

Handout  
**Warning Signs that More Game Control is Required**

These are “warning signs” or “flash points” in a game that should resonate with officials and provide direction regarding overall game control and managing individual situations during the game:

- A hard foul near the team benches
- A wet field increases the players' comfort level to make careless tackles
- Tackles extend from 3 yards to 7 yards
- A Sequence or succession of challenges in a short time span, including a cluster fouls in the same area of the field
- More body contact
- Mismatched body contact (feet versus chest, head versus knee)
- Change in the style of defense from containment defense to high pressure and chase
- More aggressive 50-50 Challenges
- More challenges against the goalkeepers
- Near the touchline and no way out for the ball or the player
- Retaliation foul after play restarts
- Player into goal to retrieve ball after a score
- The winning team protecting the ball in the corner flag to use time
- Excessive fouls on the skillful player (play-makers and scorers alike)
- Escalation in the “severity of fouls”
- Frustration level of players increasing
- Increasing levels of dissent from one or both teams
- Player feedback from both teams indicating “we don't want flow” or “we want the foul (free kick)”
- Player with ball stops playing after a hard challenge
- Score and time favor one team