



Review of “Handling”

Handling – Guidance to Referees

- Rule of Thumb for "Handling"
 - It is handling if the player plays the ball
 - It is not handling if the ball plays the player
- NFHS Rule 12-2 (emphasis added):
 - A player shall be penalized for ***deliberately*** handling, carrying, striking or propelling the ball with a hand or arm.



Handling – Guidance to Referees

- NFHS Rule 18-1g (NEW):
 - DELIBERATE ACT – A deliberate act is one in which a player chooses to act, regardless of the outcome of that action. This deliberate act is neither reaction nor reflex. A deliberate action may result in the opponent benefiting from the action (e.g., a deliberate, but misplayed ball that goes directly to an opponent). ***A reaction or reflex may result in that player benefiting from action (e.g., a ball inadvertently contacting the arm and falling directly to the player's feet).***



Handling – Guidance to Referees

- Moving the hands or arms ***instinctively*** to protect the body when suddenly faced with a ***fast approaching*** ball does ***not*** constitute deliberate contact unless there is subsequent action to direct the ball once contact is made.
- Likewise, placing hands or arms to protect the body at a free kick or similar restart is not likely to produce an offense unless there is subsequent action to direct or control the ball.
- ***The fact that a player may benefit from the ball contacting the hand does not transform the otherwise accidental event into an offense.***



Handling – Case rulings

12.2 SITUATION A:

- A player, who is part of a wall in a free kick, moves the hands ***after the kick to protect*** his/her face from the ball.
- RULING: The hand movement is deemed to be a ***reflex*** action and is ***not*** considered to be ***deliberate*** handling. Protecting the head, face, groin or chest from a hard shot or pass using the hands or arms as a ***reflex*** is ***not*** considered ***deliberate*** and therefore not handling.



Handling – Case rulings

12.2 SITUATION C:

- A2 kicks a low **hard pass** to his/her teammate; (a) B2, a male player who is in the path of the ball, moves his hand to protect his groin and the ball touches his hand; (b) B2, a female player who is in the path of the ball, moves her hand to protect her chest and the ball touches her hand.
- RULING: **Legal** in both (a) and (b). Protecting the head, face, groin and chest from a hard shot or pass using the hands or arms as a **reflex** is **not** considered **deliberate** and therefore not handling.



Examples of Handling



Examples of Handling



Example of NOT Handling (as per NFHS)



Example of NOT Handling



From the recert test

- A8 shoots the ball toward team B's goal. The ball strikes B7's hand, denying team A's goal. In the opinion of the referee, that was not a deliberate act by B7. The referee should:
 - a) Award a goal to team A
 - b) Award a penalty kick to team A and disqualify (red card) B7
 - c) Award a penalty kick to team A and caution (yellow card) B7
 - d) Allow play to continue



From the recert test

- (Beginning with the 2018-19 season) Player A8 kicks the ball with pace a short distance away from opponent B2. The ball strikes B2's arm as he reacts by shielding his face. The referee should:
 - a) Award a direct free kick to team A for deliberate handling by B2
 - b) Award an indirect free kick to team A for unintentional handling by B2
 - c) Take no action as no offence has occurred
 - d) Only stop play if B2's reaction gives his team an advantage





Questions?
