should be played on fields that meets the requirements of the Laws of the Game. Many fields are maintained by municipalities and you are requested to advise them of the requirements and encourage them through their planned maintenance and replacement to incorporate the “wholly” principle.

Should you have any questions regarding this or require clarification on the Laws of the Game please do not hesitate to reach out to Isaac Raymond, Manager Referees at iraymond@canadasoccer.com.

Sincerely,

Peter Montopoli

cc: Joe Guest, Deputy General Secretary, Canadian Soccer Association
Isaac Raymond, Manger Referees, Canadian Soccer Association
Earl Cochrane, Canadian Soccer Association