

LAW 12 FOULS & MISCONDUCT

What are the fouls?

They must be committed by a player, against his opponent or the ball, while the ball is in play, on the field of play

There are ten fouls for which **DIRECT FREE KICKS** are awarded.

(They are often called the "Penal Fouls")

The following six are fouls if the referee considers the player's actions as careless, reckless or involving excessive force:

One with the body:

- Charging an opponent

Two with the hand or arm:

- Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
- Pushing an opponent

Three with the legs or feet:

- Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
- Tripping or attempting to trip an opponent
- Jumping at an opponent

The following four are also fouls:

- When tackling an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball
- Holding an opponent
- Spitting at an opponent (this is also misconduct for which the player must be sent off)
- Deliberately handling the ball, except by a goalkeeper inside his own penalty area

If one of these ten (penal) fouls is committed by a player inside his own penalty area, a penalty kick, rather than a direct free kick, is awarded to the opponents.

There are seven fouls for which **INDIRECT FREE KICKS** are awarded

(They are often called the "Non-Penal Fouls")

Three committed by any player

- Playing dangerously (involving an opponent)
- Impeding the progress of an opponent (previously called obstruction)
- Preventing a goalkeeper from releasing the ball into play

Four committed by a goalkeeper:

- Taking more than six seconds while controlling the ball with his hands before releasing it into play
- Touching the ball again with his hands after it has been released into play and has not touched any other player
- Touching the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate
- Touching the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate

There are other technical infractions for which indirect free kicks are awarded such as offside, playing the ball a second time (before it is played by or touches another player) by the player who restarts play and on certain encroachment by the attacking team at the taking of a penalty kick.

Misconduct – Caution (Yellow Card) and Send off (Red Card)

A player is **CAUTIONED** and shown a **Yellow card** if he commits:

1. Dissent by word or action
2. Unsporting behavior
3. Persistent infringement of the Laws
4. Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
5. Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
6. Delaying the restart of play
7. Failing to respect the required distance at a corner kick or free kick

A player is **SENT OFF** and shown a **Red card** if he commits:

1. Serious Foul Play
2. Violent Conduct
3. Spitting at anyone
4. Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (does not apply to the goalkeeper in his own penalty area)
5. Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
6. Using offensive, abusive or insulting language or gestures
7. Receiving a second caution in the same match

In addition to cautioning or sending off the player, the referee will give an indirect free kick to the opposing team unless the offense included a foul calling for a direct free kick or penalty kick. A player who receives a second caution in the same game must be sent off; the referee must first show the yellow card, followed immediately by the red card. A player may, however, be sent off and shown the red card without ever having been cautioned. A player who is sent off once the game has started may not be replaced.