

Prohibited Contact and Payment of a Free Kick section 2

Coaching session 7: 24/06/2020



intentional

- ▶ A player intentionally commits a Reportable Offence if player engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing the offence. An intention is a state of mind. Intention may be formed on the spur of the moment. The issue is whether it existed at the time at which the player engaged in the conduct, for example, where a player delivers a blow to an opponent with the intention of striking him. Whether or not a player intentionally commits a Reportable Offence depends upon the state of mind of the player when he does the act with which he is charged. What the player did is often the best evidence of the purpose he had in mind. In some cases, the evidence that the act provides may be so strong as to compel an inference of what his intent was, no matter what he may say about it afterwards. If the immediate consequence of an act is obvious and inevitable, the deliberate doing of the act carries with it evidence of an intention to produce the consequence. The whole of the relevant evidence has to be considered. When considering the issue the Tribunal Jury must weigh the evidence of the player as to what his intentions were along with whatever inference as to his intentions can be drawn from his conduct of other relevant facts. The player may or may not be believed by the Tribunal Jury.



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- ▶ Notwithstanding what the player says, the Tribunal Jury may be able to conclude from the whole of the evidence that he intentionally committed the act constituting the Reportable Offence. The laws provide for various categories of permitted contact which shall not constitute a reportable Offence. Such contact includes legally using a hip, shoulder, chest, arms or open arms, providing the football is no more than five metres away and contact which is incidental to a marking content where a player is legitimately marking or attempting to mark the football. Tackling and shepherding in accordance with the laws obviously do not constitute a Reportable Offense.



Impact

- ▶ There are four categories of impact - severe, high medium and low. Low impact requires more than just negligible impact, most Reportable Offences require at least low impact and a collisions or incident involving negligible force will not ordinarily result in a charge. In determining the level of impact, regard will be given to the extent of force and in particular, an injury sustained by the player who was offended against. Regard will also be had to the potential the cause injury, for example, contact to the head will generally have more impact than contact to the body if the force used is similar.



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The potential to cause serious injury is also relevant, such as in the following cases:

- ▶ Any head-high contact with a player who has his head over the ball, particularly when contact is made from an opponent charging from a front on position;
- ▶ Forceful round arm swings that make head-high contact to a player in a marking contest, ruck contest or when tackling;
- ▶ Spear tackles;
- ▶ Driving an opponent into the ground when his arms pinned. In determining the level of impact regard shall be had not only to the impact between the offending player and the Victim Player, but also any other impact to the Victim Player as a result of such impact, by way of an example, where a Victim Player as a result of the impact from the offending player is pushed into the path of a fast-moving third player, the impact to the Victim Player may be classified as high or severe, even though the level of impact between the offending player and the Victim Player was only low or medium. In addition to the effect on the Victim Player, the body language of the offending player in terms of flexing, turning, raising or position the body to either increase or reduce the force of impact, will be taken into account the absence of injury does not preclude the classification of impact as severe.



contact

- ▶ We as umpires are determined to protect the health and welfare of players by specifying strict sanctions for illegal, head high contact and contact to the groin. High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders. There may be a correlation between contact and impact to the extent that, for example, a strike to the stomach will be classified as body contact but its impact will be classified towards the high end of the scale if the effect was to reduce the player's ability to participate in the match. Contact to the groin shall include contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region and including the testicles.



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- ▶ In classifying contact, regard will be given to the point of contact and where contact is both high and to the body, the Match Review Panel will classify the contact as high. Contact shall be classified as high or to the groin where a player's head or groin makes contact with another player or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending player. By way of example, should a player tackle another player around the waist and as a result of the tackle, the tackled player's head made forceful contact with the fence or the ground the contact in these circumstances would be classified as high, even though the tackle was to the body?



Classification of certain strikes

- ▶ Note that the following factors are considered when determining the classification of a striking offence:
- ▶ **Intent:** notwithstanding any other part of these guidelines, the fact that an act of striking occurred behind the play or off the ball or during a break in play or with a raised forearm or elbow is usually conclusive that the strike was intentional.
- ▶ **Impact:** notwithstanding any other part of these guidelines, any careless or intentional strike which is of an inherently dangerous kind and/or where there is a potential to cause serious injury (such as a strike with a raised elbow or forearm) will not be classified as “low impact” under the Rules even though the extent of the actual physical impact may be low. Such strikes will be classified at a higher level commensurate with the nature and extent of the risk of serious injury involved.



Forceable fronton contact

► Intentionally, carelessly or negligently...

Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front on when that player has his head down over the ball.

Note:

- A player can bump an opponent's body from side on but any contact forward of side on will be deemed to be front on
- A player with his head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purposes of this law. Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front on when that opponent has his head down over the ball, unless intentional or careless, will be deemed to be negligent, unless:
 - a. the player was contesting the ball and did not have a realistic alternative was to contest the ball; or
 - b. the bump or forceful contact was caused by circumstances outside the control of the player which could not reasonably be foreseen.



Rough conduct

- Rough conduct is interpreted widely in relation to any contact which is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances. It is a Reportable Offence to intentionally or carelessly engage in rough conduct against an opponent which in the circumstances is unreasonable. Without limiting the wide interpretation of rough conduct, particular regard shall be had to the following officially recognised forms of rough conduct.