

To all national football associations
and confederations

Circular no. 31

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

and

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Clarification concerning double
touches

Zurich, 2 June 2025
SEC/2025-C477/bru

Dear Sir or Madam,

The IFAB wishes to clarify **Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match** and **Law 14 – The Penalty Kick** regarding the situation when the penalty taker accidentally kicks the ball with both feet simultaneously or when the ball touches the penalty taker's non-kicking foot or leg immediately after they have taken the kick.

This situation is rare, and as it is not directly covered in Law 14, referees have understandably tended to penalise the kicker for having touched the ball again before it has touched another player, thus awarding an indirect free kick to the opposition or, in the case of penalties (penalty shoot-out), recording the kick as missed.

However, this part of Law 14 is primarily intended for situations where the penalty taker deliberately touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player (e.g. when it rebounds from the goalpost(s) or crossbar without touching the goalkeeper). This is very different from the penalty taker accidentally kicking the ball with both feet simultaneously or touching the ball with their non-kicking foot or leg immediately after they have taken the kick, which usually occurs because they have slipped when taking it.

Not penalising an accidental double touch would nevertheless be unfair, as the goalkeeper can be disadvantaged by the altered trajectory of the ball.

Therefore, The IFAB would like to clarify the procedures in the following situations.

- The penalty taker accidentally kicks the ball with both feet simultaneously or the ball touches their non-kicking foot or leg immediately after the kick:
 - If the kick is successful, it is retaken
 - If the kick is unsuccessful, an indirect free kick is awarded (unless the referee plays advantage when it clearly benefits the defending team) or, in the case of penalties (penalty shoot-out), the kick is recorded as missed
- The penalty taker deliberately kicks the ball with both feet simultaneously or deliberately touches it a second time before it has touched another player:
 - An indirect free kick is awarded (unless the referee plays advantage when it clearly benefits the defending team) or, in the case of penalties (penalty shoot-out), the kick is recorded as missed

Please note that these clarified procedures are effective for competitions starting on or after 1 July 2025 and may be used by competitions starting before that date.

Thank you for your attention. Please contact us if you have any questions or enquiries.

Yours faithfully,
The IFAB



Lukas Brud
Secretary

cc: FIFA