



Advantage & Trifling Infractions

Ohio South Mod A
Intermediate Referee
Training

2018 Referee Recertification - Module A



Advantage & Trifling Infractions

What is Advantage?

What is Trifling?



Advantage Clause

Advantage is defined in Law V

"The referee allows play to continue when an offense occurs and the non-offending team will benefit from the advantage, and penalizes the offense if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time or within a few seconds."



Advantage Clause

Said differently.. the Referee should allow play to continue when the team against which the offense was committed will benefit from a no-call.

Otherwise, if play is stopped by the Referee, the team committing the offense **could gain the benefit** from their own foul act ... and oftentimes that is exactly what they are trying to do.



Advantage Clause

Remember SEE

Safety ... Equality ... Enjoyment

A reason for not invoking the advantage clause in the case of a relatively serious foul could be “safety”.

The referee must be sure that the players understand what is allowed and not allowed before applying the advantage.



Advantage

The referee needs to read each game situation in order to judge if invoking the advantage clause will retain or diminish game control.

Advantage - What it looks like



- Verbal - "PLAY ON!"
- Visual - Swing both arms (or one arm) in front
- Referee can change their mind if the advantage does not actually happen



Advantage Clause

What Offenses?

- Any offense committed by a player while the ball is in-play. It extends beyond Law 12

Two Keys:

- Offense must be committed by a player (not by a substitute).
- Offense must occur while the ball is in-play. (does not apply to things that happen while the ball is out-of-play).



Advantage Clause

Example - Kick-Off

- On a kick-off that is properly kicked and the ball is then “double touched” by the original kicker, but in turn quickly taken away by an opponent, the Advantage Clause **could be applied** because **the ball was in-play** prior to the second touch.



Advantage Clause

Example - Throw-In

- Similarly, on a throw-in that is properly thrown and the ball is then first “touched” by the player that took the throw-in, but in turn was quickly taken away by an opponent, the Advantage Clause **could be applied** because **the ball was in-play** prior to the illegal touch.
- However, there can be **no advantage given** on a throw-in that is improperly taken and the ball goes to the other team. The Referee must stop the game and award a throw-in to the other team, i.e. the ball was never actually “in-play”.



Advantage Clause

Example - Dropped Ball

- If a player touches the dropped ball before it has touched the ground and the ball then goes to the other team, **no advantage may be given**, since the ball was never actually “in-play”. The ball must be dropped again.



Advantage and Cards

If a **Caution** or **Send-Off** is warranted:

The Laws do **NOT** mandate that the Referee stop play immediately...

The Referee must deal with the misconduct at the next stoppage of play (i.e. prior to the next restart)



Advantage Not Realized

... if the anticipated advantage does not develop within a few seconds (within about 3-5 seconds),

the Referee shall stop play and penalize the original offense

Should a second offense be committed by a player of the offending team during the time the Referee is allowing for the development of the anticipated advantage, the Referee must punish the more serious offense.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

■ Timing

The Referee should generally refrain from applying advantage in the early stages of the game. Wait until game control has been firmly established.

■ Position

The closer the incident is to the attacking goal, the more likely the advantage decision can be exploited by the attacking team. Advantage decisions are less likely to be useful, and could possibly harm game control, if the incident is in the attacking team's own half.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

- **Ball Retention (Team)**

When the attacking team retains possession of the ball advantage is not always justified.

The example often given is if a defender intentionally handles the ball in the penalty area and an attacker gains possession of the ball, the decision would usually be not to apply advantage unless the scoring opportunity is very great.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

- **Always Applied**

When a goal is likely to be scored, i.e. there is a clear subsequent opportunity to score a goal

- **Never Applied**

When there is an incident of serious foul play or violent conduct, or if a serious injury has resulted from the incident.

An overriding reason for not invoking the advantage clause could also be simply for "safety" reasons.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

■ Game Control

Advantage should be used selectively. Referees must be sure that the players understand what is allowed and not allowed before applying the advantage.

Players should not have a “right of expectation” that advantage will be applied. It must be earned, e.g. when a player (or team) continually complains about referee calls or no calls, they should expect that the application of advantage will not likely be forthcoming in their favor.

Overuse of advantage can also be detrimental to game control, as it could be viewed as an unwillingness or inability of the referee to be able to make any meaningful decisions, i.e. a “cop-out”. Referees need to be aware of how players are reacting to when and how advantages are being applied (or not) and adjust accordingly in order to maintain overall game control.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

■ Skill Level of Players

The skill level of the individual player(s) involved in the play must be considered before applying the advantage. Some players are just not skillful enough to be able to successfully complete an advantage opportunity given to them.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

■ Age of Players

Younger and inexperienced players oftentimes do not understand the concept of "Play On". They, more often than not, expect the Referee to blow a whistle and stop the game when a foul occurs. This "whistle the foul" expectation is likely to be more prevalent with younger girls' teams.

For younger and inexperienced players the application of the advantage clause should be tempered and used only when a goal is very likely to be scored.



Factors Affecting Application of Advantage

■ Referee Experience

Being able to successfully apply advantage is really a result of game experience. Beginning referees should concentrate on calling the fouls. Inexperienced referees should only apply advantage after they:

- (1) become comfortable in recognizing and calling fouls ... and
- (2) become aware through game experience at different levels of play what an advantage situation involves and then recognizing when it should be applied.



Advantage Scenarios

Scenario A

A Red player takes a throw-in and violates Law 15 with both feet completely within the field of play and not on the touch-line. The ball goes to a Blue player.

Advice A

Advantage can not be applied in situations involving a violation of a restart requirement. In this case, the throw-in is given to the opposing Blue team.



Advantage Scenarios

Scenario B

The Red team is taking a goal kick, but the kicker does not hit the ball squarely, so it only travels six feet and stays inside Red's penalty area. The kicker runs to the ball and kicks it again, this time causing it to leave the penalty area, but coming directly under the control of a Blue opponent.

Advice B

Advantage is not applied in situations involving a violation of a restart requirement. In this case, the goal kick must be retaken, since the ball was never properly put "in-play" prior to the second touch.



Advantage Scenarios

Scenario C

A Red player takes a free kick and then kicks the ball again, but inadvertently delivers it to a Blue opponent who is able to begin a credible attack on the Red goal.

Advice C

Advantage should be applied (the violation is not a foul, but it is described in Law 13 as a 2nd touch offense) and the Referee should give the advantage signal and shout "Play On", as it is necessary to make it clear that play will not be stopped.



Advantage Scenarios

Scenario D

Blue 35 is in an offside position when a teammate passes the ball in her direction. She makes contact with the ball, but the ball then goes directly to the Red keeper who throws the ball to a Red attacker starting a strong counter-attack.

Advice D

Advantage should be applied. Blue 35 was guilty of the offside offense when she touched the ball. But the Red team was able to quickly mount a credible counter-attack because the referee had not yet whistled the offside offense. It is recommended that the Referee refrain from signaling and shouting "Play On" in this scenario.



Trifling

The referee and assistant referees (ARs) must also recognize trifling offenses



Trifling Infractions

*Advantage is **NOT** Trifling*



For Advantage - Signaling and shouting "Play -On" must be reserved for situations recognized as clear violations of the Laws that would otherwise be whistled to stop play.



Trifling Infractions

LAW V (Advice to Referees)

A longstanding principle of Law 5 notes that constant whistling for doubtful or trifling offenses is not good for the game and produces bad feelings from players, team officials, and spectators.

In short, the Referee should not stop play for an offense that is trivial and doesn't impact on the game.



Trifling Infractions

Trifling is a minor offense or a trivial breach of the Laws within the context of the game and can be committed by any player (or substitute) on either team at any time (i.e. whether the ball is in-play or out-of-play) and either on the field or off the field

*Totally in the
"Opinion of the Referee".*



Trifling Infractions

Think about what factors that you might consider as trifling on a

- Kick-Off
- **Corner Kick**
- Throw-In
- **Goal Kick**
- Penalty Kick
- **Goalkeeper Punt**
- Denying Goal / Scoring Goal



Trifling Infractions

Could something be considered trifling one time and not at another time within the same match?

How might the calling of trifling offenses effect game control?

Remember, trifling can be applied to any of the Laws Not to just Law 12 infractions.



Trifling Infractions

Unsure ?

*Do **NOT** Guess !!*

*Doubtful Do **NOT** stop play !*



Trifling Infractions

Trifling is **NOT** Advantage



For Trifling Infractions - signaling or shouting "Play -On" is totally unacceptable.

Most trifling infractions are not necessarily advantageous to one team or the other ... they are simply trivial in nature relative to the level of the game.



Advantage & Trifling

Look at the following Brain Teasers 13, 14 & 15.

Answer the questions and bring them with you to recertification clinic session.



Brain Teaser 13

Advantage & Trifling

The referee signals advantage after a foul tackle by a defender near the touchline. Two seconds later the attacker is unable to control the ball, which then rolls over the touch line.

What are the referee's options? ... (Choose one or more of the answers that are correct).

- A. Award a Throw-In to the defending team
- B. Award a DFK for the original foul tackle
- C. Award a Corner Kick to the attacking team
- D. None of the above



Brain Teaser 14

Advantage & Trifling

A defender in her own Penalty Area tries to stop a goal by handling the ball. The defender swings and hits the ball with her forearm, but the ball still goes into the goal. The fans are shouting "hand ball"!

Questions:

- A. As the referee do you allow the goal?
- B. Did the defender commit a foul?
- C. If it was a foul was it trifling or was it advantage?
- D. Was there misconduct?
- E. If there was misconduct ... is it a red card? ... or is it a yellow card? or is no card required?



Brain Teaser 15

Advantage & Trifling

The ball is played to an attacker A6, who is close to the AR. A defender D1 tackles A6 unfairly. The referee is caught far behind play and it is the AR's call. The AR is ready to raise the flag, but realizes that A6 has a chance to recover and be able to center the ball to a team mate.

Questions:

- A. Should the AR communicate an advantage decision to the referee?
- B. Should the AR communicate an advantage decision to the players?
- C. Must the AR signal to the referee if the tackle was definitely a cautionable offense?



Game Control

Many match officials who have insisted on enforcing minor violations of the Law, but neglected to call significant fouls, have found that they have lost their ability to control the game effectively.



No Foul

Non-violations are distinct yet related occurrences which require restraint by the referee.

The referee must develop the ability to recognize these events and to be able to judge when some form of communication is warranted in order to ensure retention of game control.

Of special importance are incidents of unintentional handling the ball which commonly occur in every game.