

Guidance on the Application of the New Rules

24 April 2025

This document aims to clarify and uniformly enforce the new football rules. It was developed in consultation with the National Referees Panel and the Football Review Committee.

Following the meeting with the Football Referees Championship Panel and the FRC, additional guidance regarding the application of the Rules is provided below.

Solo and Go

The Solo & Go - the responsibility of the player taking the Solo & Go is not to charge at an opponent, and the responsibility of a player defending is not to tackle inside 4m from where the Solo & Go was taken.

Kick Out Mark

The Kick Out Mark, where the player plays on immediately, is the responsibility of the player who makes the Kick Out Mark not to charge at an opponent, and the responsibility of a player defending not to tackle inside 4m from where the Kick Out Mark was taken.

Over Carrying

There is evidence of players Overcarrying the ball, a reminder that a player in possession may only carry the ball for a maximum of four consecutive steps.

Advancing the Ball from Free kick

Evidence of players advancing the ball deliberately from the place at which a free kick was to be taken and the use of vanishing foam inside the 65m line to prevent such.

Category II Infractions – Cynical Behaviour

Evidence of players deliberately preventing an opponent in possession of the ball from moving/playing the ball by holding up their opponent. This is colloquially known by the referees as a "Wrap Tackle".

Examples:

Clip 1: <https://vimeo.com/1078316086/9eb5e06cf9?ts=0&share=copy>

Clip 2: <https://vimeo.com/1078316114/5fcd42e468?ts=0&share=copy>

Dissent

Evidence of players showing dissent - a reminder that it is a 50m penalty if a player shows dissent with the Referee's decision to award a free to the opposing team.

4/3 Structure

If a goalkeeper is taking a 45 or free kick inside the opposing half, for the purposes of during play and a team having a least 4 players in their half of the field, the ball is in play once it has been kicked after the Referee has given a signal to restart play i.e. a team should not be penalised for a 4/3 Structure breach before the ball is kicked for a kickout/45/ free kick.

Black Card infraction and advantage is awarded to the team in possession

When a Category II infraction (cynical behaviour) is committed, the Referee may allow the play to continue if the Referee considers that this presents the potential of a goal scoring opportunity or another advantage to the team offended. If no advantage is accruing to the team offended, the referee will take the ball back to the point of the Category II infraction and the offender shall be shown a Black Card.

Head High Tackle and Neck Restraint Guidelines.

A reminder that if a player strikes or attempts to strike an opponent to the head or face or if they interfere with or apply any form of restraint to the neck or throat area of an opponent, this constitutes behaviour which is dangerous to an opponent and should be treated as a Category III Infraction, as adopted by Central Council on 18 January 2025.