

# Massachusetts State Referee Committee



## Detailed Considerations for Decision Making Judging Foul Severity

### FAIR OR FOUL?

- Is the challenge committed in a fair manner or a careless manner?
- Is the foul necessary to establish or maintain match control?
- Does the player show a lack of attention or consideration when making the challenge?
- Does the player act with disregard for the danger to the opponent?
- Does the player act with disregard for the consequences to the opponent?
- Are the players actions due to frustration or desperation?
- Is the player retaliating for a previous incident?
- Does the foul occur in or near an area of the field that magnifies its impact on match control?
- Are there mixed considerations?
- Are the players actions due to anger?
- Does the player show malice when making the challenge?
- Does the challenge endanger the safety of the opponent?
- Does the player exceed the necessary use of force when making the challenge?
- Does the player use brutality against an opponent when making the challenge?
- Does the player lunge at an opponent from the front, from the side, or from behind?
- Is the foul an act of violent conduct or of serious foul play?

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR SEVERITY

- What is the mode of contact?
- What is the point of contact?
- What degree of speed, intensity or force does the player use when making the challenge?
- What distance does the player travel to commit the challenge?
- In which direction is the challenge coming from?
- Does the player use their arm as a “tool” or a “weapon”?
- Is there secondary movement?

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR TIMING

- Does the player have a chance to play the ball in a fair manner?
- Does the ball change direction after the challenge?
- Does the player touch the ball before making contact with the opponent?
- Does the player make fair or unfair contact with the opponent while the ball is present?
- Does the player make contact with the player after the ball is gone?