



HANDBALL

Handball or play on?

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... A direct free kick is also awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following three offences:

- ▶ holds an opponent
- ▶ spits at an opponent
- ▶ handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area).

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So the emphasis is on the word

DELIBERATELY.

Thus, if a player's hand or arm comes into contact with the ball and it is NOT deliberate then you should PLAY ON.

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The interpretation of handball in some situations becomes more difficult, for example:

- ▶ Trying to block throw-ins, crosses and shots on goal
- ▶ Defensive walls
- ▶ Controlling the ball with the chest
- ▶ Goalkeepers near the edge of the penalty area

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In these situations, the referee must consider the player's motivations to determine if it is deliberate handball.

Now attempt Q1 and Q2.

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Handling the ball

Handling the ball involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with his hand or arm. The referee must take the following into consideration:

- the movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand)
- the distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball)
- the position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement
- touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard, etc.) counts as an infringement
- hitting the ball with a thrown object (boot, shinguard, etc.) counts as an infringement

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Disciplinary sanctions

There are circumstances when a caution for unsporting behaviour is required when a player deliberately handles the ball, e.g. when a player:

- deliberately handles the ball to prevent an opponent gaining possession
- attempts to score a goal by deliberately handling the ball

A player is sent off, however, if he prevents a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. This punishment arises not from the act of the player deliberately handling the ball but from the unacceptable and unfair intervention that prevented a goal being scored.

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Three Crucial Questions:

- ▶ Did the player have time to react and move the arm away from the path of the ball?
- ▶ Was the player's arm in an unnatural position?
- ▶ Did the player use his arm to increase the size of the defensive barrier?

If the answer to any of the above is YES then award a free kick for handball.

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Examples and Discussion – Allyson