

RULES UPDATE 2020

The background features a series of flowing, translucent ribbons in vibrant colors: red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. These ribbons curve and swirl across a solid black background, creating a sense of dynamic movement and depth. The lighting on the ribbons gives them a three-dimensional appearance, with highlights and shadows that emphasize their fluid, ribbon-like texture.

LAW 1

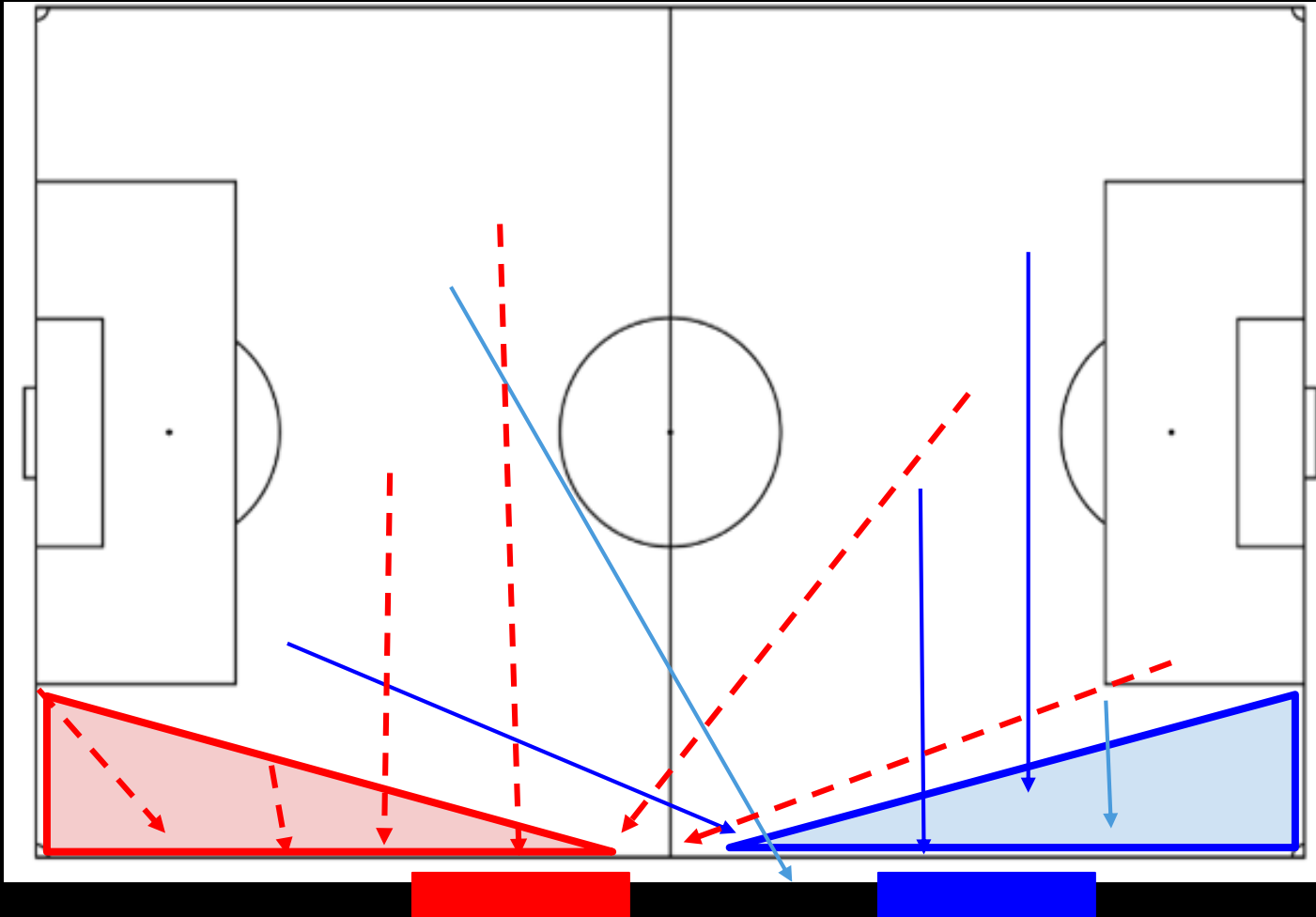
- A team official will be cautioned (YC) for entering the RRA (Referee Review Area) and sent off (RC) for entering the VOR – Video Operation Room

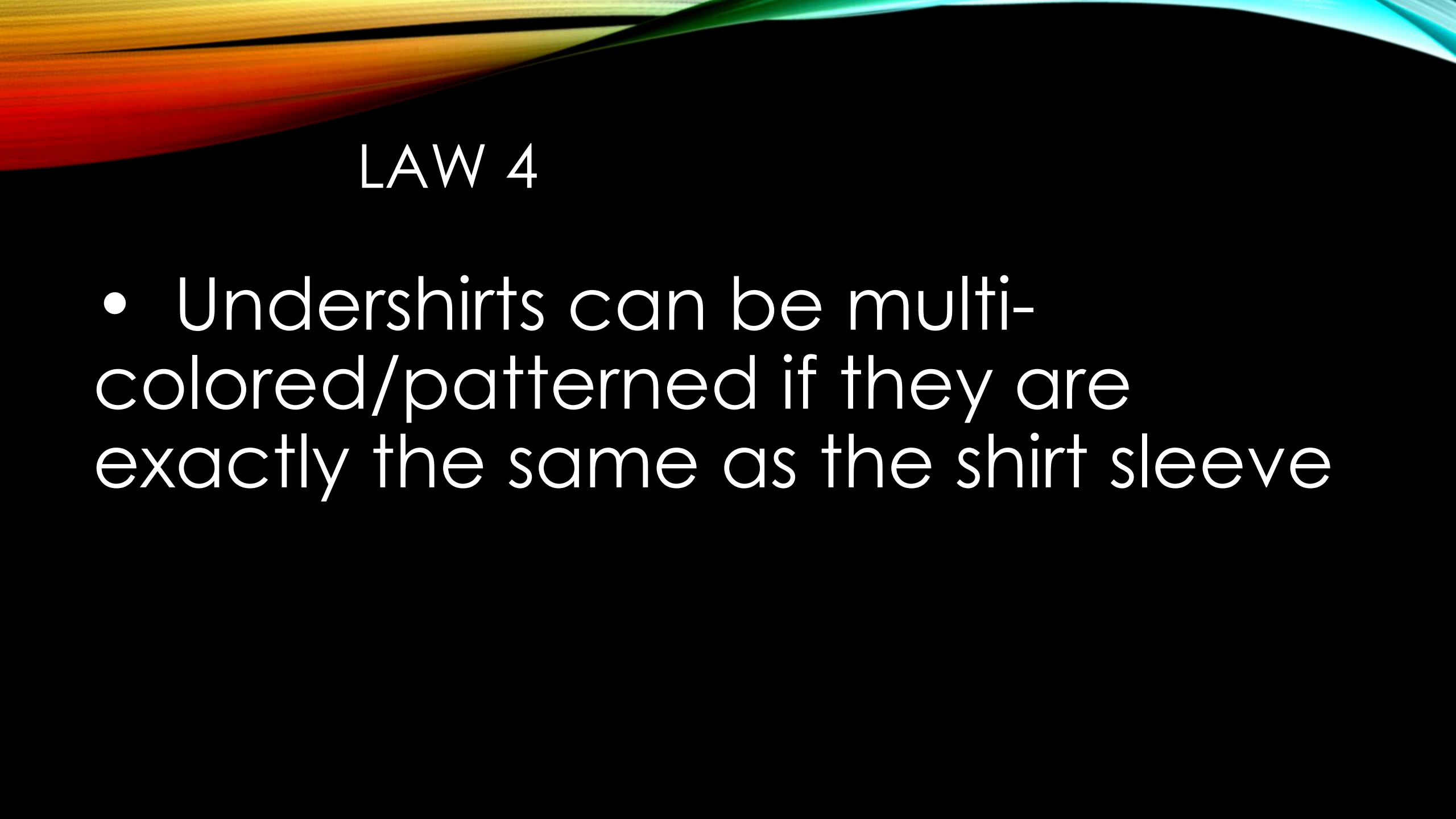
LAW 3

- A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee
- We are changing this to the follow.

- Law 3 Continued

- Must leave the field at the nearest boundary in front of his/her team's bench





LAW 4

- Undershirts can be multi-colored/patterned if they are exactly the same as the shirt sleeve

LAW 5

- Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident
- If the referee leaves the field for a VAR (Video Area Review) or to call players back to the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed

LAW 5 CONTINUED

- Team officials guilty of misconduct can be shown a YC/RC; if an offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/ RC
- If a penalty kick is awarded, the team's penalty taker can receive assessment or treatment and then stay on the field and take the kick

LAW 7

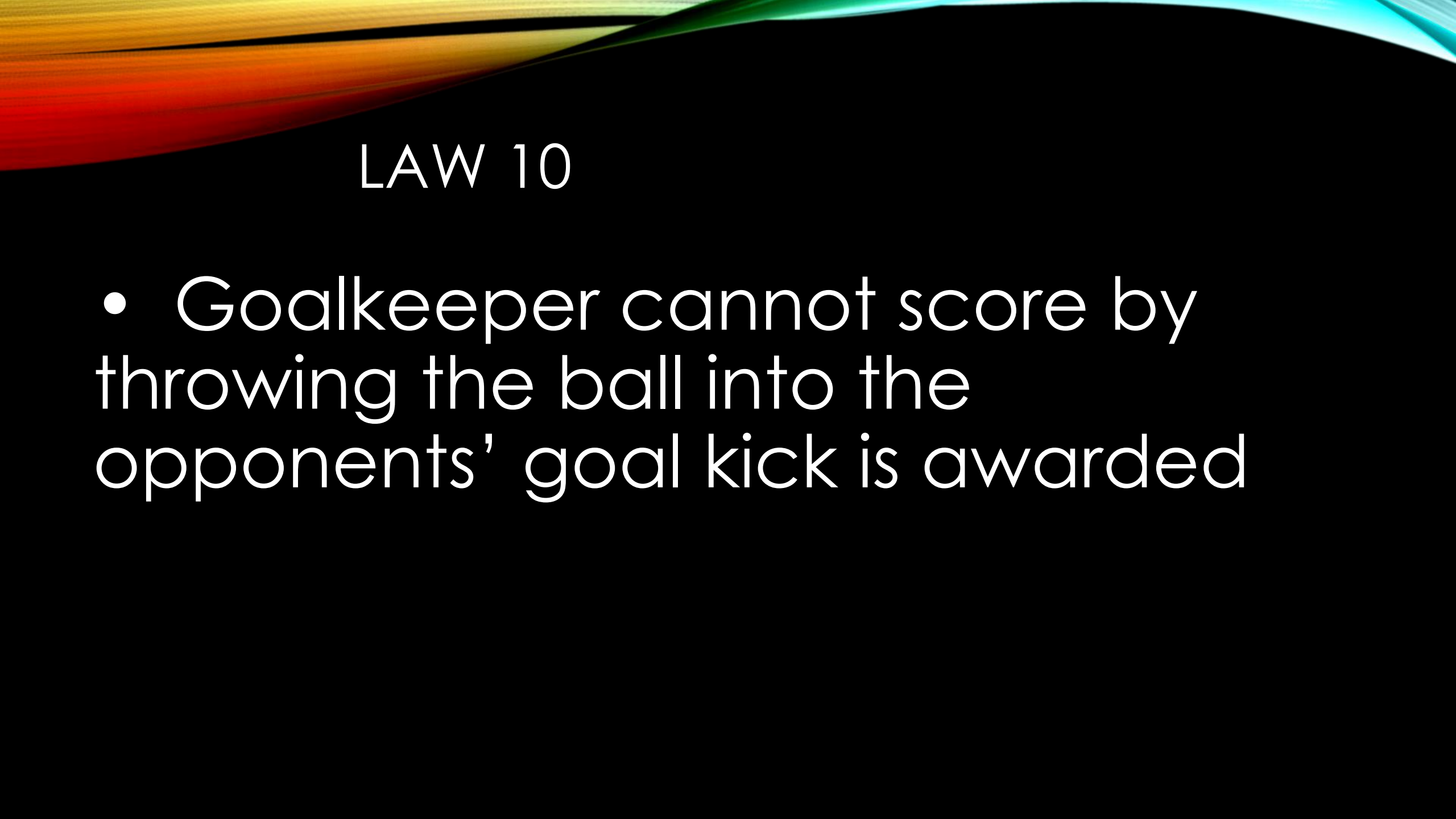
- Clarification of the difference between 'cooling' and 'drinks' breaks
- Medical stoppages permitted by competition rules e.g. 'drink' breaks (which should not exceed one minute) and 'cooling' breaks (ninety seconds to three minutes)

LAW 8

- The team that wins the toss may choose to take the kick-off
- Dropped ball – ball dropped for goalkeeper (if play stopped in penalty area) or for one player of team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch; all other players (of both teams) must be at least 4 m (4.5 yds) away

LAW 9

- Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee (or other match official) and goes into the goal, possession changes or an attacking move starts



LAW 10

- Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal kick is awarded

LAW 12

- Handball text re-written for greater clarity/consistency with clear guidelines for when 'non-deliberate' handball should (and should not) be penalized
- Confirmation that an 'illegal' handball offence by a goalkeeper in their own penalty area is not sanctioned with a YC/RC

IFAB Handling Rule Clarification

It is an offence if a player:

- **deliberately** touches the ball with their hand/arm, including **moving the hand/arm towards the ball**
- **gains possession/control of the ball** after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
 - **scores** in the opponents' goal
 - **creates a goal-scoring opportunity**
- **scores** in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, **even if accidental**, including by the goalkeeper

It is *usually* an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
 - the hand/arm has **made their body unnaturally bigger**
 - **the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level** (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

LAW 12 CONTINUED

- If, after a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball
- Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a goal-scoring opportunity

LAW 12 CONTINUED

- The YC for an 'illegal' goal celebration remains even if the goal is disallowed
- List of the warning/YC/RC offences for team official

LAW 13

- Once an IDFK has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IDFK signal if it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly (e.g. from most offside IDFKs)

LAW 13

- For defending team free kicks in their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area
- When there is a defensive 'wall' of at least 3 players, all attacking team players must be at least 1 m from the 'wall'; IDFK if they encroach

LAW 14

- Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty is taken and the goalkeeper must not be touching them

LAW 14 CONTINUED

- Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line
- If an offence occurs after the referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken but the kick is not taken, it must then be taken after any YC/RC is issued

LAW 15

- Opponents must be at least 2 m from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line

LAW 16

- At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area

