



FA Walking Football Laws- Verification July 2023

It has been brought to the attention of the WFLA Committee that there are differing interpretations with regarding to issues surrounding the penalty area line markings for walking football. The differences in opinion related to what should happen when a player stands on the line and whether a ball on the line can be played.

These differences in opinions have been raised with the FA. Firstly, with county FA Referee Development Officers and then with Andy Dyke and Flo Lunn who are the national leads for walking football with the FA. The FA stance from a national perspective has clarified the approach that should be taken by all FA competitions in relation to this issue. This does not constitute a change in law but merely a clarification of how the current laws should be interpreted.

The FA State: -

As stated in The FA Laws of the Game:

'Except where otherwise stated, the IFAB Laws of Association Football apply.'

and IFAB states:

'The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area'.

So, the penalty area line marking is part of the penalty area. If an outfield player deliberately stands on the line marking, then they are deemed to have entered the penalty area and the appropriate action should be taken. An indirect free kick should an attacker deliberately stand on the line and a penalty kick should a defender deliberately stand on the line. The goalkeeper is allowed to stand on the line but not cross the line into the general playing area.

A ball that sits on the line can be played by all players but for outfield players only the part of the ball that sits within the general field of play and for goalkeepers the part of the ball inside the penalty area (including the part of the ball on the line).

The WFLA would like all leagues to implement this verification of the FA laws at their earliest opportunity and help create a standardised approach to the application of FA Walking Football Laws within our affiliated leagues.

WFLA Committee.