

SAYSO HAWK NEWS

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Commissioner's Update

The 2011 Fall Season is now completely underway. Both of our playing fields are going strong.

Every week you get articles on all the do's and don'ts and what we all have to do. This week I am complimenting the entire region for a great game day last Saturday on both fields. No cards and one ejection.

Keep up the volunteering and I wish everyone a great Saturday on the pitch.

Sincerely,
Russell S. Platamone
Simi Valley Region 121 Regional Commissioner

**Stats will be
available next
week**

The Price of a Goal \$

As a coach and a referee I hear a lot of things being said during a game. The one thing that I find shocking is the price a parent pays for a goal. I've heard some kids bragging that they get a \$1, \$5 and as much as \$20 a goal. This paying for goals causes problems out on the field. Kids stop passing the ball to open players, which sometimes results in a missed goal. Some kids won't pass the ball to a player knowing that that player won't pass it back because they have to score to get paid. It's OK to reward a player for playing a good game but; don't promote "ball hogging". If it weren't for the midfielders getting the ball to strikers, or the defenders deflecting a strike and rebounding the ball to their teammates, no one would score. Soccer is a TEAM sport and once a player is benefiting from an independent success, they will no

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REFEREE CORNER

“Hand ball, Ref!”

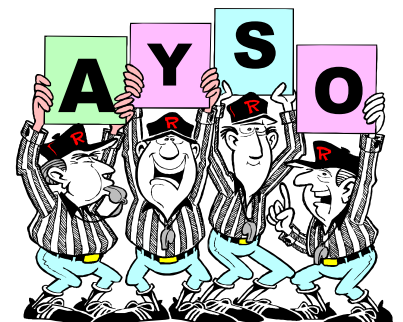
By Keith Krasnigor, Referee Administrator

While refereeing several games this past weekend (and observing several others) it has become apparent that we need to review just what the *Laws of the Game* say about “deliberate handling of the ball” or as we hear it from the touchlines, “Hand ball, Ref!”

Law 12 describes “**deliberate handling of the ball**” as an offence for any player to handle the ball deliberately, except for the goalkeeper in his or her own penalty area. The hand includes the fingers all the way up to the outside portion of the shoulder. The key to this offence is that the player *deliberately* handles the ball. This occurs in several ways: (1) the player purposefully moves the hand or arm toward the ball, making contact with it; (2) the ball strikes the hand or arm, and then the player uses that contact to redirect or manipulate the ball in some way; or (3) the hand or arm is in an unnatural playing position (e.g., extended outward or above the head) and the ball strikes the hand or arm. The result is a Direct Free Kick for the opposition (or a Penalty Kick if it occurs in the defenders’ penalty area).

If the ball simply and accidentally strikes the player’s hand or arm then no offence has occurred such as when the ball may bounce up from the ground. This even includes situations where the accidental contact actually results in some advantage for the player or the team. If it is not deliberate, it is not an offence. A reflexive, defensive action taken as a ball travels at high velocity toward a player is usually not an offence if the player really had little time to do anything else to protect himself or herself (e.g., move out of the way, legally play the ball, etc.) and doesn’t then use the contact to purposefully redirect the ball (e.g., when the ball strikes the player who is defending himself or herself, he or she then extends the arm outward, manipulating the ball).

We hope that this primer on deliberate handling of the ball has been useful and allows you to recognize when handling should actually be called, and that most occurrences of the ball contacting the hand or arm are NOT offences. In fact, experienced referees will tell you that they can go several games without calling a deliberately handled ball.





Ask The Coach

Coaches have to deal with all sorts of scenarios week in and week out. Each week John will address a question that has been sent in by an AYSO coach. If you have a question that you want answered please e-mail John (heycoach@ayso.org).

This week's question is: Why we don't have goalkeepers on the U-7 teams. How should I respond?

Answer: This is a common question parents of the younger players have. Soccer games without goalkeepers provide a better experience for 5, 6 and 7 year olds for several reasons, which is why not only AYSO but also U.S. Soccer, the national governing body of soccer in America, discourages the use of goalkeepers at the U-8 level and below.

First of all, the goalkeeper is denied a chance to run around and chase the ball. The boy or girl who must guard the goal is being prevented from doing what he or she signed up for - play soccer!

Depending on the game, the young goalkeeper is also likely to get bored (if the action is on the other end) or get discouraged if the ball keeps flying into the goal.

In their early experiences with soccer, we want young players to shoot on goal as much as possible because striking the ball is such an important skill for players to master. Young kids are more likely to shoot often when there's no goalkeeper. With a goalkeeper there, they become apprehensive, looking for the perfect shot that they are not physically mature enough to pull off.

Nor are the very young kids physically prepared to make saves. They may get in front of a tough shot now and again, but they just don't have the tools for the position's requirements and are inclined to feel devastated when scored upon.

Also, not using goalkeepers makes the coach's job much easier because the coach doesn't need to cajole players into taking turns in goal.

Coaches and parents who have soccer knowledge, but not much experience with coaching young children, are most often the proponents of including goalkeepers in soccer games with even our youngest kids. They mean well, but don't realize that there is a more effective way of teaching soccer skills at this early age.

The use of goalkeepers at such young ages creates a temptation for the coach to make his bigger and more advanced athletes play goalkeeper, because this will greatly increase his team's chances of winning. In other words, the use of goalkeepers encourages the results-driven approach to coaching that hinders long-term player development and can suck the fun out of soccer. The players who are more advanced athletically at the young ages shouldn't be kept from enjoying field play so that the coach can rack up some wins.

In the worst-case scenario, players who are forced to play goalkeeper at the early ages lose their enthusiasm for the soccer.

When goalkeepers are used, at the U-10 level for example, the goalkeepers should be rotated frequently. Even players who enjoy playing goalkeeper should not be restricted to the position and should get plenty of time playing in the field. Players shouldn't specialize at any one position until they are well into their teens.

Many of the nation's best goalkeepers - Hope Solo, Tim Howard, Brad Friedel and AYSO alum Brad Guzan - spent much of their youth as field players. This not only prevented them from burning out on the position, but honed great foot skills and their ability to read the game, which is crucial to being a good goalkeeper.