



**FIFA**

*For the Good of the Game*



## Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct (Part 1 - Fouls)



### Topics

- Fouls
- Careless, reckless, using excessive force
- Charging an opponent
- Holding an opponent
- Handball
- Ball touched by a goalkeeper (second time)
- Deliberate kick to the goalkeeper
- Dangerous play
- Impeding an opponent / obstructing
- Preventing the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands





## Fouls

There are **six offences** for which the referee must decide if they were committed **carelessly, recklessly, or with excessive force**:

- ***Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent.***
- ***Trips or attempts to trip an opponent.***
- ***Jumps at an opponent.***
- ***Charges an opponent.***
- ***Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent.***
- ***Pushes an opponent.***



## Fouls

There are **four offences** for which the referee must decide if they occurred or not:

- ***Tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball.***
- ***Holds an opponent.***
- ***Spits at an opponent.***
- ***Handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).***

**A** direct free kick is taken from where the offence occurred. \*





## Careless, Reckless, Using Excessive Force

**"Careless"** means that the player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making his challenge. Without precaution.

- **No further disciplinary sanction is needed if a foul is judged to be careless.**

**"Reckless"** means that the player has made the action with complete disregard for danger to, or consequences for, his opponent.

- **A caution is needed if a player plays in a reckless manner.**

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## Careless, Reckless, Using Excessive Force

**"Using excessive force"** means that the player has far exceeded the necessary use of force and is in danger of injuring his opponent.

- **If a player plays using excessive force, he should be sent off from the field of play.**



## Charging an Opponent

The act of charging can be performed under the following circumstances:

- **Shoulder-to-shoulder (not to the centre of the opponent's back), taking into account the differences in height, weight, strength ...**
- **Within playing distance and not using his arms or elbows.**
- **One or both feet on the field of play.**

It is an offence to charge an opponent

- **In a careless manner.**
- **In a reckless manner.**
- **Or with excessive force.**



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## Charging an Opponent

Inside the field of play

- **Disciplinary sanctions**
  - No disciplinary action if careless.
  - Caution if reckless.
  - **Send off** if with excessive force or denying an obvious goalscoring opportunity, using a manner considered to be careless or reckless.
- **Restart of play**
  - Direct free kick from where the offence occurred\*
  - Penalty kick (inside own penalty area).

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## Charging an Opponent

### Outside the field of play

- **Disciplinary sanctions**
  - Caution if reckless
  - Send off if using excessive force
- **Restart of Play**
  - Dropped ball from where the ball was located\*



## Holding an opponent

**H**olding an opponent also includes the act of stretching the arms out and preventing an opponent from moving past or around.

**T**he referee must take into consideration the following circumstances:

- **Shirt-pulling.**
- **Arm holding.**
- **Holding inside the penalty area by attackers or defenders during corner kicks and free kicks.**
  - Try to prevent before ball is in play
  - No second verbal warning → caution





# Holding an opponent

## Disciplinary sanctions

- **Caution** if unsporting behaviour. For example:
  - Prevents an opponent from gaining possession of the ball or taking up an advantageous position.
- **Send off** if the player denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.
- **No further disciplinary action** if simply a holding offence.



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## Restart of play

- **Direct free kick** from where the offence occurred\*
- **Penalty kick** (inside the penalty area).

# Handball

Handling the ball involves a **deliberate** act to make contact with the ball by a player's hand or arm.

The referee must take into consideration the following circumstances:

- The movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand).
- The distance between the opponent and the handball (unexpected ball).
- Position of the hand does not necessarily mean infringement.
- Touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard, etc.) counts as an infringement.
- Throwing an object (a boot, shinguard, etc.) to the ball with the hand counts as an infringement.

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# Handball

## Deliberate handball by a player

### – Disciplinary sanctions

- Caution if unsporting behaviour. For example:
  - To prevent an opponent gaining possession
  - Attempts to score a goal
- Send off if denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
- No further disciplinary action if normal handball



## Restart of Play

- Direct free kick from where the offence occurred\*
- Penalty kick (inside own penalty area)

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# Handball

## Deliberate handball by goalkeeper outside his own penalty area

### – Disciplinary sanctions

- Caution if unsporting behaviour. For example:
  - To prevent an opponent gaining possession
  - Attempts to score a goal
- Send off if denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
- No further disciplinary action if normal handball



## Restart of play

- Direct free kick from where the offence occurred\*

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## Indirect Free Kick

**G**oalkeeper touching the ball with his hand inside his own penalty area



- If he handles the ball again after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player.
- If he touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate.
- If he touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a thrown-in taken by a team-mate.

**R**estart of play

- Indirect free kick from where the offence occurred\*



## Fouls

**T**here are four offences for which an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following offences:

- Takes more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it from his possession;
- Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player;
- Touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate;
- Touches the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate.





## Goalkeeper in Control of the Ball

The goalkeeper touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not touched any other player:



- The goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball by touching it with any part of his hands or arms.
- Possession of the ball includes the goalkeeper deliberately parrying the ball, but does not include the circumstances where, in the opinion of the referee, the ball rebounds accidentally from the goalkeeper, for example after he has made a save.



## Deliberate Kick to the Goalkeeper

The goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a team-mate:

- The offence occurs when a team-mate of the goalkeeper **deliberately** kicks the ball to him and the goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands.



# Deliberate Kick to the Goalkeeper

## Decision 3 of IFAB:

- Subject to the terms of Law 12, a player may pass the ball to his own goalkeeper using his head or chest or knee, etc. If, however, in the opinion of the referee, a player uses a deliberate trick while the ball is in play in order to circumvent the Law, the player is guilty of unsporting behaviour. He is cautioned, shown the yellow card and an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team from the place where the infringement occurred. \*

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# Deliberate Kick to the Goalkeeper

## Decision 3 of IFAB:

- A player using a deliberate trick to circumvent the Law while he is taking a free kick, is cautioned for unsporting behaviour and shown the yellow card. The free kick is retaken.
- In such circumstances, it is irrelevant whether the goalkeeper subsequently touches the ball with his hands or not. The offence is committed by the player in attempting to circumvent both the letter and the spirit of Law 12.



## Fouls

There are four offences for which an indirect free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee:

- **Plays in a dangerous manner;**
- **Impedes the progress of an opponent;**
- **Prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hands;**
- **Commits any other offence, not previously mentioned in Law 12, for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.**

The indirect free kick is taken from where the offence occurred.\*



## Playing in a Dangerous Manner



Playing in a dangerous manner is any action that, **while trying to play the ball**, threatens damage or harm to someone (including the player himself).

It is committed with an opponent nearby and prevents the opponent from playing the ball for fear of injury.

The action becomes an offence only when an opponent or the player himself is affected.





## Playing in a Dangerous Manner



**P**laying in a dangerous manner involves no physical contact between the players.

**I**f there is a physical contact, the offence becomes a careless, reckless or excessive force offence punishable with a direct free kick or penalty kick.



## Playing in a Dangerous Manner

### Disciplinary sanctions

- **Caution** if, in the opinion of the referee, the action is made with obvious risk of damage or harm;
- **Send off** if the action denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity;
- **No further disciplinary action** if a “normal” challenge.

### Restart of play

- **Indirect free kick** from where the offence occurred\*
- (If there is contact, a different offence has been committed, punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick).



## Impeding the Progress of an Opponent

**I**mpeding the progress of an opponent means moving into a position to obstruct, interfere with, or block the path of an opponent.

**F**or it to be an offence, the ball must be out of playing distance and cannot be reached by a player the offending player.



## Impeding the Progress of an Opponent

**S**hielding the ball.

**I**t is not an offence to be in between an opponent and the ball for tactical reasons, as long as the ball is kept in playing distance and the player does not hold off the opponent with his arms or body (shielding the ball).

**I**f the ball is within playing distance, the player may be fairly charged by an opponent.



## Impeding the Progress of an Opponent



### Inside the field of play

- **Disciplinary sanctions**
  - **No disciplinary action**
  - Send off if the action denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
- **Restart of play**
  - Indirect free kick from where the offence occurred\*

### Outside the field of play

- **Disciplinary sanctions**
  - **No disciplinary action**
- **Restart of play**
  - Dropped ball where the ball was located\*



## Impeding the Progress of an Opponent



If unfair physical contact between the player and the opponent occurs, the referee may consider two possibilities:

- **A holding offence, limiting the movement of an opponent by the defender (DFK).**
- **Unfair charging offence, committed by the attacker (DFK).**





## Preventing the Goalkeeper from Releasing the Ball from his Hands

**I**t is an offence to prevent the goalkeeper from releasing the ball.

**A** player is not allowed to attempt to kick at the ball as the goalkeeper is attempting to kick it.

**R**estart of play

- **Indirect free kick** at the place of the infringement.