FOUL RECOGNITION

FOUL & THE GRAY AREA

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NOVEMBER 10, 2012
Foul Severity Discrimination

United States Soccer Federation
What is a Foul?

- Foul
- No Foul

Taking away an “Opportunity” Unfairly.
(according to the Laws of the game)
Characteristics of a Foul

• against an opponent
  (with one exception!?)
• Occur on the field of play
• Must happen when the ball is in play
What is a Misconduct?

A Referee’s judgment of an incident in a match, deemed to be more severe than acceptable Behavior/Actions of any of the participants, ON or OFF the field OR so directed by the Law, punishable by a Yellow or a Red Card.

(According to the laws of the game)
Foul and Misconduct can exist separately
Foul with Misconduct
Referee’s decision making process

Incident

- Foul
  - Simple Foul
  - Foul + Misconduct (Yellow)
- Foul + Misconduct (Red)

Fair or Trifling

Continue

Advantage?

- YES
  - If Misconduct involved, at the Next Stoppage, issue Yellow or Red card and restart for whatever reason the game had stopped.
- NO
  - Stop play + Restart with (DFK or IFK) + Admin Card if applicable
  - Where to Restart?

No QUICK restart if Carding
NO FOUL

- Good play.
- Normal/accepted contact.

- In a manner **NOT** Considered
  - Careless
  - Reckless
  - Using excessive force
NO FOUL … FOUL

- Skills, Age
- Trifling
- NOT Careless, Reckless, nor with excessive force.
FOUL

- Careless, Reckless or with excessive force
- Advantage
- Stop play
FOUL TO CAUTION

- QUIET WORD
- PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT
CAUTION

- Unsporting behavior
- Flips your switch
- Severe, Tactical, Blatant
- Mandatory

No Foul  Foul  Caution  Send Off
SEND OFF

- No Foul
- Foul
- Caution
- Send Off

- SERIOUS FOUL PLAY
- VIOLENT CONDUCT
- ATTEMPT TO INJURE
- DIRECTED SEND OFFS
Questions?
SEND OFF

Violence
Violence – What is it?

• Exertion of Physical Force so as to

Injure or Abuse
Violence - When does it occur?

At Any Time
Violence – where does it occur?

- Individual Acts of Violence May Occur
  Away from the Ball or
  Behind the Referee’s Back
Violence – Why does it occur?

• It occurs because of: Loss of Control

• Player has lost control of him/herself

• The Referee has not picked up on the signs, has not dealt with it and now has lost control of the match
Violence – Ignoring the signs

- **Fouls** - Severe or Repeated or Unpunished
- **Frustration** - Leads to Loss of Temper
- **Dissent** - Which Leads to
- **Retaliation** - Which Leads to
- **Misconduct** - Which Leads to

- **Violence**
Violence – What can be done?

• Prevent It From Occurring
• Recognize The Symptoms of Potential Violence
  – Player Committing Repeated Fouls
  – Ruthless Fouling From Behind
  – Blatant Tactical Fouling
  – Nasty Fouls Of Any Kind
Violence – What can be done?

• Even if you don’t see it....

• Ask, Listen, Observe
Violence – Referees SHALL

• Make Clear and Definite Decisions
• Make Lucid and Objective Judgments
• Have Total Concentration
• Have the Courage to Intervene
• Must Be Able to Decrease, Not Increase the Nervousness of Players
• Write Clear, Honest, and Factual Reports
Violence and Misconduct

- Do Not mistake *Managing players* with

- *Dealing with Misconducts & Violence*
Remember!

Consistency is the key to success
IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCATION OF FOUL OR MISCONDUCT
The field as referees normally see it
The field as we should see it

Defensive 3rd  Middle 3rd  Attacking 3rd
The field as we should see it
The field as we should see it
More Gray Area
## Contact above Shoulder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tool</th>
<th>Weapon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arm used for balance</td>
<td>Excessive force used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal body movement</td>
<td>Safety of the player is endangered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No swing of the arm INTO the opponent</td>
<td>Hard surface (forearm/elbow/hand) contacting soft surface (facial and neck region)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opponent into arm/elbow/hand – not arm/elbow/hand into opponent</td>
<td>Arm/elbow/hand UP and IN to opponent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arm/elbow was out before the challenge was initiated</td>
<td>Arm/elbow/hand is swung toward opponent’s facial region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not UP and IN – just UP</td>
<td>UP and IN – arm used as a “battering ram”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Injury results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contact above Shoulder

• The tool vs. weapon comparison is useful in translating player actions into the appropriate decision. Remember the following GUIDELINES:

• **Tool**: consider a foul and/or yellow card if contact is made

• **Weapon**: a red card is mandated

• **Area of contact** and **mode of contact** as this will assist with understanding the concept of excessive force as it relates to “contact above the shoulder.”
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Area of contact and mode of contact as this will assist with understanding the concept of excessive force as it relates to “contact above the shoulder.”
More Gray Area
• U.S. Soccer has established the SIAPOA criteria:

• **Speed of play and the tackle**
The faster the tackler is moving, the greater the force and likelihood of endangering the safety of the opponent. Additionally, speed also equates to less control of the challenge and the less likely the attacker can cleanly win the ball.

• **Intent**
The intent of the tackler. Was the tackle intended to send a message or to cleanly win the ball?

• **Aggressive nature**
Did the tackler lunge for the ball with one or both feet? Consideration should be given to the distance between the attacker and the tackler at the time the tackler leaves his feet. The further the distance, the less control the tackler has of his actions and the less likely the tackler is to play the ball. Are cleats up and exposed to the opponent?
• **Position of the tackler**
  In particular, his legs (height of the tackler’s leading leg and the follow-up action by the tackler’s trailing leg).

• **Opportunity to play the ball**
  Was the ball within playing distance? Or, was the ball already past the tackler at the time the tackler’s feet came in contact with the opponent. Tackles from behind and from the side (outside of the peripheral vision of the attacker with the ball) increase the likelihood contact will need to be made with the attacker prior to playing the ball.

• **Atmosphere of the game**
  Referees must consider the overall temperature of the match and the player in question. Has an aggressive attitude been displayed to that point? Is frustration amongst or between the players evident?
NO GRAY AREA
QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
Referee’s decision making process

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        - Where to Restart?
    - Continue

Fair or Trifling

Continue
FIFA’S APPROACH

• Foul or no foul, fair or unfair is not the way any more!
• Use NATURE of offense
• Don’t say there was a FOUL
• Say there was a KICK
Once we have identified the NATURE of offense then,

- Let’s identify the SEVERITY/DEGREE of that particular offense i.e. reckless
- Execute per BOOK
- PUT IT TOGETHER: a player was recklessly kicked.
- Should we blow the whistle?
- What is the punishment?
- What is the restart?
- CARD?
The BOOK

- We must keep it simple
- Player #9 kicked player #7 in a reckless manner
- Player #9 held player #7
THE BOOK: law 12

• a direct free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player commits: kicks or attempt to kick, holds an opponent

• ….reckless means that the player has acted with complete disregard to the danger to, or consequence for, his opponent

• There are different circumstance when a player must be cautioned for USB, if a player: commits in a reckless manner one of the seven offences that incur a direct free kick
THE PROCESS

AN EVENT TAKES PLACE
REVIEW WHAT HAPPENED?
IDENTIFY WHAT HAPPENED
NOW EXECUTE

BUT

What is the process of executing?
NOW YOUR TURN