

IOU Officiating Certification

Section 1: Rule Interpretations

Fouls

- When calling a foul, you must determine how severe of a penalty to assess
- How much of a foul depends on your interpretation of the situation, but there are general guidelines to follow

Dangerous Stick

- Did a player put themselves in danger? No foul
 - Did the ball carrier intentionally initiate contact?
 - Did a player attempt to play the ball with their foot and get struck by a stick?
- Was the contact difficult to avoid and the result of a play at the ball? Minor foul
 - Was there incidental contact with the feet or shins in an attempted stick-check?
 - Did a player accidentally touch their opponent with the stick when shoving, or on a wind-up?
- Was the use of the stick reckless? Major Foul
 - Should the player have attempted to wait before making a play at the ball?
 - Was there clearly not a safe angle to reach the ball?
 - Was unnecessary force used?
 - Was a player unaware of where their stick was?
- Was the danger intentional? Match foul
 - Did a player use their stick as a weapon?
 - Did a player threaten an opponent with their stick?

Tripping

- Was the play innocuous? Minor foul
 - Was contact initiated gently, with no hard impact?
 - Was the play a genuine attempt to play the ball?
- Was the play particularly dangerous? Major foul
 - Did a player make a challenge for the ball that could have injured the ankles or legs of their opponent?
 - Was there harsh impact with the stick, legs, or feet at the time of tripping?
- Was the play deliberate and cynical? Match foul
 - Was a player attempting to prevent a sure goal?
 - Was a player intentionally trying to intimidate or harm their opponent?

Legal Hand Check

- Were both players NOT running?
- Was contact initiated with legal body parts?
 - Upper body- hands, arms, shoulders, chest, back
- Did contact stay constrained to legal body parts?
 - No “riding up” to opponent’s face
- Was there no violent impact?
- Was there no stick on body contact?
- Was the play relevant to winning possession or getting good position?

Illegal Hand Check

- Was either player running? One-handed contact: no foul. Two-handed contact: minor foul
- Did contact begin or end in an illegal place? Major foul
 - Legs, elbows, head, neck
- Were fingernails involved? Minor foul
- Was their grabbing, pulling, or obstruction involved? Minor foul
- Was the shoving not relevant to play?
- Was there violent impact when the shove was initiated? Major foul
- Was the player pushed into a dangerous obstacle? Match foul

Legal Hip Check

- Standing: Did defender establish position first?
- Running: Was contact made from the side?
- Was contact made with the hip?
- Was contact made at an appropriate height?
- Was the stick kept away from the contact area?

Striking

- Was contact incidental or accidental? Minor foul
- Was contact part of a mutual altercation? Major foul
- Was there head contact? Major foul
- Was there an attack on an unsuspecting or non-threatening player? Match foul
- Was there an attack on a player's groin, throat, or eyes? Match foul

Striking- Mutual Altercation

- Did another player attempt to break up the altercation after it had already started? Minor foul for interfering with referee
- Did another player attempt to join an altercation between two players? Match foul for interfering with referee
- Did any player leave the bench area to be closer to an altercation? Match foul
- Did one player clearly “win” an altercation but continue striking their opponent after it was clearly no longer necessary? Upgrade their major foul to a match foul for striking
- Did a player attempt to continue an altercation after you broke them up? Match foul

Illegal Handling of the Ball

- Did a player incidentally catch a ball but immediately release it? No foul
 - Ball stuck between player's arm and body
 - Ball caught between player's legs
- Did a player attempt to create a stoppage with an intentional two touch violation? Minor foul
- Did a player incidentally handle the ball? Minor foul
- Did a player pin the ball to their stick or body outside their goal crease? Minor foul
- Did a player pin the ball to their stick or body inside their goal crease? Immediately release: no foul. Fail to release: Minor foul

Obstruction

- Some obstruction is a simple cut-and-dried call. Other obstruction exists on a scale.
- Was a player grasping an opponent's uniform with their free hand while making a play on the ball? Feet moving: no foul. Feet stationary: minor foul
- Pulling on an opponent with the stick?
 - Opponent initiated contact: minor foul
 - Stick wielder initiated contact: major foul
 - Extreme force: major foul

Delay of Game

- Stalling the game? Minor foul
- Preventing the game? Major foul
- Making the game impossible to play? Match foul

Illegal Substitution

- Players will often “cheat” the substitution out of exhaustion or laziness
- Did it affect the play? Leave it be or give a warning
- Did it give the changing team an advantage? Give foul
 - Extra player playing or clogging up play
 - Fresh player had transition advantage

Interfering with Referee

- Some plays are similar to interfering with referee, but should not be called as fouls. The distinction is up to you as to whether someone is making your job difficult on purpose
- Incidentally blocking your view? No foul. Intentionally blocking your view? Foul
- Fans or teams cheering by whistling? No foul. Using a whistle? Foul
- Continue an altercation when you haven't completely broken it up? No additional foul. Return to altercation after you broke it up? Foul

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- In rule 29-U, the referee is given wide latitude for how to interpret dangerous play as unsportsmanlike, even if it is not explicitly forbidden by the rules.
 - Can the behavior cause pain to opponents? Minor foul
 - Can the behavior cause injury to opponents? Major foul
 - Can the behavior be construed as an intentional attempt to injure opponents? Match foul

Goal Hanging

- Note the first player to enter the goal crease for a given team and begin a mental count
- If a player remains in their goal crease while the ball is in the neutral or offensive zone, be lenient since this does not affect play
- If a player is about to commit a goal hanging violation, warn them. This can take the form of an audible count, or directly addressing a player, “Number 6, get out of the crease”

Two-Line Pass

- Two-line pass is only illegal if it was sent to a player who was already two lines away from the passer
- Players who are in a two-line-pass position can “tag up” by crossing into neutral zone, center channel, or center square before pursuing the ball
- If the ball crosses the line before a player does, such as a “dump and chase” or a lobbed aerial pass, this is not a two line pass
- If the ball is deflected in the neutral zone (vertical pass), central channel (lateral pass), or center square (any pass) by an attacker before crossing, it ceases to be a two-line pass- this is a pass from that central location
- A pass from the center square is NEVER a two line pass

Offside

- Should be easy to administer, but view can sometimes be obscured
- If in doubt, let play go

Rule 37.D

- Rule 37.D states: “The referee is permitted to stop play at any time for reasons of player safety, including but not limited to an injured player, a player showing signs of heat stroke or brain injury, or weather conditions that would make play dangerous. Play is to be restarted with a face-off from the point where the ball was when play was stopped.”
- This rule gives you wide latitude to stop play if you feel there is a danger to players. If in doubt, stop play!
- If a player is injured or looks ill, and they are either unable to remove themselves from the field or play is about to approach them before they can evade it, stop play.
- If a scramble in front of the goal seems particularly dangerous, such as a defender lying on the ground with no way to play the ball, or a large pile of players on top of each other, stop play.
- If you notice something on the field which is a danger to the players and cannot remove it before play reaches that area of the field, stop play.
- If you must stop play while the ball is in a goal crease, the face-off is to be taken at the edge of the goal crease.
- If you must stop play while the ball is in the air or moving quickly, do your best to approximate its position on the ground nearest where the ball was when you blew the whistle.