

- (March 2nd) Question 20: What, if any, is the referee's action if a player jumps over the boards? {Editor's Note: Actually this question was received February 7th, but lost in the Inbox, my apologies}
    - *Response:* Quoted from Additional Instruction to Referees Rule #3 Page 38, [ASA Rules to Indoor Soccer 2008-09 Season](#), The substitute entering the field of play cannot enter "over the boards". Should this occur the offending player must be assessed a 2 minute minor misconduct time penalty.
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- (March 2nd) Question 19: Can a referee award a penalty kick in indoor U10 game?
    - *Response:* There is nothing in the CMSA 2008/2009 Indoor Supplemental Regulations that restricts the Ref from awarding a Penalty Kick for the U10 League. This action is only restricted in the CMSA 2008/2009 Indoor Supplemental Regulations for the U6 and U8 Leagues.
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- (February 17th) Question 18: With 2:37 remaining in my soccer game a delay blue card was called against my team. During the delay, the other team boarded my teammate into the boards. The reff called it boarding and issued a red card to the other team and issued the initial blue card. The reff made it 4 vs. 4 for the remainder of the game ... was he correct?
  - *Response:* Yes, the Ref was correct. Under Rule 12, Boarding is a dismissal offence. In addition to the player being dismissed, there is also a 5 minute time penalty with no relief. It used to be that another player had to serve that time penalty in the box. However ASA has changed that rule in 2006 stating it was not fair to penalize an innocent single player for his teammates inappropriate behaviour. Therefore the TEAM is penalized as a whole by having to play one man SHORT for 5 minutes. Also because there are two simultaneous time penalties, the time penalty for the Blue Card is also served with no relief from a goal scored. The Ref made it 4 vs. 4 because the time penalties are not even (ie. 2 minutes vs. 5 minutes). I suspect you commented that this was "...for the remainder of the game..." because the restart was after the time clock reached the 2 minute mark. Please note there is nothing in Rule 12 that lists the time penalty management changes in the last 2 minutes of the match. You may also note that the time management for one team shown a Blue card (ie. a 2 minute minor time penalty) and the other team shown a Yellow card (ie.

two consecutive 2 minute minor time penalties) would also play 4 vs. 4 even in the last 2 minutes of the match.

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- (February 9th) *Question 17*: A comment on question 14. Reading between the lines it appears that the person who placed the ball on the touch line must then have run away to receive the kick. Unfortunately the person who would normally take the kick was not ready as he/she was speaking to the keeper. As a referee I normally start counting straight away if a player places the ball on the touch line and then runs away as this is clearly a delay of game. Of course if it is brought to my attention that someone may be injured then I would stop the count and investigate.
    - *Response*: The question was asked "Was he warranted...?". Having not witnessed the event, the simple answer is YES by the strict letter of the Rules. In the spirit of the game there are multiple observations that will factor into the Ref's action. And each ref, being human, will have their way of managing this restart. Most Ref's I've observed don't even count if they observe that the players are conducting themselves within the spirit of the game. If they do count then it signals to everyone that the Ref has observed the restart is taking too long, whether it be an intentional delay tactic or not. A Ref may also count if it is a very close game and the Ref wants to communicate fair play must be observed when given the advantage of a free kick. A player placing the ball on the touch line and running down field is NOT "clearly a delay of game". This may be leaning more towards strategy if the player is a forward and it is to their advantage that a defender take the kick. It's up to the Ref to determine if this action is a delay tactic, or a time saving tactic so that the defender doesn't have to waste time retrieving the ball, placing it, and then taking a position to run up to the ball. Again good communication is essential in game management. I trust we've all watched some Refs that will officiate a game by the strict letter of the Rules with poor communication, and the result is the players lose respect for the Ref and act inappropriately.
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- (February 7th) *Question 16*: The indoor rules say a player receives a blue card for spitting on the playing surface. Does this also apply to the floor area in the player's box and/or the penalty box? If so, when is the blue card shown.
  - *Response*: For the benefit of our other readers, the rule you mentioned is in Rule 12 sub heading 'Minor Misconduct' Page 19. By definition, the

'Playing Surface' includes everything past the gate entrance. The 'Playing Surface' is divided into areas: The Field of Play (and remember the top of the boards are considered in the field of play); Home Bench; Visitor Bench; and Penalty/AR Box. I would venture to say that the garbage cans are not considered 'Playing Surface'. At the discretion of the AR or Ref, they could talk to both the player and Coach and explain what could happen, or they can show the player a blue card at the next stoppage in play. If it was a team official (ie. Coach, Bench Mom, etc.), the a Blue card would be shown to the bench at the next stoppage of play.

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- (January 31st) Question 15: In a recent game that I was AR a player received a second blue card and I mentally noted that a third blue would be upgraded to a yellow. What is the process to upgrade and which ref shows the yellow card Also the AR often cannot see the shirt number until the player is in the box and there is a few seconds while the information is recorded. What should the AR do if the game restarts quickly before he has noticed it is a third blue?
    - *Response:* The Ref in the middle should be the person that shows any card. Communication between the AR and the Ref in the middle is the best method to administer this Rule. Upon receiving the 2nd Blue card, the AR should advise the Ref in the Middle at the first opportunity. The Ref in the middle can also mentally note that a third blue to this player would result in a Yellow (ie. first shown a Blue, then a Yellow). However if this is overlooked and the AR realizes that after the restart that the player has received a third Blue Card in the same match, the AR can advise the player and both Coaches that the player will be serving the time penalty for a Yellow Card. Then at the next stoppage, signal the Ref to come to the box, explain the third blue card and ask that the Yellow card be shown to the player.
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- (January 28th) Question 14: I was recently playing in an indoor Co-ed Div 4 game where we were up by 2 goals right near the start of the second half. As soon as the ball went out of play and was placed on the touch line for restart In our own zone, the referee started to count down immediatly. (He obviously thought we were wasting time although this is contrary to the dynamic of this game). As soon as he hit zero, we kicked the ball into play and he called it back after issuing a blue card. I felt (being a referee myself) that he was punishing us because we were ahead in the game. The restart was delayed because our kick-taker was speaking

with our keeper about a potential injury he (keeper) sustained during the last play. Was he warranted in issuing the card?

- *Response:* This response is referenced in Rule #8, [ASA Rules to Indoor Soccer 2008-09 Season](#), a player entitled to the Start and/or restart has 5 seconds to play the ball. So by the strict letter of this rule, the Ref is warranted in issuing the card. However we are also instructed to officiate within the spirit of the game. If the Ref notices that one and/or both teams are playing in a good sporting manner (ie. in the spirit of the game), the Ref may just hint that the ball be put in play SOON. If the Ref senses that the players are testing his/her tolerance for the Rules of Indoor Play, the Ref may demonstrate that it not appropriate and tighten up the calls. Either way, good communication with the Ref is usually the solution. If there is a potential injury, politely communicate that to the Ref BEFORE the countdown is finished. If the Ref continues, kick the ball out of play. Then request to the Ref that you'd like to check on the players condition. If the player is injured, then I trust most teams will act on fair play and the next restart will come back to your team's possession.

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- *(January 25th) Question 13:* On the taking of a penalty kick, if the goalkeeper of the attacking team is taking the kick and commits unsporting behaviour (before the kick is taken, or, after the kick is taken and it goes into the goal), you show the yellow card and the kick is re-taken. Normally in indoor the player would go to the box and you would replace the kicker with a teammate, but because a teammate serves the time penalty for the goalkeeper, can the goalkeeper re-take the kick? My interpretation of the rules was that it was fine, yet my colleague said you might kindly suggest to have another kicker take the shot but... what would you do?
    - *Response:* For a PK to be taken during normal time, if the Keeper commits USB before the kick is completed and a teammate serves the penalty, then in law he is completely permitted to re-take the kick.

For PK's taken to determine the winner of a match, this particular circumstance is not covered in law. Because there is no actual penalty to be served after full time I would propose that the GK be ineligible while whoever might have served his penalty is fully eligible.

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- (January 19th) Question 12: I don't know to whom I'm addressing this e-mail but I would like to complain against a referee who was the official at my friends game. I don't know where I'm supposed to complain, so if someone could point me in the right direction, that would be great.
    - *Response:* Comments regarding a Referee's conduct and/or skills when officiating a particular game must be passed through to the League from a Team Official (ie. Team Manager, Team Coach, Team Assistant Coach). The back side of their copy of the Game Sheet provides all information on how to submit their comments. Most leagues provide an on-line evaluation link on their Website. Again this is only accessible by Team Officials.
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- (January 19th) Question 11: I have not officiated for the past five (??) years, but call a pretty good game from my position in goal. What is the process for getting back into officiating?? I had my level 3 and called a fair game in the day. Let me know, as well as what the remuneration for matches currently is at.
    - *Response:* First order of business would be to register with the [Alberta Soccer Association](http://www.albertasoccer.com) (www.albertasoccer.com). On their home page you will see a Tab REFEREE right mid of the page. Select it and then select Registration from the Referee Menu on the left. You are a little late for the Indoor season, so I would suggest you register for the 2009 season. Then you will need to take a refresher seminar offered throughout the month of April and May. You can register for the seminar on the [Calgary Soccer Federation Referee](http://www.calgarysoccerfederation.com) Website (www.calgarysoccerfederation.com) by selecting Courses and Clinics on the left hand menu. Remuneration for games officiated are listed on this website as well by placing the cursor over Information and selecting Game Fees.
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- (January 15th) Question 10: I'm looking for information about referee training for my 13 year old son. I'd also like information about how the system works if he was able to qualify.
  - *Response:* Your son would not be eligible to take the course and register to Ref until he is 14. ASA (Alberta Soccer Association) made this requirement at the beginning of the 2008 Outdoor season. If he will be 14 this spring, then he will need to register for one of the courses this spring offered by either CSF (Calgary Soccer Federation). He can register on line at: [www.calgarysoccerfederation.com](http://www.calgarysoccerfederation.com); select the link Referees on

the menu; select Courses and Clinics on the menu. He could also check with the club he plays soccer with. A number of club also sponsor this course.

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- (December 29th) Question 9: in indoor if the main ref gives a player a blue card ,can the ref in the box change it and give the player another color card instead (yellow or red)
    - *Response:* This response refers to Rule 6  [ASA Rules to Indoor Soccer 2008-09 Season](#) "The Assistant Referee will signal using a whistle to stop play, but the referee is the final judge of any action to be taken." The term "Assistant Referee" (aka AR) refers to the Ref in the box and the term "Ref" refers to the Ref in the middle.  
To paraphrase this, the AR can not show a card. However the two Refs work as a team. If the AR sees and/or hears something and he/she suspects the Ref did not see and/or hear it, the AR can call the Ref over to the half circle in front of the box to discuss. The Ref then will decide if further action is required. From my own experience, 99 time out of a 100 the Ref will take action recommended by the AR, because they are a TEAM assigned to control the game within the Rules.
  - (Nov 25th) Question 8: Can a player that is shown a Red Card in a Co-Ed game still play in the CUSA or CWSA league? The Co-Ed league has their own player card, so if it is kept and handed into the Co-Ed league, the player still has their CUSA or CWSA player card.
    - *Response:* No, a player shown a Red Card and dismissed from all ASA Sanctioned Games. Even if the player is waiting for there day in front of the league disappline, they are not allowed to play. However because the player has two cards, it is next to imposible for the Ref to inforce this, unless the Ref has prior knowledge. But the leagues share this information and that player would then have to face both disappline committees. If the Ref has knowledge that a player has been dismissed, but the player insists they can play, let him/her and note it on the game sheet.
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- (Nov 24th) Question 7: If you hit another player in to the boards and the ref gives you a yellow card. You make your way to the box and say he tripped is that a red card?
    - *Response:* No, however I suspect if the player was dismissed, it was for receiving a second yellow in the same match for dissent. If the player simply comments to the Ref or AR that the player tripped, that can be overlooked. If the player argues with the Ref and/or AR in a very public manner, that is dissent. If this is the case, the Ref should first show a Yellow card, then follow it with a Red Card shown to the player. The other possibility is the Ref, upon further going through the actions of the player in his/her mind and/or discussing it with the AR, changed his/her decision, which is permitted provided play has not restarted. Either action should be noted on the game sheet (ie. The AR will write either DIS or BD beside the players Name, and possibly write a short explanation in the comment section).
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- (Nov 10th) Question 6: Is shirt holding and pulling allowed? Should referee's and their assistant's not call this, even at premier level since it should be deemed a hold under Law 12?
 

It appears this foul tends to get "allowed" at higher levels of play and I fail to see why this is not called more often, since it is clearly not a proper tackle or positional fight for the ball and typically is a reach forward from the "grabber" who is behind and is using the hold to gain an advantage. These shirt pulls do impede progress. Some clubs appear to coach this technique to take advantage of referee's not calling this often or consistently.

  - *Response:* Yes, this is a foul under Law/Rule 12. However there is another dynamic at play here described in Law/Rule 5 stating that a "The Referee...allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time". These are commonly referred as a Trifling Offence. The players at a level that are very strong on the ball are more capable of (and therefore more willing to) play through the shirt pull. They would rather keep play going unless they seriously suffer from the pull. Additionally, there is an expectation at the higher levels that the foul tolerance be higher to keep play moving. Essentially, if these are not called it is because the referee judges it to be a trifling offence. The higher the level, the more fouls become trifling.

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- (Oct 29th) Question 5: I was reffing a 6.00 pm midweek game and prior to 6.00 pm another team was training on the field and said they had it booked and paid for to 6.00 pm. The playing teams showed up and insisted that they get access to the field to prepare and warm up at 5.55 pm. I felt caught in the middle. What is correct and how do we stop this from happening in the future. I have heard of this happening?previously to other refs.
    - *Response:* Yes, this is a common problem every year. So this year I scanned and copied the  [Terms and Condition of Rental/Facility Rules](#) published by the Calgary Soccer Center. You can place this in your Tool Kit. Advise the other team that this is posted on the back of their Field Rental Permit, and to refer to Item #10. In summary, the team must allow "...5 minutes before the end of their allotted time..." to vacate the field and allow the next team to come on.

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- (Oct 24th) Question 4: The Refs say you need to stay where you are. Why can't you go to the bench?
    - *Response:* You'll have to give me a bit more information. When does the Ref say you need to stay where you are? Is this when one of your teammates or opponents is injured? Is it at the end of a game that needs a result/winner? Please write in again.

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- (Oct 2nd) Question 3: My daughter has her nose pierced and it is OK that she wears a bandaid or tape over this or it is a rule that it must be removed.
    - *Response:* All leagues have adopted the policy of NO JEWELRY, except for Medical Alert Bracelets, is ALLOWED to be worn on the soccer pitch. If it can be seen, it must be removed. Players used to be able to 'cover' or 'tape over' the jewelry, but this option was removed a few years ago.

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- (Sept 29th) Question 2: Could you please clarify the ruling about players bracing themselves against the boards in indoor soccer. In my experience there is wide variation in interpretation from ref to ref such that I am confused and often so are my players. Some do not call the infraction at all. Some will call it for impeding

progress only if the player has clearly grabbed the boards and others will call it as soon as there is any arm or hand against the board.

- *Response:* Referees will call this on a player that is using the boards to gain or maintain control of the ball. A couple of common examples of this are: Placing two (2) hands on the boards providing leverage to move an opponent back instead of simply shielding the ball; and or placing one (1) or two (2) hand(s) on the boards to 'impede' the path of an opponent to either provide more shielding or to force an opponent in possession of the ball to take a different path. Placing the hands on the boards is NOT an infraction (ie. to maintain balance). However if the Ref observes the player gained an unfair advantage by placing one or both hands on the boards, the Ref will call an infraction. Most Refs will see the potential for a player to gain advantage and verbally call out something to the effect of: "hands off the boards"; "careful about using the boards"; "no using the boards to gain advantage", etc. to make the players aware the Ref is watching.

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- *(Sept th) Question 1:* The ball is bouncing towards the goalkeeper about a foot or two off the ground. The goalie crouches low and used his forearms to control the ball which drops in front of him. He dribbles the ball to the edge of the area and picks the ball up as an attacker rushes in. Is the initial control using the forearms considered as possession in which case an IDFK should have been called. I didn't call anything as I could not think this through quick enough and even now would like your opinion. I chatted with the keeper after the game who said he was careful not to use his hands. I don't think the keeper's logic is quite correct as a handball for a player is from the hands through to the shoulder. However I'm still left wondering if the keeper actually had possession and if an IDFK should have been called?
    - *Response:* This is a judgement call. If the Keeper used his arms or hands to simply 'block' the ball to make sure it didn't get passed him by an unpredictable bounce, then yes he can 'handle' the ball in the area. If the ball was coming at the Keeper at a slow pace and the Keeper deliberately parried the ball down under control to gain more time, then the keeper did have control and can not handle the ball a second time. If you are positive it is the latter, rather than wait to see if the Keeper handles it a second time, the better 'Game Management' would be to advise the Keeper that the ball was under his/her control and not to handle it a second time.