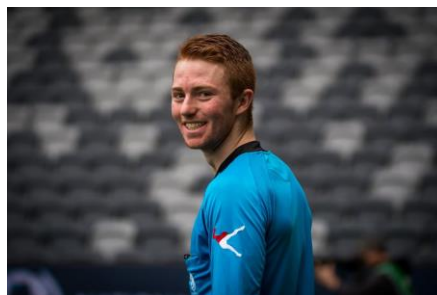




Welcome to this eighty third edition of **“The Referee”**, the newsletter for all NSW State League Football Referees. This newsletter will enable our branch to communicate directly with our members and will cover issues and areas of interest to all referees.

We wish to ensure that all information, educational resources and opportunities that our branch provides for referees finds its way to those who are likely to benefit most – and that’s you!



To do for NSWSLFR members in September 2020:

1. [Review the 2019/20 LOTG changes](#)
2. [Make yourself available for matches on Horizon WebRef](#)
3. [Attend training every week](#)
4. [Attend September General Meeting](#)

Severity of Fouls - General Guidelines on How to Distinguish

One of the biggest parts of football refereeing is judging the severity of fouls. Many people, specially spectators, like to think they understand when and why a challenge is worthy of a yellow or a red card. However, not many understand truly why some challenges need a certain type of disciplinary challenge or not.

In this article, we'll talk about some practical guidelines that can be applied to most challenges and help us better judge and **motivate** a disciplinary sanction.

THE LAW

As always, the first thing we must do is identify where in the LOTG we can find more information about the Severity of Fouls. The obvious answer (or at least should be) is **Law 12**. When talking about the Severity of Fouls, we will always be looking at the 7 offences that result in a Direct Free Kick:

A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip

The Laws are clear about what offences can be careless, reckless or using excessive force. As you may have noticed handballs, holds and pulls, impeding, biting and spitting have all been excluded from these considerations. But why, you ask? That is very simple: you cannot hold or bite someone in a reckless manner. Holding is holding, there is no degree of force into the hold. Same goes for biting: this is a violent behaviour and must be punished with a red card for violent conduct, doesn't matter if it was a 'careless' bite. Biting an opponent doesn't belong to football matches (it doesn't belong anywhere in a civil community, really).



An example of a biting offence



An example of a hold

Before we move further let's review the three definitions for careless, reckless and using excessive force so that we can use them when doing video analysis:

Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed.

Reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned.

Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off.

SPEED, FORCE & POINT OF CONTACT

When judging the severity of a foul, there are always three factors to keep in consideration: **speed, force & point of contact**. When judging the following videos, we will need to define if speed and force are low, medium or high. The point of contact can either help us in situations where speed and force are not enough to decide, or could even completely change the decision. We will see more soon. Let's analyse each factor one by one using this video as an example:

<https://streamable.com/t81rn>

SPEED

What is speed? With the speed of a challenge we talk about the speed a player reaches their opponent to make that challenge.

Why is it important? It is important because the faster a player is running, the harder it is to control a challenge, this results in additional force and a higher potential to hurt an opponent.



In this example, we can see how the blue captain runs into the challenge from a great distance, around 10m, to then dive into a challenge. We can say with no doubt this challenge is made at **high speed**.

Why is it important? It is important because the more forceful a challenge the higher is the danger to an opponent, clearly changing the severity of a foul.



In this example, we can see how the blue player has his knee locked when making a challenge. This means his complete body weight is going to be transferred into his leg, making the force of this tackle high.

POINT OF CONTACT

What is the point of contact? This is pretty self-explanatory. The main two questions to ask are what part of the body does the offender hit the opponent with and what part of the body does he/she hit?

Why is it important? The point of contact is very important as it is key to define the entity of a foul. If a player simply trips an opponent and the point of contact is shin on shin, we are most likely looking at a careless tackle. Instead, if the point of contact is studs on groin, we are most likely looking at use of excessive force.

VIDEO ANALYSIS

Now that we've talked about how to judge the severity of a foul, let's watch 5 videos and go through the considerations to define whether a foul is careless, reckless (YC), or excessive force (RC).

NB: for this exercise we will not keep in considerations for SPA's & DOGSO's.

VIDEO 1 <https://streamable.com/22di0>



Speed

Medium/High. The yellow player runs in from 5 to 6m to go in for the challenge.



Force

Low. The player has both of his legs bent and is not putting much force in the tackle other than trying to kick the ball away, making the force of this tackle negligible.



Point of Contact

The point of contact is lower shin vs side of the knee.

RECKLESS TACKLE = FREE KICK, YELLOW CARD

Medium/high speed + low force + non dangerous point of contact result in a reckless tackle. The yellow player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent.

VIDEO 2 <https://streamable.com/ba0iz>



Speed

Low. The white player is close to his opponent, around 3m.



Force

Low. The white player attempts to tackle for the ball with very little force into his challenge.



Point of contact

Side of the knee on external side of the leg.

CARELESS TACKLE = FREE KICK, NO CARD

Low speed + low force + non dangerous point of contact result in a careless tackle. The white player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution.

VIDEO 3 <https://streamable.com/xin36>



Speed

Low. The white player is really close to the blue and yellow player.



Force

High. As you can see the white player locks his knee in when going for the challenge, transferring his whole-body weight into his leg, therefore into the challenge.



Point of contact

Studs on the inside of the leg / groin.

USING EXCESSIVE FORCE = FREE KICK, RED CARD

Low speed + high force + dangerous point of contact result in a tackle using excessive force. Despite the low speed of the white player, there is necessary use of force and/or he endangers the safety of an opponent.

VIDEO 4 <https://streamable.com/jusbs>



Speed

Medium/Low. The blue player is running and slips, losing control of his body, impacting at a medium/low speed.



Force

Medium/Low. The blue player slips, loses control of his fall, the force is negligible and he doesn't have his knee locked in.



Point of contact

Foot on knee very high.

RECKLESS TACKLE = FREE KICK, YELLOW CARD

Medium/low speed + medium/low force + dangerous point of contact result in a reckless tackle. The blue player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent.



Speed

Low. The blue player is close to the spot where he challenges the white player.



Force & Point of contact.

Medium force. The blue player's knee is bent, reducing the force of the tackle. The player's studs face the inside of the lower leg of the white player. The white player is lucky the ball is in between his leg and the opponent's foot otherwise he would have been in real danger to get injured.

RECKLESS TACKLE = FREE KICK, YELLOW CARD

Low speed + medium force + dangerous point of contact result in a reckless tackle. The blue player **acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent.**

Modified and adapted from refcoach.org

2019-2020 Laws of the Game Quiz

A thorough understanding of the Laws of the Game is an essential quality of a good referee. All referees should regularly review their Laws of the Game book to ensure they are correctly interpreting and applying them.

This monthly LOTG Quiz is highly recommended for all active referees and assessors and counts towards meeting part of the criteria for honour games consideration and annual awards. To reinforce your knowledge, you are encouraged to utilise your Laws of the Game Book to assist in answering the quiz questions. All quiz questions are based on the new 2019/2020 IFAB LOTG.

[Click Here](#)

Click on the "Click Here" button to complete the highly recommended monthly LOTG Quiz to test yourself on how well you know the laws.

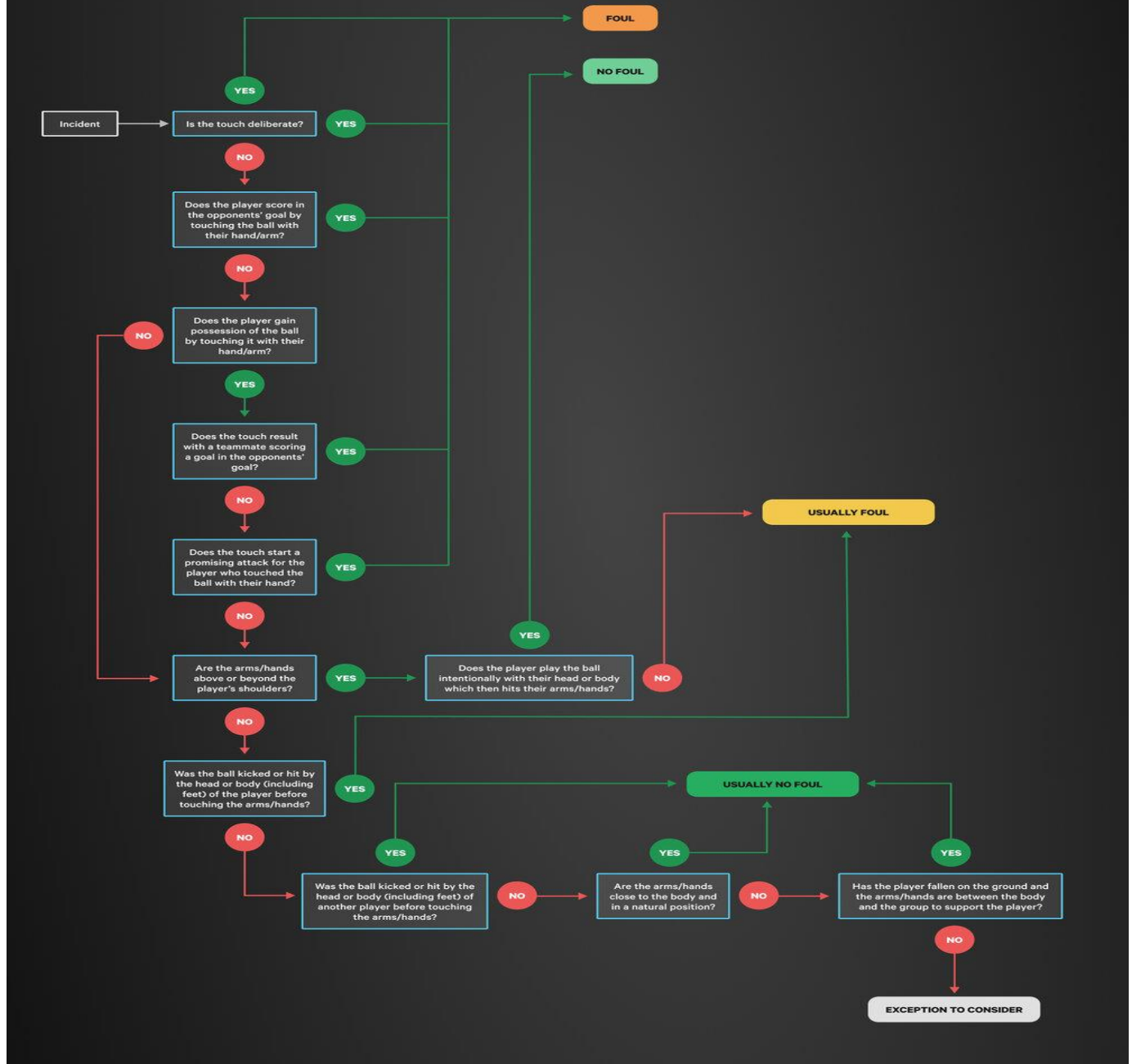
August LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - A; 2 - C; 3 - D; 4 - C; 5 - A; 6 - C; 7 - A; 8 - B; 9 - C; 10 - B.

Important Dates

Friday 4th September 2020 - Online meeting (due to the current COVID-19 situation) using Zoom, starts at 7.30 pm.

HANDBALL FOUL OR NO FOUL?

Credit to Max Ditto



Borrowed from refcoach.org

**Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member
and Newsletter Editor**

