

## **JOE KNOWS AYSO**

### **Fall 2004**

Joe Eldridge, National Referee Administrator

AYSO frequently receives questions regarding rules, regulations, policies, interpretation of FIFA Law and AYSO modifications. In my position as National Referee Administrator, I am often asked to respond. The following are some of the interesting questions I recently received. If you have questions, please contact me, Joe Eldridge, at (888) 686-2976 or by e-mail at [joeeldridge@ayso.org](mailto:joeeldridge@ayso.org).

#### **Question:**

Joe, I want to let you know that I enjoy the "What's the Short Answer?" questions in the AYSO SHORTS every month very much and have learned from them and I wanted to let you know that I think they are a great addition to the AYSO SHORTS. These questions are fun and informative, and have caused me to review the "Laws of the Game" (and "Questions and Answers to the Laws of The Game") on several occasions. Needless to say, I've learned a few things. I've also noticed that prior to December 2002, there are no "What's the Short Answer?" questions.

I have a question regarding "Questions and Answers to the Laws of The Game". In the section on Law 12, question 10 states, "A player running with the ball sees a defender immediately in front of him and runs off the field or play to continue playing the ball. The opponent holds him beyond the touch line to prevent him continuing his run. What action does the referee take?". The answer given says that, "Play is stopped, the opponent is cautioned for unsporting behavior. Play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was located when play was stopped." I don't understand why the restart would not be an indirect free kick for the other team because Law 12 says that an indirect free kick should be awarded if play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player. If, in the example, it is assumed that the ball also traveled off the field, then the restart would be a throw-in for the opponent's team; therefore this cannot be the case. Please let me know what you think. Thanks.

Bob

#### **Answer:**

Hi Bob, glad you enjoy "What's the Short Answer?" You will not find the column in Shorts prior to December 2002 because that is when I first started writing it.

Your question is a very good one since it does not often occur in soccer games but is often missed by referees taking examinations. When play is stopped by the referee, there are a few things which the referee must ask him/herself before restarting play:

1. Was the ball in play at the time of the infraction?
2. Did the infraction occur on or off the field?
3. Who was involved in the incident - players, substitutes, bench personnel, the referee, the assistant referees, or others (outside agents such as spectators)?

The restart will vary depending on the answers to these questions.

For the infractions described in Law 12 to result in a foul and a direct free kick they must be (1) committed on the field of play, (2) with the ball in play, and (3) by a **player** from one team against a **player of the opposing team** (except for handling the ball which of course is done to the ball). If these things are done to anyone else (teammates, substitutes, referees, spectators, etc.) on the field while the ball is in play the infraction is considered misconduct (not a foul), and the restart is an indirect free kick. If the ball is in play but the infraction occurs **off** the field of play, the infraction is considered misconduct (not a foul), but the restart would be a dropped ball where the ball was when the infraction occurred. If an infraction is committed while the ball is out of play it is considered misconduct (not a foul), and the restart is according to how the ball originally went out of play.

The answer to the question you referred to in the FIFA Q&A is correct, assuming the ball was still in play while the players were off the field.

Good luck on your upgrade to Advanced Referee and be sure to study the difference between players, substitutes and others plus the difference between fouls and misconduct before you take the exam.

Thanks.

**Question:**

Joe, kindly clarify the exact decision a referee needs to take in the following situation occurring in a soccer game. An attacking player kicks the ball towards the opponent's goal. A defender (not the goal keeper) accidentally or purposely touches the ball in the penalty area but the ball enters the goal. Will a goal be allowed?

I shall be awaiting your reply.

Yours faithfully,  
Dr B

**Answer:**

Dr. B, in the situation you described, a goal should be awarded. The accidental contact of ball and hand should never be penalized. If the referee judges the handling to be deliberate, in this case, handling the ball should not be called because the offense was not successful and a goal was scored. What greater justice is there than that? If the whistle is blown, a penalty kick would have to be awarded instead, and there is still a chance it might not be successful. Thank you for your question.

**Question:**

Joe, my name is Mike and I am a coach and an "Intermediate" referee and I have a question on a situation. During a goal kick, a player places the ball on the assigned place (as he must) and kicks the ball just outside the goal area where the Goalkeeper is positioned. The goalkeeper, then dribbles the ball back into the goal area, picks up the ball and kicks it down the field. Is this allowed?

Many thanks,

Mike

**Answer:**

Hi Mike, thanks for the excellent question. On all the other restarts where the ball is kicked, it is in play when it has been touched and moves. On the other hand, a goal kick (or any other free kick taken by the defending team from within its own penalty area) is not in play until the whole of the ball has passed completely outside of the penalty area. In the situation you described, the kick should be retaken because it did not leave the penalty area and was therefore not yet in play. If the ball is touched or played by any other player before it is kicked beyond the penalty area from a goal kick it must be retaken.

If a player other than the goalkeeper takes the goal kick and kicks the ball to the goalkeeper who is positioned outside the penalty area this is legal, but the goalkeeper may not play the ball with his hands. According to Law 12, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team, if the goalkeeper touches the ball with his hands inside his own penalty area after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate. If the goalkeeper deliberately touches the ball with his hands while he is outside the penalty area, a direct free kick should be awarded the opposing team.

I hope this answers your question.