



CLARIFICATION OF AWARDING PENALTY FOULS

Recently it has become apparent that referees are inconsistent in the awarding of penalties fouls during a game.

Referees should know that a penalty foul is the strongest punishment and the highest level of advantage in our game and referees must put more attention and concentration on that decision. Whenever referees have doubts about awarding a penalty, they should NOT award it! Foul for a penalty shot must be clear and visible to all.

Let's take some time to point out some criteria, which should help referees with the decision:

CONDITIONS TO BE FULFILLED:

FOUL MUST BE INSIDE FIVE METERS LINE

- It is not enough that foul is committed near or on five meters line. Referees must be sure that foul was committed clearly inside five meters. If the referee is unsure if the foul was committed inside or outside the line, they should award an exclusion foul.

ATTACKING PLAYER MUST BE FACING THE GOAL

- Center forward who turns (the defender remains on his back) must be facing the goal completely. It is not enough if the center forward turns to the direction of one side of the pool toward the goal. The player must be turned with their face, arm and body to the goal. In all other positions referees must award exclusion foul and NOT penalty.

NO BALL IN HAND

- No penalty should be award if the player is holding the ball.
- Defensive player is NOT committing any foul (except brutality or exc. with substitution), while attacking player is holding the ball.
- It is not enough that the center forward turns to the goal and leaves the ball. That is NOT a penalty yet. Usually in this situation the referee immediately awards penalty. This is NOT in accordance with the rules. Referees should wait a moment; give an opportunity to the defender to raise their hands. If they do, than no foul is being committed. The center forward must continue to play- to show the second move attempting to score a goal. If they are stopped in this second move, by a foul, the result shall be a penalty.

INTENTION TO SCORE A GOAL, TO PLAY

- Attacking player must show intention to play with the ball, to score a goal. Referees cannot award a penalty just because a player is demanding a penalty. Sometimes just leaving the ball from the hand is NOT a penalty. It is the same criteria as on the perimeter positions, when attacking player is swimming to counter attack, they are held by a defender who immediately raises their hands and referees give the attacker advantage to continue to swim. The offensive player must continue to play.



GOOD PASS

- Important criteria to award a penalty foul is a correct and good pass. Referees don't award penalty foul if there is bad pass even if the foul was committed.

PENALTY SHOOT OUT CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE

If the game is ended with the taking of penalty shots, the following conditions shall be applied:

- Goal judges should be dismissed
- Coaches of both teams shall designate five players who will shoot the penalty shots. Goalkeeper can be replaced any time during the taking of the penalty shots, with a replacement which was logged in the protocol before the game.
- Numbers of caps of five players will be put in order (on the list) which cannot be changed during the taking of the penalty shots. Players will take shots at their defending goal.
- No player who was excluded during the game for exclusion with substitution, brutality or three personal fouls can participate in the penalty shots.
- Penalty shots will be taken on both goals alternately. Players on the list will remain in the water on their half of field. All other players and officials of the team must remain on the bench.
 - A team that shoots first will be determined by toss of a coin (draw).
 - If the score remains tied, after penalty shots, the same five players in the same order will continue with shooting penalties, until one team misses and the other team scores a goal.
- If, during the taking of a penalty shot, the goalkeeper is excluded, they can be replaced with a player on the list without the privileges of the goalkeeper.. Teams can then substitute a second goalkeeper for next penalties.
- If one of the players on the list is excluded, coach can replace that player with another one and his number of cap will be put on the end of the list.

Goalkeeper must be on the line of the goal. It is not acceptable that a goalkeeper, during defending a penalty shot, moves forward from the goal line. Offensive referee can use the help of the defensive referee, who is on goal line, controlling the goalkeeper. Player, taking the penalty shot, must remain on the five meter line before, during and after the taking of a penalty shot. It is not acceptable that player moves forward into the five meter area. Especially referees must pay attention of the movement of the player's body during the taking of a penalty shot. If a player moves toward into the five meter area, the penalty shot is to be taken in an inappropriate manner.