

## Referee Education

Thursday, October 4, 2018 8:30pm CST Conference Call

Computer Required with Internet Access

Topic: THE ADVANTAGE RULE

The Old Rule Read: “The referees shall refrain from declaring a foul if, in their opinion, such declaration would be an advantage to the offending player’s team. The referees shall not declare an ordinary foul when there is still a possibility to play the ball.”

Section 5. Advantage (Rule 3-5)

*The referees shall have discretion to award (or not award) any ordinary, exclusion or penalty foul, depending on whether the decision would advantage the attacking team. They shall officiate in favor of the attacking team by awarding a foul or refraining from awarding a foul if, in their opinion, awarding the foul would be an advantage to the offending player’s team. The referees shall apply this principle to the fullest extent.*

**At all times the referee should be officiating in “favor of the attacking team.” Referees must be aware that positional advantage occurs not only at the point of attack (where the ball is located) but also away from the ball. This awareness must be taken into account in order to properly apply the Advantage Rule. As the team on offense is working to create an advantage opportunity the referee should whistle any infraction by the defending team that hinders or prevents the advantage situation from developing.**

PoE #2 Applying the Advantage Rule.

**The Advantage rule permits the referee to withhold the whistle when it would be to the advantage of the team committing the foul to whistle the infraction, and it describes the expectation that the referee will whistle a foul when to do so would be to the advantage of the offensive team. At all times the referee should be officiating in “favor of the attacking team.” Referees must be aware that positional advantage occurs not only at the point of attack (where the ball is located) but also away from the ball. This awareness must be taken into account in order to properly apply the Advantage Rule. As the team on offense is working to create an advantage opportunity the referee should whistle any infraction by the defending team that hinders or prevents the advantage situation from developing.**

The advantage rule as it is now written clearly favors the offense and requires referees to change their way of thinking about how to apply the advantage rule as written. Punishing bad offense should be the least of our concerns; in order to “advantage the offense” referees should be thinking in terms of, (1) Rewarding good offense; (2) Punishing bad defense; (3) Rewarding good defense; and lastly, (4) Punishing bad offense.

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