



# Law 12 Misconduct (8 & 9)



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program  
Grade 8 Referee Course  
Competitive Youth Training



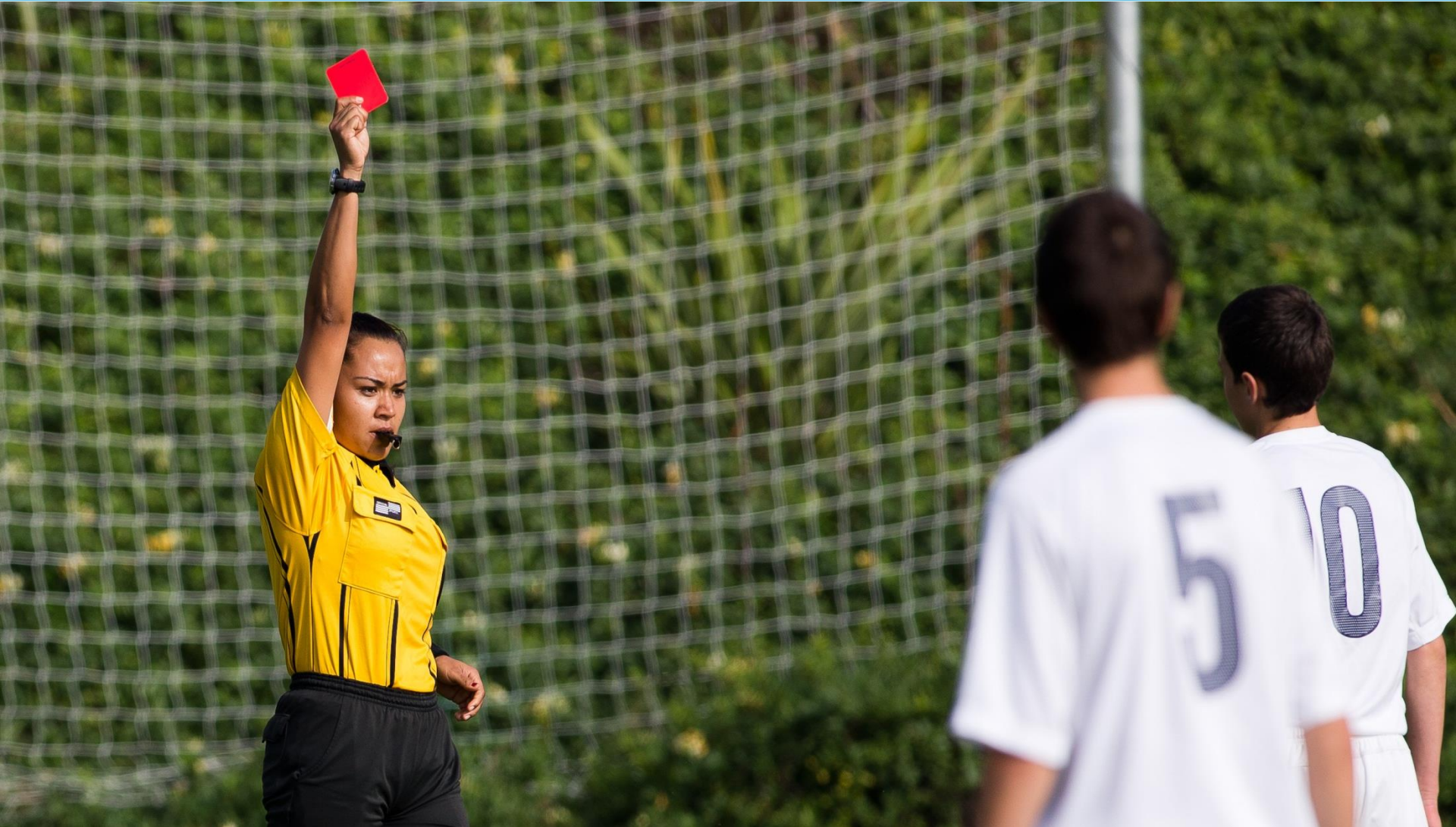
# Overview

The Law 12 presentation is separated into two sections. The first part provides information on fouls and **the second section specifically deals with misconduct.**

- **Fouls**
  - **Direct free kick fouls (DFK)**
  - **Indirect free kick fouls (IFK)**
- **Misconduct**
  - **Cautionable offenses**
  - **Sending-off offenses**



# Part 2 – Misconduct



# Misconduct

**Misconduct is often absent in the small-sided and recreational youth game, but referees must be aware of these offenses to make sure the Laws of the Game are properly enforced.**





# Misconduct

**Unlike the specific requirements for a foul, misconduct can occur at any time, including before and after the game, on or off the field, while the ball is in play or not, committed by persons other than players, and not necessarily against opponents.**

**The referee has the authority to take action against players guilty of misconduct.**

**The referee's authority to take disciplinary sanctions begins from the moment they arrive at the field and continues until they leave.**



# Misconduct

**The yellow card is used to communicate that a player or substitute has been cautioned.**

**The red card is used to communicate that a player or substitute has been sent-off.**



**Usually, only players or substitutes may be shown cards. However, local rules of competition may allow cards to be shown to coaches and team officials in some instances.**



USSOCCER.COM

# Yellow Card



U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM



# Cautionable Offenses

A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card if they commit any of the following offences (using acronym **FEDD UP**):

- **F**ailure to respect required distance
- **E**ntering or re-entering field without permission or deliberately leaving field without permission
- **D**issent by word or action
- **D**elaying the restart of play
- **U**nsporting behavior
- **P**ersistent infringement





# FRD

## **F**ailure to respect **R**equired **D**istance

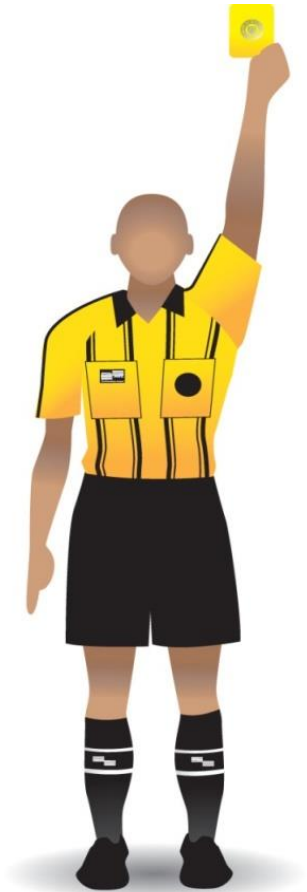
- 10-yards from corner arc on opponent's corner kick
- 10-yards from opponent's free kick
- 2-yards from opponent's throw-in

Referee report code **(FRD)**



# Yellow Card

The first cautionable offense **is failure to respect the required distance** when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in.





# FRD

**Referees and ARs should be proactive during these restarts by having a presence and being vocal as needed.**

**Telling the defenders to move back can often prevent a caution in this case.**

**Referees, however, should not interfere with a team's desire to take a quick restart.**



# EL

**E**ntering or re-entering field without permission or deliberately **L**eaving field without permission

- **Player enters without permission**
- **Player re-enters without permission after correcting blood on the uniform**

**Referee report code (EL)**



# EL

**A player is cautioned if they re-enter the field without permission from the referee.**

**This can happen at the start of play if a player arrives late, or during play if the player is off the field to correct an equipment issue or receive medical treatment.**

**If, after leaving the field of play without the referee's permission, the referee must caution the player for re-entering the field.**



# EL

- **Player deliberately **L**eaves field to gain advantage**
  - **Allow play to continue**
  - **Issue caution at next stoppage**
  - **Caution, if team gains a tactical advantage**
- **Trifling, if not done to gain unfair advantage**



# EL

**Players who leave the field without the referee's permission can do so for unsporting reasons; for example, to create an unfair offside situation.**

**If this happens, the player should still be considered to be on the field for the purpose of determining the offside position of an opponent.**

**The referee should allow play to continue, so as to not take the advantage away from the attacking team.**



# EL

**The player who deliberately left the field without the referee's permission should be cautioned at the next stoppage.**

**If a player does leave the field for some other reason without the referee's permission to do so, and this results in gaining a tactical advantage for their team, the player has committed misconduct and must be cautioned and shown the yellow card.**





# EL

**Where it is apparent to the referee that the player leaving the field without permission has not done so to express dissent or to gain an unfair advantage, the referee can consider this to be a trifling breach of the Laws of the Game.**



# EL

**Some examples of this might include changing shoes, replacing a damaged jersey or drinking water during a stoppage.**

**A verbal warning to the player should be sufficient in such circumstances.**

**If that player then re-enters the field without obtaining the referee's permission, then the caution should be given.**



# DT

## **D**issent**T** by word or action

- Verbal or non-verbal actions that dispute the decisions of referee team
  - Questions authority of referee
  - Reduces enjoyment of other participants
  - Can spread if not dealt with

Referee report code **(DT)**



# Yellow Card

**Any verbal or non-verbal action that disputes any decision by the referee, ARs, or fourth official is considered **dissent**.**

**Referees must deal with dissent because It**

- **questions the authority of the referee,**
- **reduces the flow of the game,**
- **reduces the enjoyment of other participants and spectators, and**
- **can spread and potentially lead to bigger problems if not dealt with.**



# DT

**A player who is guilty of dissent by protesting (verbally or non-verbally) against a referee's decision must be cautioned.**

**Note that this does not apply to any type of offensive, insulting, or abusive language or gestures. These actions are sending-off offenses and will be covered later in this presentation.**

**Also note that team captains have no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game.**



# DR

## **D**elaying the **R**estart of play

- Taking free kick from wrong position
- Kicking or carrying ball away
- Excessively delaying throw-in or free kick
- Delaying substitution process
- Deliberately touching the ball after play stops

Referee report code **(DR)**



# Yellow Card

**Referees must caution players who delay the restart of play.**

**Some of the more common tactics used to delay the restart of play at the competitive youth level include:**

- **Taking a free kick from the wrong position with the sole intention of forcing the referee to order a retake.**
- **Kicking the ball away or carrying it away after the referee has stopped play.**



# DR

- **Excessively delaying the taking of a throw-in or free kick or appearing to take a restart, but suddenly leaving it teammates to take.**
- **Delaying leaving the field-of-play when being substituted.**
- **Provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play.**





# Yellow Card

**Deliberately leaving without permission** refers to a player leaving the field-of-play without the specific or implied permission of the referee.

**It does not refer to players who's momentum during play causes them to temporarily leave the field.**





# UB

## **U**nsporting **B**ehavior

- **Reckless DFK offense**
- **Tactical offense to break up promising attack**
- **Holding for tactical purposes**
- **Handling for tactical purposes**
- **Handling in attempt to score a goal**
- **Feigning injury or pretending to be fouled**
  - **Simulation**



# UB

## **U**nsporting **B**ehavior

- **Changing places with goalkeeper during play**
- **Showing lack of respect for the game**
- **Playing the ball after permission to leave is given**
- **Verbally distracting an opponent**
- **Making unauthorized marks on the field**
- **Using trickery to pass the ball to own goalkeeper**



# UB

## Unsporting Behavior

- Excessive celebration of a goal
  - Makes gestures which are provocative or inflammatory
  - Celebrates among spectators
  - Removes shirt or covers head with shirt
  - Covers head or face with other item

Referee report code **(UB)**



# UB

**There are a number of examples of unsporting behavior and they include the following:**

- **Committing one of the DFK offenses in a reckless manner.**
- **Whether successful or not, handling the ball in an attempt to score a goal.**



# UB

- **Committing any DFK or IFK offense for the tactical purpose of interfering with or breaking up a promising attack.**

**Exception: When the referee awards a penalty kick for a tactical offense, which was an attempt to play the ball, a caution shall not be given.**



# UB

- **Holding an opponent for the tactical purpose of pulling the opponent away from the ball or preventing the opponent from getting to the ball.**
- **Committing simulation by attempting to deceive the referee by faking injury or pretending to have been fouled.**
- **Changing places with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission.**
- **Acting in a manner which shows a lack of respect for the game.**



# UB

- **Playing the ball when walking off the field of play after being granted permission by the referee to leave the field during play.**
- **Verbally distracting an opponent during play or at a restart.**
- **Making unauthorized marks on the field of play. Typically committed by goalkeepers.**
- **Using a deliberate trick to pass the ball to their own goalkeeper with their head, chest, knee, etc. in order to circumvent the Laws, regardless if the goalkeeper touches the ball or not.**





# UB

**In addition, there are certain goal scoring celebrations that are also cautionable offenses.**

**While it is permissible for a player to demonstrate their joy when a goal has been scored, the celebration must not be excessive.**

**Reasonable celebrations are allowed, but the practice of choreographed celebrations should not be tolerated when it results in excessive time-wasting.**

**Referees are instructed to intervene in such cases.**



# UB

**Leaving the field of play to celebrate a goal is not a cautionable offence in itself, but it is essential that players return to the field as soon as possible.**

**Referees are expected to act in a preventative manner and be practical when dealing with the celebration of a goal.**



# PI

## **Persistent Infringement**

- **Player repeatedly commits offenses or certain other infringements**

**Referee report code (PI)**



# PI

**Referees should be alert at all times to players who persistently infringe the Laws.**

**In particular, they must be aware that, even if a player commits a number of different offenses, they must still be cautioned for persistent infringement.**



# PI

**Because there is no specific number of infringements that defines persistent or the presence of a pattern, the referee should warn a player who appears to be heading toward this form of misconduct.**

**Once warned, that player should be cautioned if they soon thereafter commit another offense.**

**This is entirely a matter of judgment and must be determined in the context of effective game management.**



# Substitutes

**Of the seven (7) reasons to caution for players on the field, there are four (4) that apply to substitutes and substituted players.**

**A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if they commit any of the following offences (using acronym **DUDE**):**

- **D**issent by word or action
- **U**nsporting behavior
- **D**elaying restart of play
- **E**nters or re-enters the field-of-play without the referee's permission



# Red Card





# Sending-off Offenses

**There are seven (7) reasons to send-off players or substitutes.**

**According to the Laws of the Game, a player or substitute, who has been given a red card and sent-off, must leave the vicinity of the field-of-play and the technical area.**







# Sending-off Offenses

**However, some leagues and events may allow sent-off individuals to remain at the field, so it's important for referee to know the local rules of competition.**

**If this issue is not addressed by the local rules of competition, USSoccer recommends that referees allow youth players to remain with their team to be supervised by an adult team official, so long as they act in a responsible manner.**



# Sending-off Offenses

**A player is sent-off and shown a red card if they commit any of the following offences:**

- **Serious foul play**
- **Violent conduct**
- **Abusive language**
- **Spitting at an opponent or any other person**
- **Denying goal scoring opportunity with hand**
- **Denying goal scoring opportunity with foul**
- **Receiving second yellow card in same game**





# SFP

**In order to issue a red card for serious foul play, all of the criteria associated with a foul must be present.**

**This means that it must be committed by a player against an opponent, while the ball is in play.**

**If any of these criteria have not been met, that doesn't mean that a red card isn't justified, it just means that the misconduct would be reported as being for another reason.**



# SFP

**A player is guilty of serious foul play if they use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for the ball when it is in play.**

**A tackle that endangers the safety of an opponent must also be sanctioned as serious foul play.**



# SFP

**Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force and endangering the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.**

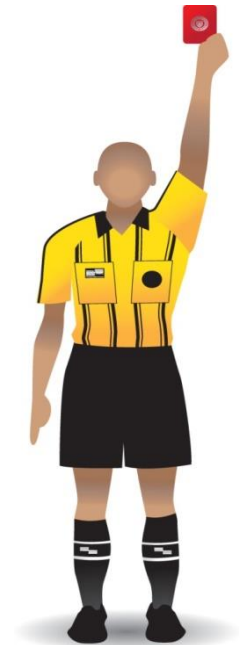
**Advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play unless there is a clear opportunity to immediately score a goal.**



# SFP

**The referee must send off the player guilty of serious foul play when the ball is next out of play.**

**A player who is guilty of serious foul play should be sent-off and play is restarted with a DFK from the position where the offense occurred or a penalty kick (PK), if the offense occurred inside the offender's penalty area.**





# SFP

## **Serious Foul Play**

- **Must meet criteria for a foul**
- **Excessive force or brutality against opponent when challenging for the ball**
- **Tackle that endangers safety of opponent**
- **Challenge for ball with excessive force and endangering safety**

**Referee report code (SFP)**



# VC

**Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball;**

**Or against a teammate, team official, match official, spectator, or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made.**





# VC

**In addition, a player who deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm is guilty of violent conduct, unless the contact and amount of force used is negligible.**



# VC

## **Violent C**onduct

- **Excessive force or brutality against opponent when not challenging for the ball**
- **Excessive force or brutality against teammate, team official, match official, spectator or any other person**

**Referee report code (VC)**



# AL

**The next sending off offense is using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.**

**The referee should judge offensive, insulting, or abusive language according to the specific words or actions used, the extent to which the language can be heard by others beyond the immediate vicinity of the player, and whether the language is directed at officials, opponents, or teammates.**



# AL

**In other words, the referee must recognize language that is personal, public, and/or provocative.**

**In evaluating language as misconduct, the referee must take into account the particular circumstances in which the actions occurred and deal reasonably with language that was clearly the result of a momentary emotional outburst, so long as it's not directed at other players.**



# AL

**Referees should not inject personal opinions as to the nature of the language when determining a course of action and should adopt a zero tolerance policy for any language that is discriminatory or racist in nature.**



# AL

## **A**busive **L**anguage

- **Personal**
- **Public**
- **Provocative**
- **Zero tolerance for remarks or actions that are discriminatory or racist**

**Referee report code (AL)**



# S

**Spitting at or biting an opponent or any other person is another sending off offense.**

**Spitting at or biting anyone** is also listed as a DFK offense provided all of the criteria associated with the offense are present.



# S

## **S**pitting at anyone

- Can also be a DFK offense
- If not a DFK offense, it is still misconduct (e.g. occurs when the ball is out-of-play)

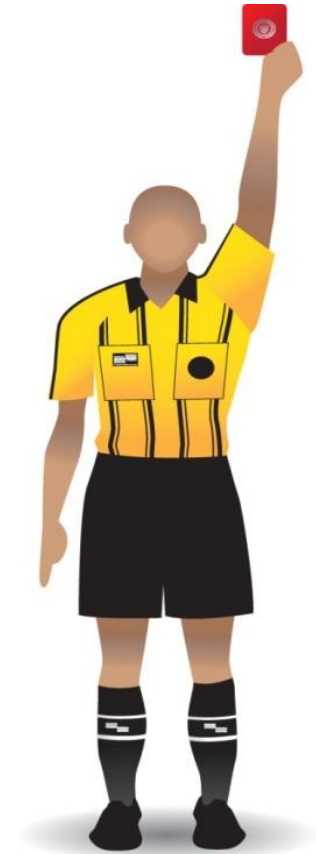
Referee report code **(S)**





# Red Card

**Denying a goal scoring opportunity with hand** refers to the act of deliberately handing the ball to prevent a goal from scoring.





# DOGSO - HAND

**When a player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by a deliberate handling offense, the player is sent-off no matter where the offence occurs.**



# DOGSO - HAND

## **D**enying **O**bvious **G**oal **S**coring **O**ppportunity with **H**and

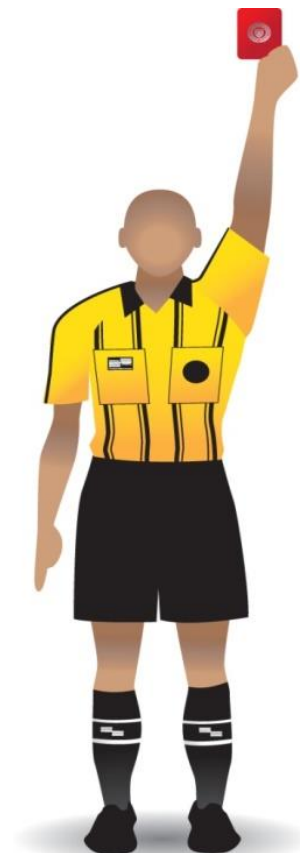
- Deny the opposing team a goal or obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handing the ball
- Does not apply to the goalkeeper within own penalty area

Referee report code **(DGH)**



# Red Card

- **Denying goal scoring opportunity with foul** refers to committing any offense punishable by a free kick (DFK or IFK) or penalty kick (PK) that results in preventing an obvious scoring opportunity.





# DOGSO - FOUL

In order for a player or substitute to be sent off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity the following four (4) elements must be present (The 4 Ds):

- 1) **Defenders** - the location and number of defenders between the attacker and the opponents' goal.
- 2) **Direction** of play, the attacker must be moving toward the goal at the time the foul is committed.



# DOGSO - FOUL

- 3) Distance** the play is to goal, keeping in mind the closer the foul is to the goal, the more likely it is an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
- 4) Distance** to the ball, the attacker must be close enough to the ball at the time of the foul, i.e. the likelihood of the attacker keeping or gaining possession of the ball.



# DOGSO - FOUL

**If any of the four (4) elements is missing, there can be no send-off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity.**

**Further, the presence of each of these elements must be deemed by the referee as obvious in order for the send-off to be appropriate.**



# DGF = UB

## Denying Goal scoring opportunity with Foul

When a player commits a offense against an opponent outside the penalty area which denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity the offending player is sent-off for DGF.



When a player commits an offense against an opponent within their own penalty area denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity ... AND ... the referee awards a penalty kick, the offending player is cautioned for UB ... **UNLESS** ...







# DOGSO - FOUL

## **UNLESS...**

- The offense is holding, pulling, or pushing;
- The offending player does not attempt to play the ball or there is no possibility for the player making the challenge to play the ball;
- The offense is one which is punishable by a red card wherever it occurs on the field of play. Examples of this would be serious foul play or violent conduct.



# DOGSO - FOUL

## Denying Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity with Foul

- Deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity by free kick or penalty kick foul
  - Defenders
  - Distance to goal
  - Distance to ball
  - Direction of play

Referee report code **(DGF)**



# 2CT

**A player, substitute or substituted player, who receives a second caution, must first be shown the yellow card for the second caution and then shown the red card for the send-off offense.**

**The second caution leading to the dismissal from the field can occur at any time during the match, including the half time interval, additional periods of play, and kicks from the penalty mark.**



# 2CT

**A player, substitute or substituted player, who receives a second caution, must first be shown the yellow card for the second caution and then shown the red card for the send-off offense.**

**The accepted procedure is to display the cards in sequence, not at the same time.**



# 2CT

## Second **C**aut**i**on

- Player or substitute who receives a second caution
- Procedure is to display cards in sequence, not at the same time
  - Show yellow card for second caution
  - Show red card for sending-off offense

Referee report code **(2CT)**



# Restart - On the Field

**In addition to knowing what actions should result in misconduct, referees must also know how to restart play after issuing a card.**

**If misconduct occurs while the ball is out of play, the restart is determined by the original reason for the stoppage.**



# Restart - On the Field

If misconduct occurs while the **ball is in play** and a player commits an **offense inside the field of play** against an opponent, play is restarted with either an indirect free kick (IFK), direct free kick (DFK), or penalty kick (PK).



# Restart - On the Field

If misconduct occurs while **the ball is in play** and a player commits an **offense inside the field of play** against a teammate, substitute, substituted player, team official, or match official, play is restarted with a direct free kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK).

If misconduct occurs while **the ball is in play** and a player commits an **offense inside the field of play** against any other person, play is restarted with a dropped ball.





# Restart - On the Field

**Misconduct by player on the field-of-play and play is stopped for misconduct against:**

- **Opponent: IFK , DFK or PK**
- **Teammate: DFK or PK**
- **Substitute: DFK or PK**
- **Substituted Player: DFK or PK**
- **Team Official: DFK or PK**
- **Match Official: DFK or PK**
- **Any other person: Dropped Ball**



# Restart - On the Field

If the ball is **IN** play and a **PLAYER** commits an offense against the following **INSIDE** the field-of-play:

| Offense Against   | Restart         |
|---|-----------------|
| Opponent  | IFK, DFK, or PK |
| Teammate<br>Substitute<br>Substituted or Sent-off Player<br>Team Official<br>Match Official | DFK or PK       |
| Any Other Person  | Dropped Ball    |



# Restart - Off the Field

**If a player leaves the field as part of normal play and commits an offence against an opponent, play is restarted with a free kick (IFK, DFK or PK) taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offence occurred and in accordance with the requirements specified in Law 13.**



# Restart - On the Field

If misconduct occurs while the **ball is in play** and a player leaves the field of play to commit an offence **outside the field-of-play**, against a player, substitute, team official or match official, play is restarted with a free kick (IFK, DFK or PK) taken on the boundary line nearest to where the offence occurred and in accordance with the requirements specified in Law 13.



# Restart - On the Field

**If the ball is IN play and a PLAYER commits an offense against the following OUTSIDE the field-of-play:**

| Offense Against   | Restart   |
|---|---|
| Opponent<br>Substitute<br>Substituted or Sent-off Player<br>Team Official<br>Match Official | Free kick (IFK or DFK) on the boundary line nearest to where the offense/interference occurred, or a PK |

**If the ball is IN play and a substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official commits an offense/interferes with an opposing player or match official OUTSIDE the field of play**

Restart with a free kick (IFK or DFK) on the boundary line nearest to where the offense/interference occurred OR a PK



# Restart - On the Field

**If the ball is IN play and a substitute, substituted or sent-off player, or team official commits an offense/interferes with an opposing player or match official OUTSIDE the field of play:**

- ❖ **Restart with a free kick (IFK or DFK) on the boundary line nearest to where the offense/interference occurred or a PK**



# Thrown Objects

**If while the ball is in play, a player, substitute, or substituted player throws an object at an opponent or any other person, the referee must stop play.**

**Keep in mind that this means any object including the ball.**



# Thrown Objects

**If a player standing on or off the field-of-play throws an object at an opponent on the field-of-play, play is restarted with a direct free kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK) from the position where the object struck or would have struck the opponent.**

**If a player standing inside the field of play throws an object at any person outside the field of play, play is restarted with an direct free kick (DFK).**





# Thrown Objects

**If a substitute or substituted player throws an object at an opponent standing inside the field of play, play is restarted with an direct free kick (DFK) or penalty kick (PK).**



# Thrown Objects

**Play is stopped for thrown objects, including the ball:**

- **Player on or off field, at opponent on field**  
**DFK or PK**
- **Player on field, at person off field**  
**DFK**
- **Substitute or substituted player, at opponent on field**  
**DFK**



# Thrown Objects

| Commits offense<br>(Throws object)  | Against   | Restart  |
|---|---|--|
| A player<br>ON or OFF the field   | Opposing player<br>Substitute<br>Substituted player<br>Sent-off player<br>Team official<br>Match official<br>OR to the ball | DFK - From where object struck<br>or would have struck the<br>person OR the ball<br>If OFF the field, from nearest<br>point in boundary line OR a PK |
| Substitute<br>Substituted player<br>Sent-off player<br>Player temporarily OFF the<br>field<br>Team official | Onto the field and<br>interferes with:<br>Opponent<br>Match officials<br>The ball   | DFK or PK – Where the object<br>interfered with play, struck or<br>would have struck the person<br>OR the ball                                       |



# Coaches

**Although the Laws of the Game do not permit team officials being shown cards for misconduct, if play is stopped for the purpose of dealing with a coach or other team official who is acting irresponsibly, play is resumed with a dropped ball from the location of the ball when play was stopped.**

**Local rules of competition as to the displaying of cards to coaches and team officials may be allowed in some instances.**





# REVIEW QUESTIONS



# Review Question

**74. What should the referee do if a player is guilty of persistent offenses?**

- A. Caution and show the player a yellow card
- B. Send off and show the player a red card



# Review Question

**75. What should the referee do if a player tackles an opponent using excessive force?**

- A. Caution and show the player a yellow card
- B. Send off and show the player a red card



# Review Question

**76. What should the referee do if an opponent fails to respect the required distance during a throw-in?**

- A. Caution and show the player a yellow card
- B. Send off and show the player a red card





# Review Question

**77. What should the referee do if a player, who has already been cautioned and who is not the goalkeeper, punches the ball to deny an obvious goal scoring opportunity while standing in their own penalty area?**

- A. Show the player a second yellow card and then issue a red card
- B. Send off the player and issue a red card