

Introduction

This trial protocol relates to unfair tactical goalkeeper injuries, which create an opportunity for the coach to convey instructions or tactics to players. This tactic has evolved because the Laws of the Game do not require a goalkeeper who has been assessed and/or treated to leave the field of play, meaning that there is no deterrent to requesting such assessment/treatment.

These tactical injuries disrupt the flow and tempo of the game (which is sometimes the intention) and give an unfair advantage to the goalkeeper's team, who may stand to benefit from such disruption.

Principles

The trial is based on the Laws of the Game requirement for an outfield player who is assessed and/or treated on the field of play, or whose injury causes play to be stopped, to leave the field of play and remain off it for a period of one minute after the restart.

Therefore, in this trial, whenever a goalkeeper is assessed and/or treated on the field of play or has an injury that causes play to be stopped, an outfield player must leave and remain off the field for one minute after the restart, except in certain situations.

Different trials will examine the level of effectiveness depending on which player leaves the field of play.

Procedure

Requirement to leave the field of play for one minute

- An outfield player is required to leave the field of play for **one minute** after the restart in the event of one or more of the following:
 - **play is stopped** because the goalkeeper has an actual or suspected injury
 - the **referee has signalled** for the **medical staff to enter** the field of play
 - the referee has asked the goalkeeper if they require on-field medical attention and the **goalkeeper has requested it**
- The outfield player must **immediately leave** the field of play and **remain off** it until play has restarted and the **one minute** has elapsed (running clock).

One minute period off the field of play

- The **one-minute** period off the field of play begins when play restarts.
- The **one minute** is timed using a running clock and is determined by the referee, who may be assisted by the other match officials.
- The player may only return with the **referee's permission**; they must re-enter from the touchline if the ball is in play but may re-enter from any boundary line if the ball is not in play.
- If the goalkeeper is substituted, the **substitution is not delayed**.
- If the first half ends before the **one minute** has elapsed, the player may return as from the beginning of the second half; this principle applies to:
 - the period between the end of normal time and the start of extra time

- half-time in extra time
- the period between the end of extra time and penalties (penalty shoot-out)
- If the goalkeeper is injured/requires treatment after play has restarted but before the **one minute** has elapsed, the player remains off the field and the **one minute** starts again when play restarts.

A player is not required to leave the field of play when:

- the goalkeeper indicates that they do not require medical attention, except where play was stopped for the injury
- the goalkeeper and an outfield player have collided and need attention
- a severe injury has occurred, especially a head injury (e.g. concussion), cardiac issue or life-threatening event (e.g. seizure, choking etc.)
- the goalkeeper is bleeding
- the goalkeeper is injured as the result of a physical offence for which a free kick is awarded and the goalkeeper needs immediate treatment

Trial variations

Two different trials will be implemented to examine the level of effectiveness depending on which player leaves the field of play:

Protocol A – The team captain leaves the field of play

The **captain*** must **immediately leave** when the **medical staff enter** the field of play, or when instructed to do so by the referee if play is stopped for a goalkeeper injury but the goalkeeper then indicates that they do not require treatment, and remain off it until play has restarted and **one minute** has elapsed (running clock), except when either of the following applies:

- the goalkeeper is the captain*
- a penalty kick has been awarded and the captain will be the kicker**

**Where the goalkeeper is the captain, the referee must be told, no later than the coin toss before kick-off, which player has been nominated to leave in such scenarios; this player should wear an identifying armband.*

***In this case, the coach must immediately nominate another player to leave the field of play (as per Protocol B).*

Protocol B – The coach nominates a player to leave the field of play

The **coach has ten seconds** – once the **referee has signalled** for the **medical staff to enter** the field of play or the **referee/fourth official** has **instructed the coach to nominate** a player to leave the field because play was stopped for a goalkeeper injury but the goalkeeper then indicated that they did not require treatment – to **inform the referee/fourth official** as to **which player will leave**. If the team has been awarded a penalty kick, the coach cannot nominate the kicker to leave the field of play. If the coach does **not nominate** a player **within the time** allowed, the **captain** automatically becomes the player who must leave. The player must **immediately leave** the field of play and remain off it until play has restarted and **one minute** has elapsed (running clock).