

Frequent Calls by Referees for Coaches and Parents to Understand

Hand Ball (Not including Goalies)

There are two types of hand ball, one where the ball strikes the hand and the other where the hand strikes the ball. If a player kicks the ball which strikes another player in the arm or hand and the person who got struck does not gain an advantage by the kick, then no call should be made. If however, the ball strikes a player in the arm or hand and that person gains an advantage or prevents the other team from getting an advantage, then it is a foul and a direct free kick. In the younger ages, hand balls occur more often as preventative and defensive measures and should not be called. As the players get older, they have more time to react and should react accordingly on balls that would cause them to commit a foul. Many times hand balls have no affect on the play and will not be called due to the circumstances of the event.

Throw-Ins

The three most important things coaches need to teach their players on a throw in....Keep your feet down, throw the ball with both hands in a complete motion from behind the head and throw the ball in the direction you are facing. It is important that your throw in uses both hands equally and not like a baseball throw with one arm making the majority of the motion. If you teach the player to drag their back foot as they throw, the majority of your problems will be solved. And please make sure they stay behind the line when they do a throw in.

Physical contact on the field

Soccer is a physical game, especially as the players get older and the skill level gets higher. If a player has possession of the ball, it is OK for a defensive player to try to steal the ball within the laws of the game. They cannot push, trip, strike, charge, hold, kick, jump at or tackle the player in order to steal the ball. But many times they will make legal contact by bumping the person who has the ball. If both players are doing the same type of legal maneuvers while fighting for the ball, the referee will let them play on. The key to this action is that the players involved are playing the ball and not the opponent. If one player makes a physical move without going for the ball, it is a foul. And if one player gains an advantage by making illegal contact, that is a foul also.

Advantage

Many times during a game, a player may foul a player who has possession of the ball in an attempt to stop them or prevent the play from progressing. If during that foul, the person with the ball is not affected by the action, the referee will say "play on" or "advantage" and allow play to continue. However, if the offensive team loses possession shortly thereafter as a result of the infraction, the referee may blow the whistle and go back to the point of the foul and allow for a free kick.

Offside

The most complex and hardest rule to understand in soccer is the offside rule. Please go to the Brea Soccer Website and learn about this rule through an informative video we have posted. Go to www.breasoccer.org, go to programs, click on “Referees” and then click on the line item “Watch the video on learning the offside rule.”

The key to offside is really easy on paper, but on the field there are many variables that make this call difficult at times. The 3 main reasons you would call offside is if.

- 1) The player gained an advantage by being offside
- 2) The player interfered with play by being offside
- 3) The player interfered with an opponent by being offside

A person can be in the offside position as long as he does not fall under any of the 3 requirements listed above.

When is offside called? If a player is closer to the other team’s goal than the ball and the second to last defender and they are in the other team’s end of the field, then they may be whistled for being offside. An important note is that the person must be in the offside position **WHEN** the ball is kicked, not when they get to the ball. The only time a person may legally be in the offside position is during a corner kick, a throw in or a goal kick.

Direct Kick or Indirect Kick

Direct kicks involve physical actions, such as striking, holding, tackling, spitting, jumping at, kicking, holding, tripping, pushing, charging or deliberately handling the ball. If any of these actions occur in the defensive end of the penalty area, a penalty kick will be awarded to the offensive team. These are the more serious fouls of soccer

Indirect kicks are “non-penal” fouls such as interference/impeding which is preventing a player from getting to the ball, dangerous play, preventing the goalkeeper from releasing the ball, touching the ball with your hands after a throw in from your teammates, goalkeepers who deliberately handle a ball kicked back to them by a teammate, touching the ball more than once after it has left their possession either from a throw in or free kick and goalkeepers who hold onto the ball for more than six seconds. A player may score directly from a direct kick; a player must have the ball touch any other player on the field to score off an indirect kick.