

CWPA Online Referee Education

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Computer Required with Internet Access. Questions/feedback can be sent by email or text:
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Topic: Game Management Part I Controlling the Level of Physical Play

Controlling the level of Physical play is paramount to providing a good environment for the student athletes to play the game safely. Player safety isn't mentioned in the NCAA rulebook at all but it is a major concern for referees when calling a game. What is mentioned in the rulebook "proper application of the rules as written will increase the amount of movement by the attacking team, thus allowing for more advantage situations to be created, both on the perimeter and at the CF position."

That statement basically translates nicely into controlling the level of physical play so that the game is played at a level that is manageable and limits the unnecessary physical activity that can lead to an escalating situation thus allowing good player movement. In essence, Game Management right from the start is of utmost importance and essential for referees to embrace.

In these videos we are going to touch on examples of player safety issues, player yellow card, MAM or minor acts of misconduct (often time overlooked tool that is available for referees), Misconducts and Flagrant Misconducts. These are important tools that the referees have at their disposal to help control game decorum in the field of play.

If a referee doesn't apply the rules as written early in the game and allows too much physical contact, the game can quickly become stagnant and escalate into a difficult situation to control. Especially, when the two teams involved have a history of intense competition or the competition is expected to be very close and team standings are a relative factor. Often you will be confronted with a game where the teams have a history of playing hard press defenses which is a huge clue to be ready to institute strong game management protocol.

With that in mind let's take a look at some game situations for discussion.

Dartfish.tv videos:

<https://www.dartfish.tv/Player?CR=p7695c306296m4752821&CL=1>
1-Player Safety -Leading Up To a Head Butt

Duration: 00:34

In public collection:[19-0402 Referee Education](#)

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There are three short video scenarios that depict situations that can lead to player safety issues. The first, a player at P2 area works to draw an ordinary foul by moving into the defender's space. This could have been called an offensive foul because of her use of the opposite hand (without the ball) attempting to keep the defender away. Her duck-in to the defender was deliberate and with an aggressive defender could become head to head contact. Something to keep in mind. If it were to make contact with the defender an offensive foul would be appropriate. The second can be confusing to the official on deck because it looks like the offensive player is trying to draw a foul when in fact, the defender used a one hand pull-in which is an exclusion foul. The third part is an actual head butt by the offensive player at the P1 area which the official sees and calls an offensive foul.

<https://www.dartfish.tv/Player?CR=p7695c306296m4752822&CL=1>

2-Player Safety-hand to head_Exclusion

Duration: 00:11

In public collection:[19-0402 Referee Education](#)

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Contact to the head and or neck area is a player safety issue and will probably lead to an exclusion foul. Here is an example of such a situation.

<https://www.dartfish.tv/Player?CR=p7695c306296m4752825&CL=1>

3-Player Safety but Count the Goal

Duration: 00:23

In public collection:[19-0402 Referee Education](#)

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This situation is contact to the head by the defender while in the process of taking a shot on goal. The need to have patience in this situation is very important. You do not want to take the advantage away from the offense scoring a goal. As an evaluator of this particular incident, I said you could count the goal then issue a yellow card to the player for the contact to the head. That way you give the offense a goal but send a strong message to the defensive player that this is not acceptable. The coach involved was rightly upset, think about it. Wouldn't you rather have a goal than have to score on a power play. I suppose, but not my choice, an alternative would be to call a penalty foul since it was inside the 5M area and a probable goal. This situation just points out that a little bit of patience can work in your benefit.

<https://www.dartfish.tv/Player?CR=p7695c306296m4752829&CL=1>

4-Exclusion 2X or should it be more?

Duration: 00:16

In public collection:[19-0402 Referee Education](#)

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A big part of game management is to control the level of physicality. In the first exclusion, the defensive moves were over the top and could easily be a MAM or Misconduct. The second could be a MAM and maybe misconduct. The hard stroking technique looked more like a strike or bunch attempt from the camera angle. It's so important to stay on top of the game and make sure the message is clear to the players, player safety is a top priority. I don't see many referees use a MAM (Minor act of Misconduct) which is a good tool at their disposal. The player is excluded for 20 seconds and if they receive a second MAM in the game they are excluded for the remainder.