

Massachusetts State Referee Committee



Detailed Considerations for Decision Making Advantage & Tactical Fouls

ADVANTAGE

- Does the player or team maintain control of the ball?
- Does the player or team have clear possibility to control the ball?
- Is there a clear benefit to the attacking team to allow play to continue?
- Does the attacking player have space to progress?
- Are the player's teammates in position to continue the attack?
- Did the offence occur in the attacking third of the field?
- Is the foul necessary to establish or maintain match control?
- Does the offence occur in or near an area of the field that magnifies its impact on match control?
- Did the offence occur in the middle third of the field?
- Is the offence committed near the penalty area?
- Would a free kick be a greater benefit to the attacking team?
- Did the offence occur in the defensive third of the field?
- Was the foul reckless?
- Is there a high likelihood of retaliation against the player who committed the offence?
- Has the player who committed the offense already received a caution earlier in the game?
- Is the offence serious foul play or an act of violent conduct?

STOPPING A PROMISING ATTACK (SPA)

- What was the direction of play?
- What is the distance between the offence and the goal?
- Were other defenders in good positions to defend the attack?
- If the offence occurred in the penalty area, was it an attempt to play the ball?
- Was there clear space for the attacker to dribble, move, or pass into?
- Were other attackers in good positions to be options to continue the attack?
- Did the defender commit a handball offence to prevent a pass or through-ball to an open attacker?
- Was the offence a handball that stopped a **shot** from heading towards the goal?

DENYING A GOAL OR A GOAL-SCORING OPPORTUNITY (DOGSO)

- What was the **direction** of play?
- What is the **distance** between the offence and the goal?
- Does the player have **control** or a high likelihood to gain control of the ball?

- Are any **defenders** located where they can defend the attack?
- Does the offence lead to a direct free kick or an indirect free kick?
- If the offence occurred in the penalty area, was it an attempt to play the ball?
- Did the offence occur outside the penalty area?
- If no offence were to occur, would the player have an **OBVIOUS** opportunity to score a goal?
- Did the player commit a handball offence that denied an **OBVIOUS** goal from being scored by the opposing team?