

## **TCSRO SPRING 2023 QUIZ ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS EVALUATING FOULS**

### Video Quiz Analysis

- Clips are evaluated without context as much as possible (though some clips here do have some contextual considerations)
- The fouls and misconduct decisions are (mostly) aimed at what “is” or “is not” a foul or misconduct. If there is more to a clip, it will be noted in the clip analysis.

### How to Evaluate Fouls and Considerations

- Use the “considerations” in evaluating fouls and misconduct.
  - Fouls and misconduct have elements or “considerations”
  - Considerations make *you* better at correctly recognizing fouls and misconduct
  - Considerations also make it easier for you to explain your decision—and to explain it quickly. This will help curb dissent.
- The most recent FIFA Considerations can be found on the TCSRO Education Page under “Documents.”

### NFHS vs. USSF/IFAB

- The clips reference NFHS Rules and the IFAB Laws. References to the Rules and Laws are included for each clip
- Today, most of the Rules and Laws have come into agreement, and, as a practical matter, most of the interpretations and applications really do not differ in substantial ways—the days of letting players kill each other is gone in USSF and College games.
- *Safety* is the number one priority at every level except the professional game.

### Format of Analysis

- There is a decision for each clip
- Analysis of each clip using the considerations are below
- Each clip has a longer analysis clip you can view using the included links
- Most clips have a “further analysis” that analyzes positive actions by the crew, areas for improvement by the crew, positioning, build-up to the incident, and other factors. Als included are tips and advice for improving your game!

## CLIP 1: RECKLESS PLAY (UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR)

Richfield vs. Worthington  
(2022 MSHSL State Tournament Quarter Final – Boys 2A)

QUIZ CLIP: <https://youtu.be/yuG2Gxd-2wY>

ANALYSIS CLIP: <https://youtu.be/1tmWTkThb9s>



### Decision

**Direct Free Kick.  
Yellow Card.**



“Reckless Play” occurs when “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.” NFHS Rule 18-kk.<sup>1</sup> Unsporting behavior is punished with a caution and includes reckless play

### Analysis

- *Who played the ball?* Black
- *Who initiated the contact?* White initiates the contact
- *Where was the point of contact?* White plays the ball, but then slides through Black. Contact occurs between White’s leg and Black’s foot/lower leg.
- *First contact with ball or player?* White makes contact with the ball before sliding through the opponent.
- *Studs Exposed?* Studs are pointed away from the opponent. Trail leg is bent
- *Speed/Distance/Intensity?* White is sprinting in from distance, leaves feet, not going to be able to stop
- *Chance to Play Ball in Fair Manner?* Not with this slide.
- *Did the Challenge put Opponent in a Dangerous Position?* Yes, at this speed and distance, the inevitable result was sliding through opponent’s leg. White shows no precaution in making the tackle

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<sup>1</sup> This is identical to [Law 12 of the IFAB Laws of the Game](#): “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.”

- *Malicious?* White’s challenge is reckless, but not malicious. He slides at and wins the ball, and his foot is at/near ground level (not at ankle or above)

**It is important referees recognize that this is a foul.** This is reckless play. Yes, slide tackles are legal (and when done right, they are enjoyable to see). White even wins the ball, but his play is still *reckless* because he showed “disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent.” Even if White got “all ball,” the play is reckless given the speed, distance, and possibility of injury. If White’s timing were off, his foot higher, and/or the opponent moved or played the ball, this might be a serious injury to Black. (The fact the contact is so low and made while actually challenging for the ball is what distinguishes this from a “must” red card. Compare this to Clip 6 below, the USL-C Colorado Springs vs. Pittsburgh red-card slide tackle.) Putting a stop to these kinds of challenges right away will prevent further bad challenges and retaliation because the players will know the referee has got this. Referees can and should admonish the player he needs to be more controlled because he could have hurt someone and gotten a red.

(This is the same kind of reckless slide tackle as in the Cretin Derham Hall vs. Humboldt Clip from the last quiz.)

Decision: White committed a reckless slide tackle, tripping the opponent. A direct free kick and caution should be given.

#### Further Analysis of the Situation

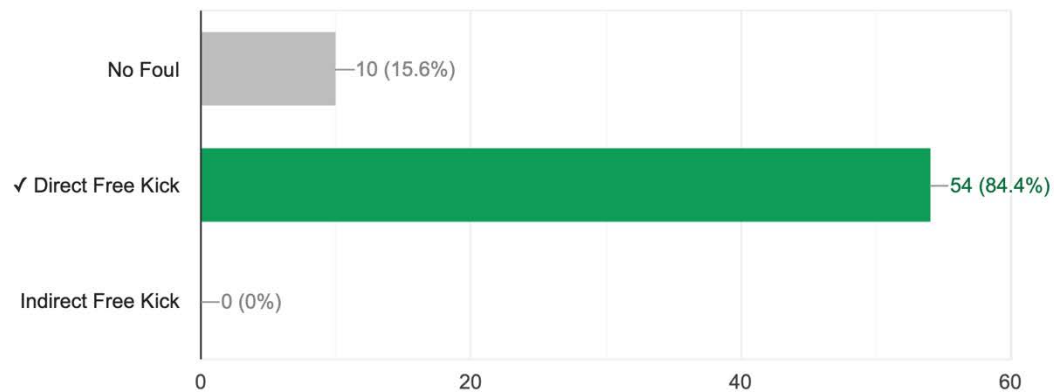
- *First off, what did the officials miss?* The yellow card! In the midst of the commotion, the referee did not actually caution the offender. There is a big, public display, but the offender needed to be booked for this conduct.
  - This is the *referee’s* responsibility, but the crew needs to be prepared to discreetly let the referee know.
  - The Fourth Official or AR1 can offer *input* but should not *insist* here. They could call the referee over before play restarts and say, “do you want to give a yellow for that? It was number X.” They should *not* shout, “you *have to* give X a card!” Do not tie your teammate’s hands.
- *What happens after this reckless slide tackle?* Black is *rightfully* very unhappy! He just got taken out without any provocation.
- *Where did this happen?* In a hot zone! This foul occurred bench side almost directly in the middle and almost on the touchline. How quickly could field players get there? How quickly could *bench* players get there or coaches? Officials need to be very aware of the potential for serious problems.
- *What did the officials do?* Teamwork, Prevention, and Pre-Game!!! Referee called the foul and moves toward the play. Luckily, this game had a Fourth Official who was close

and immediately moved and started talking to the players. AR1 also came up the line toward the scene to help manage. The *crew*—as a team—made sure the two players were separated. Preventative Officiating headed off a potential confrontation between these players and a mass confrontation

- *How did the officials know what to do? Teamwork and Pre-Game.* This type of scenario was explicitly discussed by the crew *before the game*:
  - Fourth Official – primarily responsible for benches if something happens unless it's happening in front of the Fourth Official
  - AR1 – if Fourth Official has to deal with something, AR1 takes over benches
  - Proactive: Fourth Official *immediately* stepped in *before* anything bad could happen. Referee was present and moving White player away from Black *before* anything happened
  - Black did not have to take care of it himself because the *crew* dealt with it
  - If the crew had not functioned as a team and managed this, the potential for a fight or mass confrontation would have quickly increased.

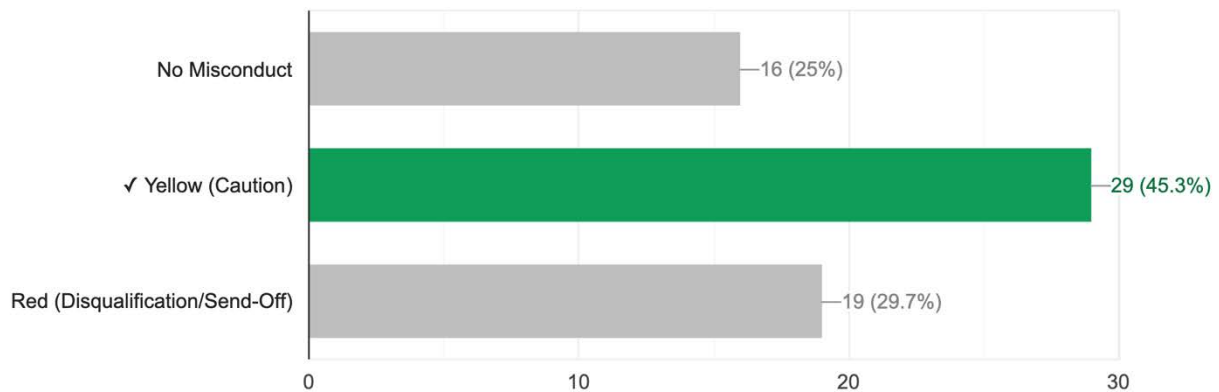
#### Select the Foul (if any) (Rich v Worth)

54 / 64 correct responses



Select the Misconduct (if Any) (Rich v Worth)

29 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 2: NO FOUL**  
**St. Thomas Academy vs. Simley**  
**2022 MSHSL Sectional Play**

CLIP: <https://youtu.be/HtEyp2nAg0w>

ANALYSIS: <https://youtu.be/dkspD3pFkE8>



**Decision**

**No Foul.**  
**No Misconduct.**



“A player shall not trip, or attempt to trip, an opponent. This includes tripping or attempting to trip an opponent by use of the legs, or by stooping in front or behind an opponent in such a manner as to cause a fall or loss of balance.” NFHS Rule 12-1-2.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [IFAB Law 12.1](#) provides: “A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force . . . trips or attempts to trip.”

### Tripping Considerations

- “To trip” is “to cause to stumble” or “cause to fall” or “cause to lose balance”
- Distinction between “being tripped” and “tripping over”
- Who last played the ball

### Analysis

- Both White and Blue are looking at the ball (neither of them is looking at the other player to square up and hit his opponent)
- The ball is approximately the same distance from each player
- *What happens to the ball?* The ball is travelling toward White’s goal from the touch line before White 25 puts his foot on the ball, and the ball’s direction of travel clearly changes based on White 25’s touch
- *Who last played the ball?* White 25 had the last touch on the ball?
- *Does Blue 23 trip over or get tripped by White 25?* Blue 23 continues into White 25—contact is part of the sport. White 25 does not act carelessly, and he plays the ball. Blue 23 catches White 25’s foot and there is some minor upper body contact.

Decision There is no foul here. Contact happens in soccer. White has the last play on the ball, and the ball clearly changes direction. Any contact in this case is Blue running into white or tripping over. Blue is not tripped by Blue.

### Further Analysis of Play

- *Where does this play begin?* This entire play begins in Blue’s defensive third or just into the middle third of the field.
- *What is happening and what is about to happen as the play begins?* Blue’s center back is alone—no White opponents are moving to challenge, and Blue’s movements suggest that a long pass/kick is imminent.
- *Where is the Referee?* The referee is near the center of the field. This is a good position to let play come out of the defensive third and be ready to transition if Blue can attack. The referee needs to be aware of movement elsewhere on the field as well
- *What should the Referee be anticipating?* Based on Blue’s movements, the Referee needs to see the long pass coming (and it appears it will head to AR2 as everyone is flowing that way).

- *When should the Referee begin his run?* The Referee should start his run at this point—as/before the Blue center back kicks the ball—to gain proximity to the play to avoid having to sprint to catch up.
- *What should AR2 be doing?* The AR needs to be in the proper position (with the second to last defender or ball—whichever is closer to the goal line) and be prepared to make this call. Any incident is going to be happening right in front of the AR, and the AR should make eye contact with the Referee before signaling.

Center Referee Commentary:

*I think the analysis is thorough.*

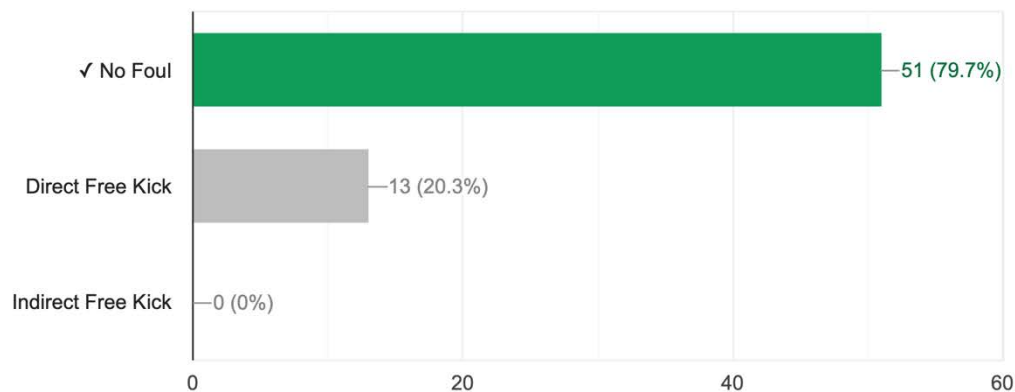
*Things I would personally highlight from this game/clip that I have since included in my pregames is the importance of the AR position in fast paced, end of season, competitive matches. This game got a little out of hand because people were not in proper position at really important times (myself included).*

*Running a line in sections or the state tournament should not be considered an “off night.”*

*This game really emphasized the importance of keeping eyes at field level and not ball watching. The ball in the air alone is not gonna cause a foul. Keep eyes down and wait for ball to come. Also if I’m going to be caught out of position I’d rather be out of position where I thought a game changing moment could take place than caught out at mid field.*

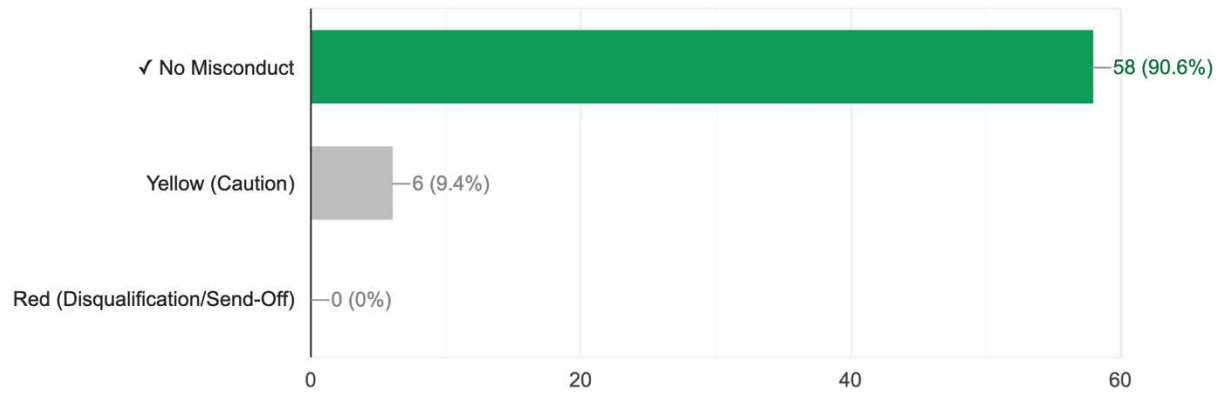
Select the Foul (if any) (STA v SIM)

51 / 64 correct responses



### Select the Misconduct (if Any) (STA v SIM)

58 / 64 correct responses





**CLIP 3: SERIOUS FOUL PLAY**  
**Delasalle vs. Hill Murray**  
**2022 MSHSL State Tournament Final – Boys**  
**2A**

QUIZ CLIP: <https://youtu.be/A0JtNARqd-w>

ANALYSIS: <https://youtu.be/L9y0Pft30Gg>



**Decision**

**Direct Free Kick.**  
**Red Card.**



“A player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for: . . . d. committing serious foul play: 1. any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick (or penalty kick if the offense takes place by a defender in the penalty area) and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball.” NFHS Rule 12-8-2-d-1<sup>3</sup>

**Considerations for Serious Foul Play**

- *Is the player challenging for the ball?* Yes, but only just. The ball is in the air, but this is a crazy challenge.
- *Where is the contact on the opponent's body?* The opponent's head! We already need to thinking misconduct at this point.
- *Does the player act with disregard for the danger to the opponent?* Yes. And Black creates the danger to the opponent here by jumping and getting his foot at the level of White's head.
- *Does the player act with disregard for the consequences to the opponent?* Yes. As with above, Black shows no concern whatsoever about what can happen when a foot strike's a head and a player crashes on top of another player.

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<sup>3</sup> [IFAB Law 12](#) states “A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off . . . serious foul play.” Law 12 defines serious foul play as “A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.” The law adds “Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.”

- *Does the player put the opponent in a dangerous situation?* Yes. As noted above—Black has specifically created this dangerous situation. This is not two players coming together and a missed tackle. Black created the danger to White.
- *Does the player have a chance to play the ball in a fair manner?* No. Black’s play (jumping up with his foot going to his opponent’s head) was not going to be fair.
- *Does the player exceed the necessary force when making the challenge?* Yes. Nothing about Black’s play here is “necessary.” And leaving his feet to jump onto and into White is excessive.
- *Who initiates the Contact?* Black initiates the contact.
- *What is the degree of speed and/or intensity when making the challenge?* Speed and intensity can vary with circumstance—particularly where the opponent’s head is involved. Additionally, Black goes up and will come down on White.
- *Does the player use his/her studs when making the tackle?* The studs are so high up at this point, it is possible, though not clear on this video, that studs made contact.

### Further Analysis

In this case, the referee needed to move toward the right (towards AR1) so that he could be in a better position to see what was happening and also get into the penalty area.

And after this foul, the referee needs to be already standing on top of the players with his card out. It would not be at all surprising if White or his teammates were upset about this and we have a fight ensue.

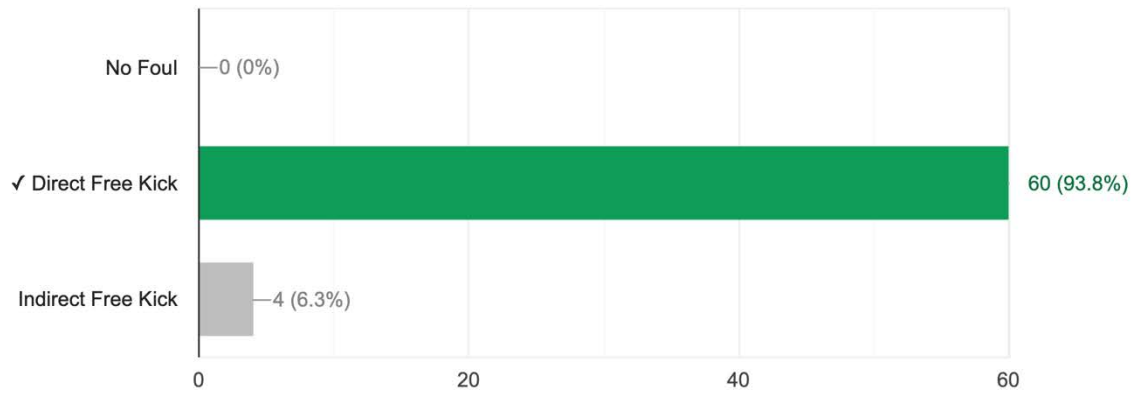
### Center Referee Comments:

*I think you have it summarized reasonably well. I did not see the point of contact live as the black defender blocked my view, but certainly a red should be justified.*

*I think the AR could have assisted me with additional information in this case, as he may have had a better view. I believe I was stationed near the top of the penalty area. A slight shift toward AR would have given me a better view as well. I believe I did not anticipate the ball would go there from the header.*

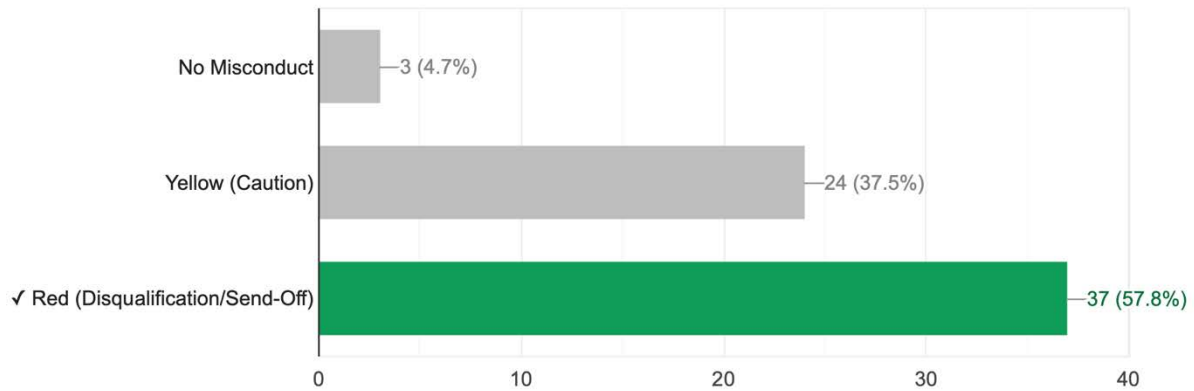
### Select the Foul (if any) (DLS v HM)

60 / 64 correct responses



### Select the Misconduct (if Any) (DLS v HM)

37 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 4: NO TRIP**  
**Academy of Holy Angels vs. Mahtomedi**  
**2022 MSHSL State Tournament Final – Girls**  
**2A**

QUIZ: [https://youtu.be/Wg\\_wQTM6\\_Is](https://youtu.be/Wg_wQTM6_Is)

ANALYSIS: [https://youtu.be/fdlR\\_JAVkmk](https://youtu.be/fdlR_JAVkmk)



**Decision**

**No Foul**  
**No Misconduct**



“A player shall not trip, or attempt to trip, an opponent. This includes tripping or attempting to trip an opponent by use of the legs, or by stooping in front or behind an opponent in such a manner as to cause a fall or loss of balance.” NFHS Rule 12-1-2.<sup>4</sup>

**Considerations**

- “To trip” is “to cause to stumble” or “cause to fall” or “cause to lose balance”
- Distinction between “being tripped” and “tripping over”
- Who last played the ball

**Analysis**

- Both White and Blue are looking at the ball (neither of them is looking at the other player to square up and hit his opponent)
- The ball is approximately the same distance from each player
- *What happens to the ball?* The ball is in movement toward White’s goal when White plays the ball and the goes back up the field toward Blue’s goal
- *Who last played the ball?* White
- *Does Blue 23 trip over or get tripped by White 25?*

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<sup>4</sup> [IFAB Law 12.1](#) provides: “A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force . . . trips or attempts to trip.”

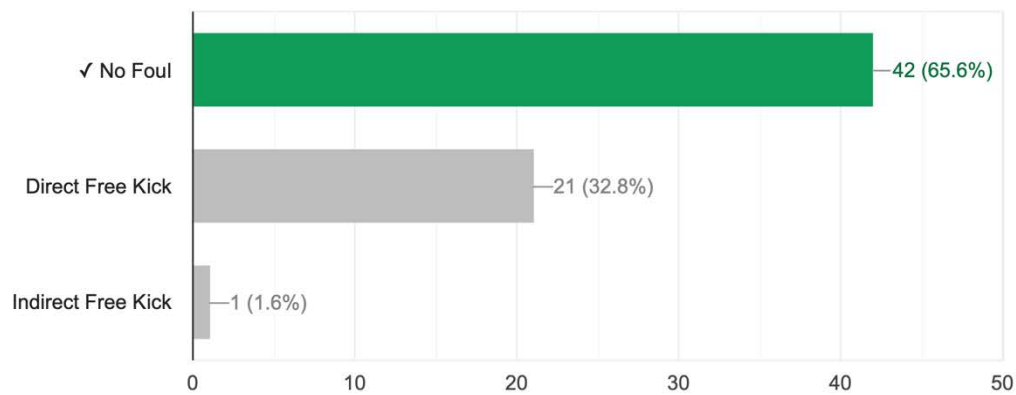
**Decision:** There is no foul here. Contact happens in soccer. White has the last play on the ball, and the ball clearly changes direction. Any contact in this case is Blue running into white or tripping over. Blue is not tripped by Blue.

This is similar to [Clip 2](#) above with STA and Simley.

**Further Analysis of Clip:** The referee is in position to see this. Referee checks to see where ball is going but also looks back to make sure that nothing bad is going to happen between two players who just went down in a heap.

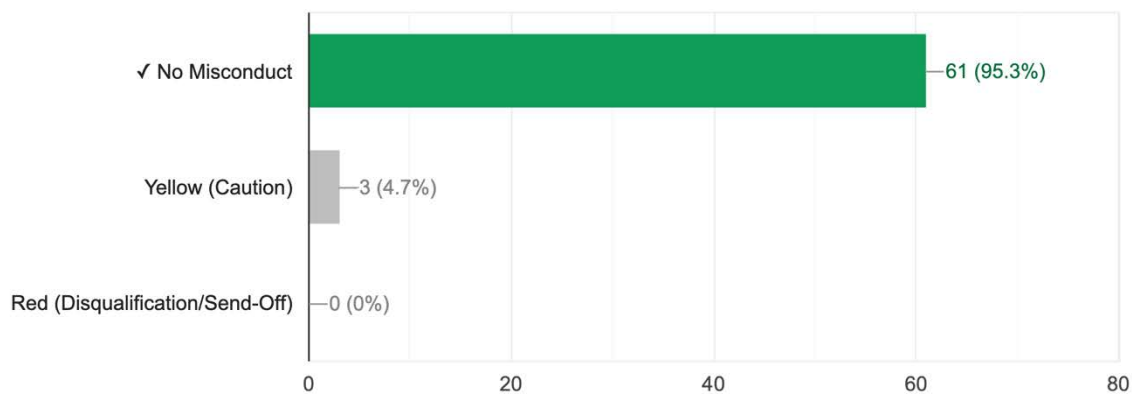
#### Select the Foul (if any) (AHA v MAH)

42 / 64 correct responses



#### Select the Misconduct (if Any) (AHA v MAH)

61 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 5: UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR**  
**Richfield v Hill Murray**  
**2022 MSHSL Boys Semi Final 2A**

QUIZ: <https://youtu.be/cKYuMSYdovA>

ANALYSIS: [https://youtu.be/d\\_w0eGk6xbk](https://youtu.be/d_w0eGk6xbk)



**Decision**  
**Direct Free Kick**  
**Yellow to Black 20**  
**No Caution to White 11**



“Reckless Play” occurs when “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.” NFHS Rule 18-kk.<sup>5</sup> Unsporting behavior is punished with a caution and includes reckless play

**Analysis**

*There is a lot going on in this clip, so please read and review thoroughly!*

First, this incident is 100% preventable. More on that later.

Second, be aware of the game circumstances. The context and build up to this kind of incident cannot be ignored—remember, the *whole* game matters and each decision you make matters.

This occurs in the 99<sup>th</sup> minute of a boys 2A state tournament semi-final. What does that mean? That means (1) the game is tied 3-3; (2) the game needs a winner; (3) it is in overtime (19<sup>th</sup> minute of overtime); (4) there is only 1 minute of play remaining before a penalty shootout (kicks from the mark); (5) the players obviously want to win and play in the state final; (6) the players and referees (without subs) have gone almost 20 minutes past a regular game.

What does all of this mean? It means we need to be on high alert all game and even more so at this point in the game. We need to be wear of the prior 98 minutes of play and any prior issues, but regardless, it is the 99<sup>th</sup> minute in an important, hotly contested game!

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<sup>5</sup> This is identical to [Law 12 of the IFAB Laws of the Game](#): “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.”

Third, this is a *crew-team* issue. Where does that begin? Pre-game! We don't know what the pre-game was here, but this is a great time to emphasize that pre-games matter! (More on that below.)

Additionally, the Assistant Referee is in the best position to see what is happening here. The Referee should check in with the AR to (1) get the information and (2) *show everyone he's getting the information* (even if the crew is using radios which they are here).

Fourth, while the video focuses a lot on the assistant referee, the center referee needs to be closer to play—again, it's the 99<sup>th</sup> minute. It's a reminder we need to get going right up until the very final whistle.

### Prevention

Okay, let's talk about *prevention*. If you haven't heard of or read Randy Vogt's Preventative Officiating, it is worth reading. Officiating soccer matches is *not* just about *reacting* to situations. Officials can do a lot to prevent fouls and manage players which makes the game safer, more fun, and more entertaining.

#### *Prevention starts with the Pre-Game!*

We often don't have time (or more likely make enough time) for thorough pre-games, but they matter especially in play-off and state tournament games where we're likely working with someone for the first time or someone we don't work with as often as well as with a fourth official. Pre-games are a two-way street—the center referee leads it, but assistant referees should ask questions and clarifications so everyone is on the same page.

A simple instruction from the center to the assistant is: if something is happening in front of you, work to prevent it and if it happens, deal with it! But be sure to discuss this because your AR might not have heard it, and if you are the AR, be sure to ask about it. An increasingly common pre-game instruction is: "there should be no fouls happening on the goal line in front of you," i.e. talk these guys out of it before it happens.

#### *Prevention is bolstered by Teamwork!*

*Generally:* Yes, the Center Referee leads the crew and has the vast majority of foul decisions, but the Assistant Referees need to help by talking to players, observing, and providing information to the Center Referee. Be prepared to make that penalty decision in the first minute even from the line just in case!

In this Clip: AR needs to be prepared to manage the players and try to head off. Referee and AR should communicate—and show the world they're communicating—before the booking decision (even if the Referee has already decided what to do!).

#### *Position makes prevention easier!*

Generally: What are the top three things to officiating soccer? Position, position, and position. You can know the rules, be fit, and work hard, but if you are not in position, you just cannot see the fouls or incidents nor can you sell your decisions!

In this Clip: AR has the primary responsibility here (again, be prepared even as an AR). The Referee should be closer to play too, but the AR is still going to have the best view. The Referee may also need to be cutting back to the left to be in position for a cross.

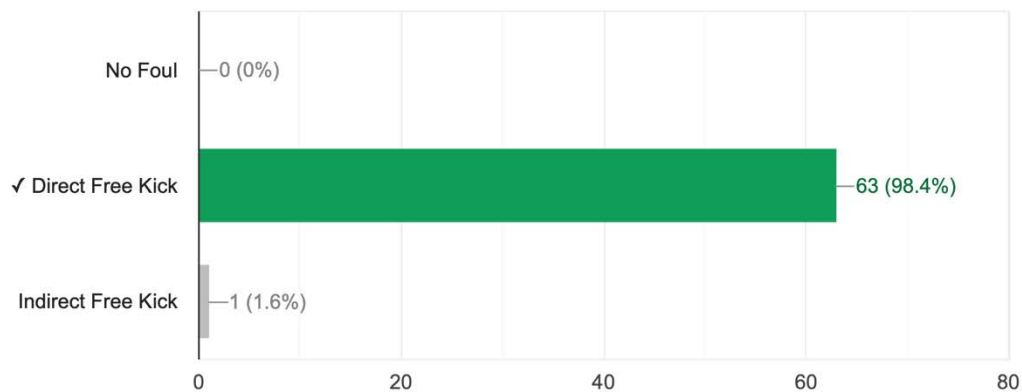
Trouble starts here when the AR is flat footed. As an AR, try to be on your toes with your knees bent—it is much easier to move quickly and from that position than from a flat foot. So as the throw is going to be taken, be ready to move!

The AR is now watching both the play and concerned with a potential offside

Yes, the Referee should be gaining better proximity to the play, but regardless of whether it's the AR or the Referee, simply making your presence known can stop trouble before it starts: “boys, we’re right here!” “I’m here!” “We’re watching!” You are just letting the know you’re there and are aware of what’s going to happen. You haven’t committed to anything, but you’ve sent the message to the players: if you commit a foul, I’m going to see it. As the contacts begin happening, you might add, “play the ball!” “Smart challenges!” “Be smart!” Try it out, and you will be surprised how many players respond to you!

Select the Foul by BLACK 20 (if any) (HM v. Rich)

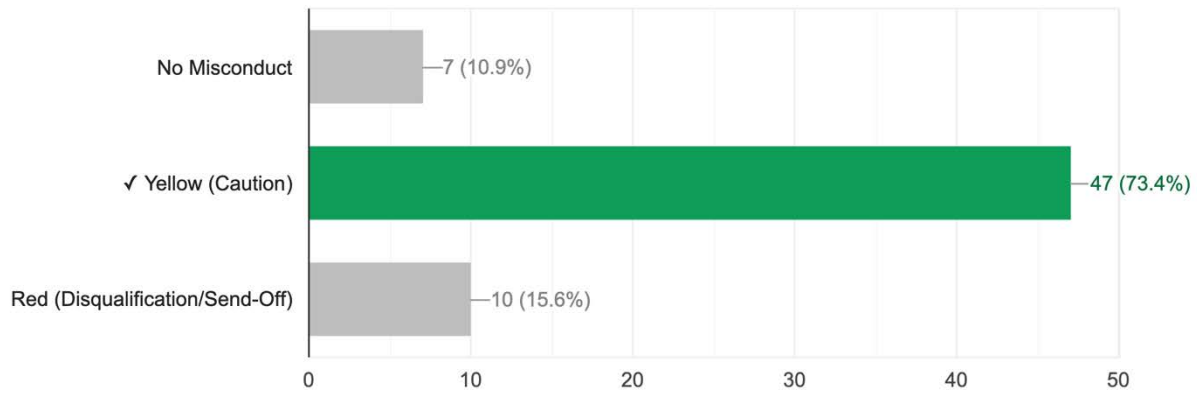
63 / 64 correct responses





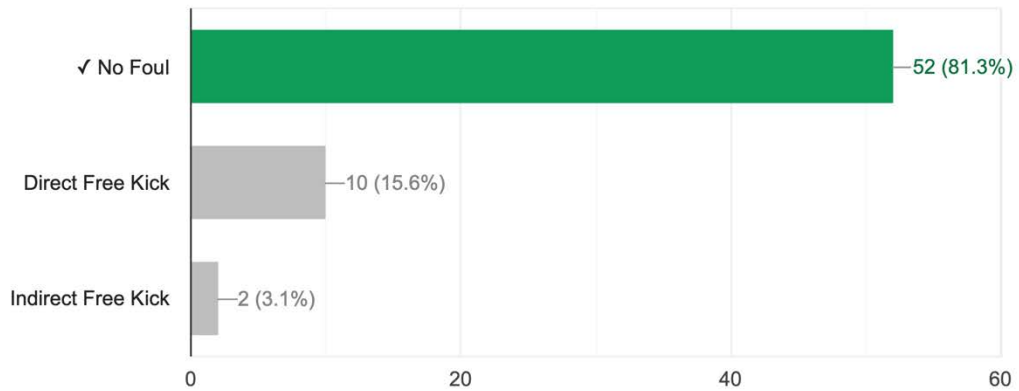
Select the Misconduct by BLACK 20 (if Any) (HM v Rich)

47 / 64 correct responses



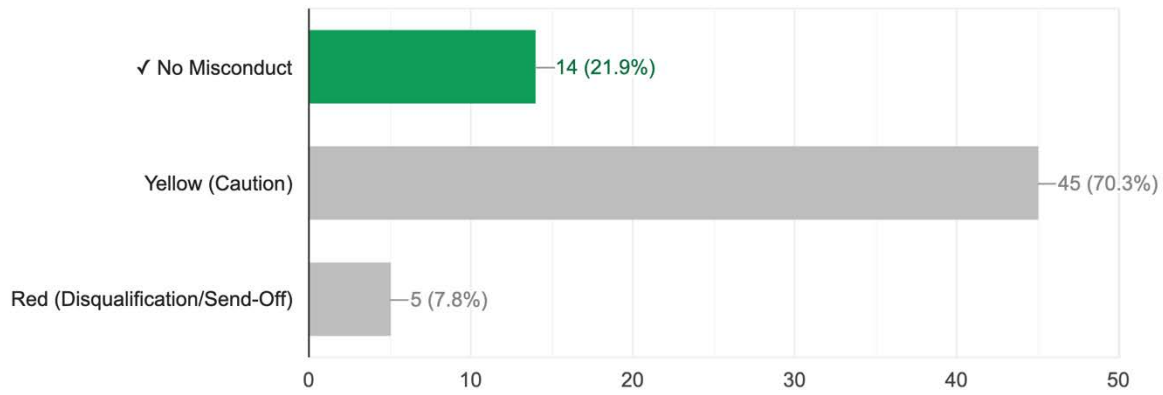
Under the circumstances in THIS CLIP, select the Foul by WHITE 11 (if any) (HM v. Rich)

52 / 64 correct responses



Under the circumstances in THIS CLIP, select the Misconduct by WHITE 11 (if Any) (HM v Rich)

14 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 6: SERIOUS FOUL PLAY**  
**Colorado Springs vs. Pittsburgh**  
**2023 USL-Championship**

Quiz Clip: [https://youtu.be/\\_ihLn5V-wcc](https://youtu.be/_ihLn5V-wcc)

Analysis: <https://youtu.be/clrMzIpiLzg>



**Decision**  
**Direct Free Kick**  
**Red to Yellow #14 for SFP**



“A player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for: . . . d. committing serious foul play: 1. any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick (or penalty kick if the offense takes place by a defender in the penalty area) and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball.”  
NFHS Rule 12-8-2-d-1<sup>6</sup>

**Considerations for Serious Foul Play**

- *Where is the contact on the opponent’s body?* Yellow studs make contact with inside, lower leg just below knee
- *Does the player act with disregard for the danger to the opponent?* Yes. Yellow comes in leg-locked, studs exposed, and studs high at speed. This won’t end well.
- *Does the player act with disregard for the consequences to the opponent?* Yes. Yellow does not show any concern and makes no attempt to play the ball or pull out of the tackle.
- *Does the player put the opponent in a dangerous situation?* Yes. As noted above, Yellow comes in with leg locked, studs exposed, and high. Blue opponent is also moving in to challenge the ball, and has foot planted (or is likely too). High risk for danger.
- *Does the player have a chance to play the ball in a fair manner?* Potentially yes. A lower foot could have had a shot, but Yellow is unlikely to win the ball.

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<sup>6</sup> [IFAB Law 12](#) states “A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off . . . serious foul play.” Law 12 defines serious foul play as “A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.” The law adds “Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.”

- *Does the player exceed the necessary force when making the challenge?* Yes. Nothing about Yellow's play here is "necessary." He does not have to come in leg-locked, studs exposed, and high on the opponent's leg.
- *Who initiates the Contact?* Yellow initiates the contact
- *What is the degree of speed and/or intensity when making the challenge?* Fairly high speed here on a slide and with leg locked it is very intense.
- *Does the player use his/her studs when making the tackle?* Yes – and high on the opponent's leg.

### Further Analysis

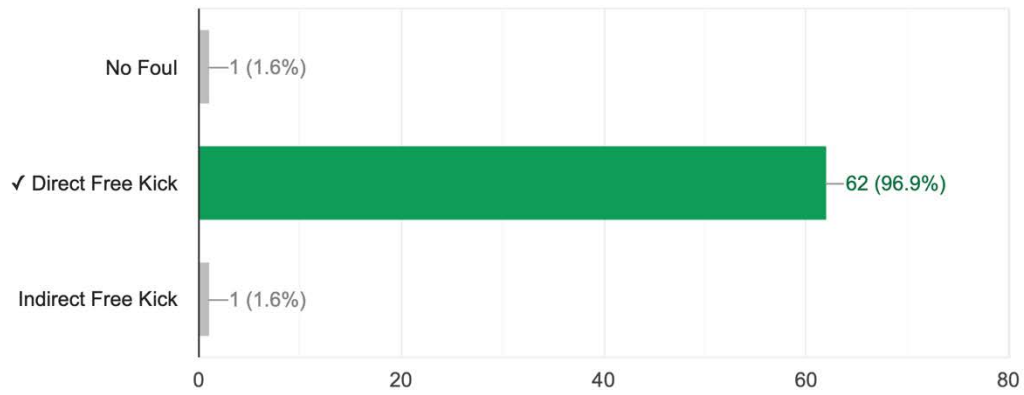
- *What clue tells us a bad tackle may be coming?* Yellow player has a bad touch that plays into space where it is likely to be contested. Referee's antennae need to be up!
- *Which officials are in position to see this happen?* The referee has a direct line of sight to the incident, and the fourth official is looking right at it. AR1 was also able to see this at least in part.
- *Communication and Teamwork.* In this case, the 4<sup>th</sup> official was letting the referee know what he had seen by radio. But the fourth official would/could/should be communicating to the center to show, yes, I've got red here. What signal will you discuss in *your* pregame for red?
- *How did the referee react?* The referee immediately and decisively blows the whistle and sprints towards the spot of the infraction. There is no hesitation, and the red card is shown.

### Assistant Referee Comments:

*It's just a straight forward SFP with a straight leg, studs, contact high on the leg with enough speed/force to make it excessive force, his leg goes over the ball so ya, you could say there's some "brutality here". The biggest learning point here is the heavy touch by the Pitt player, the sudden burst of speed as he comes into this challenge...do officials see that? Do they feel it? Are they thinking, "oh no, here it comes!" Not that it will come, but the likelihood of something bad happening is there, the "wake up, get a good angle, something big might happen here".*

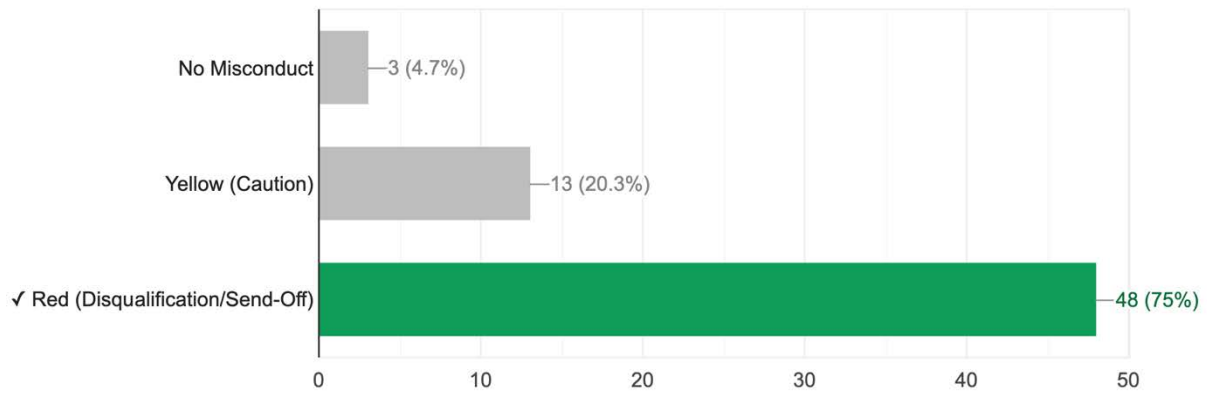
### Select the Foul (if any) (COS v PIT)

62 / 64 correct responses



### Select the Misconduct (if Any) (COS v PIT)

48 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 7: NO PASSBACK**  
**Hartford v Indiana**  
**2023 USL-Championship**

Quiz Clip: <https://youtu.be/bK2ZeekhZ18>

Analysis: <https://youtu.be/zsgnnCBqJq8>



**Decision**  
**No Foul**  
**No Misconduct**



NFHS Rule 12.7.3:<sup>7</sup> “On any occasion when a player *deliberately kicks* the ball to the team's own goalkeeper, the goalkeeper is not permitted to touch it with the hands. . . PENALTY: Indirect free kick awarded to the opponent at the spot of the violation, unless in the goal area.”

In this clip, two defenders are coming in to try to stop an attacker. Play is moving quickly toward the goal, and the defender’s touch is in the air. It’s not clear that he “deliberately” played the ball to the goalkeeper *on this video*. Most important: if you don’t call this here, don’t call it on the other end of the field.

**Further Analysis**

Note the communication between the crew. The referee checks with the assistant referee to make sure he’s not missing anything.

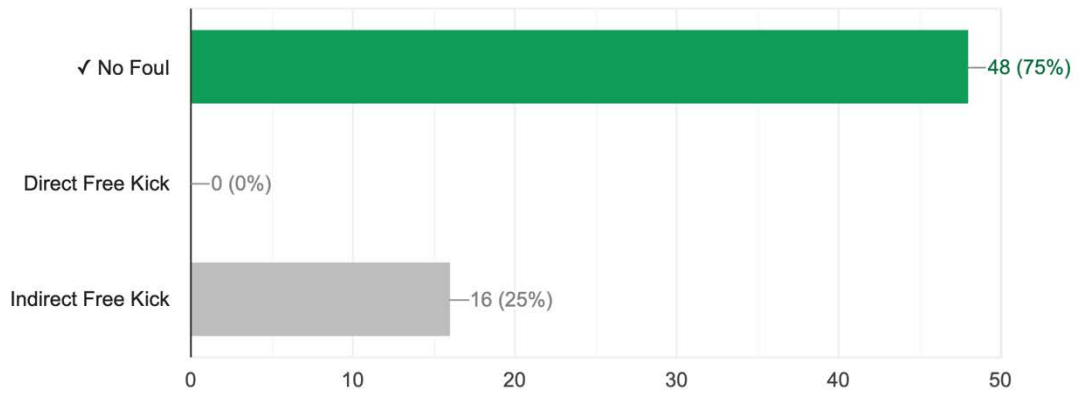
Importantly, once the play is going to change, the referee begins changing his position and gets back up the field for the next phase of play.

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<sup>7</sup> NFHS Rule 12.7.3 is similar to [IFAB Law 12.2](#), and, importantly, both require a *deliberate* kick to the keeper. [IFAB Law 12.2](#) provides: “An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, . . . touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after: it has been *deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate* . . .” Both also punish trickery (flicking ball up to use other body part as well as for the goalkeeper picking up the ball form a deliberate throw-in to the goal keeper.

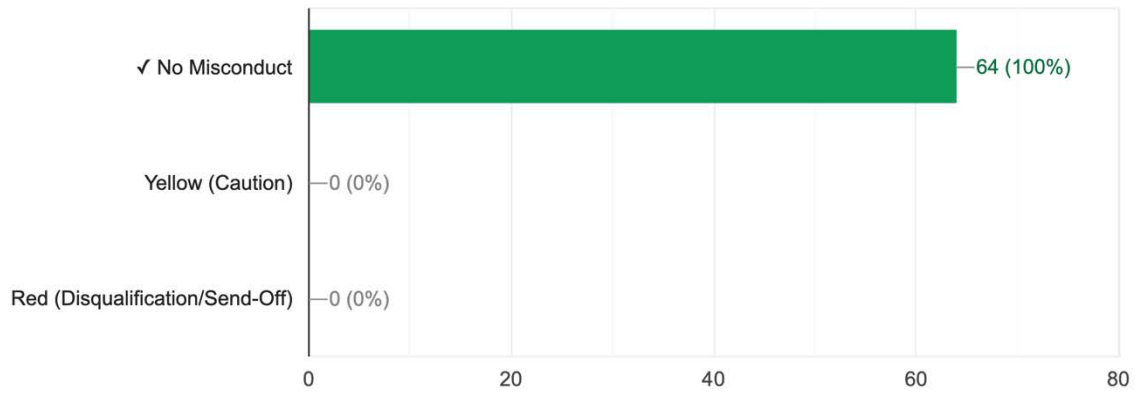
### Select the Foul (if any) (HFD v IND)

4 / 64 correct responses



### Select the Misconduct (if Any) (HFD v IND)

64 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 8: UNSPORTING OR SFP**  
**Austin v Hill Murray**  
**2022 MSHSL State Quarter Final – 2A**

QUIZ: <https://youtu.be/J3xWMBpZP3M>

ANALYSIS:



**Decision**  
**Direct Free Kick**  
**Yellow to 20 for Unsporting Behavior**



“A player shall not . . . jump at an opponent.”  
NFHS Rule 12-1-1<sup>8</sup>

“Reckless Play” occurs when “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.” NFHS Rule 18-kk.<sup>9</sup> Unsporting behavior is punished with a caution and includes reckless play.

**or**

**Red to 20 for Serious Foul Play**  
**(yes, it could depend here)**



“A player, coach or bench personnel shall be disqualified (red card) for: . . . d. committing serious foul play: 1. any play in which the player commits one of the offenses punishable with a direct free kick (or penalty kick if the offense takes place by a defender in the penalty area) and uses disproportionate and unnecessary force against an opponent while playing for the ball.” NFHS Rule 12-8-2-d-1<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> [IFAB Law 12](#) also expressly makes jumping at an opponent a foul: “A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force: . . . jumps at . . .”

<sup>9</sup> This is identical to [Law 12 of the IFAB Laws of the Game](#): “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.”

<sup>10</sup> [IFAB Law 12](#) states “A player, substitute or substituted player who commits any of the following offences is sent off . . . serious foul play.” Law 12 defines serious foul play as “A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality must be sanctioned as serious foul play.” The law adds “Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play.”



Quick Note: *Context matters in this clip!*

This clip is probably the most context-specific clip TCSRO has looked at. While we want to try to avoid highly contextual clips, we cannot ignore the circumstances, the game atmosphere, the specific players involved, the importance of the specific game, etc. This clip provides a lot of things to consider and analyze.

First, **if the offending player’s arm makes any contact with the opponent’s head, then this is a straight red**—no question. Contact to the opponent’s head at that speed is excessive, disregards the danger to the opponent, and is unreasonable and unnecessary.

Second, it is critical the referee recognize **this incident on its own is something more than a yellow**. If this is not a red it is “orange.”

#### Considerations for jumping at

“Jumping at” is well *jumping at* the opponent. The player leaves his/her feet and direction toward (or at) the opponent.

Black 20 leaves his feet and his motion is at (toward) the goal keeper.

#### Considerations for Serious Foul Play

- *Where is the contact on the opponent’s body?* As noted above, if this is the opponent’s head, this is immediately a red card. No question. As it stands *in this video clip*, the contact does not appear to be with the opponent-goalkeeper’s head. The contact appears to be side/shoulder to side/shoulder/torso of goalkeeper.
- *Does the player act with disregard for the danger to the opponent?* Yes. Black has come from distance and with speed before leaving his feet and, thus, the goalkeeper is exposed to danger which Black disregarded before initiating the action.
- *Does the player act with disregard for the consequences to the opponent?* Yes. See above.
- *Does the player put the opponent in a dangerous situation?* Yes, see above. Black’s actions expose the White goalkeeper to a potential fall which can include significant injury, particularly where the goalkeeper is not expecting (nor should he expect) the jump.
- *Does the player have a chance to play the ball in a fair manner?* No. Black had no opportunity to play the ball.

- *Does the player exceed the necessary force when making the challenge?* Yes. First, there is no likely opportunity to get to the ball here and jumping into an opponent from this distance is unnecessary itself.
- *Who initiates the Contact?* Black initiates the contact.
- *Does the player use brutality against the opponent?* Maybe. This is another consideration here.
- *What is the degree of speed and/or intensity when making the challenge?* As noted above, Black 22 built up in the run for this. It is a forceful challenge.
- *Does the player use his/her studs when making the tackle?* No.

#### Considerations for UB

- *Who played the ball?* The keeper caught and won the ball well ahead of Black 22 jumping in.
- *Who initiated the contact?* Black 22 initiated the contact.
- *Where was the point of contact?* Black jumps in – contact is shoulder to body (again, note, if the contact is to the head, this is not just reckless, but excessive and it must be a red)
- *First contact with ball or player?* Black does not make contact with the ball—he is jumping into the goalkeeper
- *Speed/Distance/Intensity?* Black is *running* and *jumping*
- *Chance to Play Ball in Fair Manner?* No. Nor an attempt
- *Did the Challenge put Opponent in a Dangerous Position?* Yes, with speed and distance and the jump into the keeper puts the goalkeeper in a dangerous position.
- *Malicious?* Maybe.

#### Further Analysis of the Clip

Again, this clip is *highly contextual*.

- *What has been happening with Black 22 leading up to this point?*
  - Less than 1 minute before this, a White player was cautioned for unsporting behavior for a foul against Black 22

<https://youtu.be/2FAc9m0Aspg>

- *What kind of game is this?* This is the State Tournament 2A Quarter Final – 4<sup>th</sup> seed versus random draw—so potential for hot contest and the game requires a winner.
- *Does the referee take control here?* Yes. The referee hits his whistle and is sprinting to the spot of the foul—*before* the goalkeeper’s teammates can handle this problem themselves. Get in there and manage. Again, you can prevent trouble just by being present.
- *Position, Position, Position.* Referee needs to be in position in White’s defending half and wide to see into this. Given where this might happen on the field, keep getting close to the play—don’t slow down. Remember, play to the whistle! And *you* have the whistle.
- *Who else might see this/should be watching?* This is an excellent opportunity for AR2 to be alert and watching. The trail AR (AR2 here) needs to stay engaged for exactly this reason. In this instance, play is largely done and keeping an eye off the ball is not as important. AR2 also has an opportunity to see Black 22 coming in with speed. If this is a red card, AR2 should let the center referee know. AR1 is busy with offside and the 4<sup>th</sup> is probably not in the greatest angle to see what happened here
- *Does your pre-game cover this kind of event and officials’ respective duties?* Pre-games solve a lot by getting you and your team on the same page. Ideally, ARs should know already to stay alert, but in the pre-game, discuss what to do here. “ARs (and fourth), especially trail AR, keep your eyes open and stay alert. Watch behind my back, and please get the number of any offender.” And let them know, “call me over if we have to talk.” AR2 would not have to jump up and down here, but AR2 could call the center over for information.
- *Where did this happen?* This is a hot zone—right outside the goal, and there are a lot of other players around who might be pretty unhappy about what just happened.

Center Referee’s Comments:

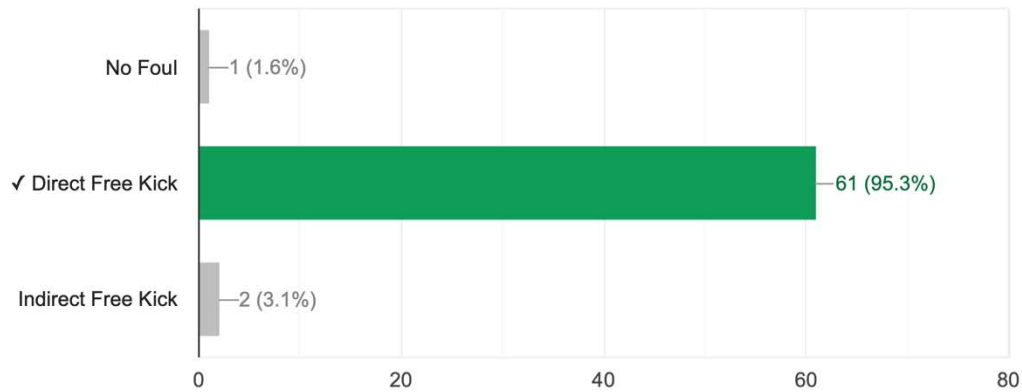
*I think this video looked worse than I recalled when processing in real time and knowing the history of the player, I likely would have sent him off with the benefit of hindsight.*

*As seen in the video, I stop my run as it appears to be an easy catch for the goalie. The goalie then pauses for a split second and does not immediately meet the ball. This awkward moment gave a small appearance (still highly improbable) that the attacker could win the ball, and just enough benefit of the doubt for me to go down to a yellow as it could of been a plausible play on the ball (although extremely reckless) and while I had given a few cautions, I was overall comfortable with the match temperature and did not think a red was necessary for game management.*

*Additionally, my view did not allow me to see if there was a forearm or elbow to the head of the keeper and I did not feel like I had strong enough ARs where I could rely on them to give me that information and sell a potential send off. Obviously a good lesson on not making assumptions when positioning myself for the future here too.*

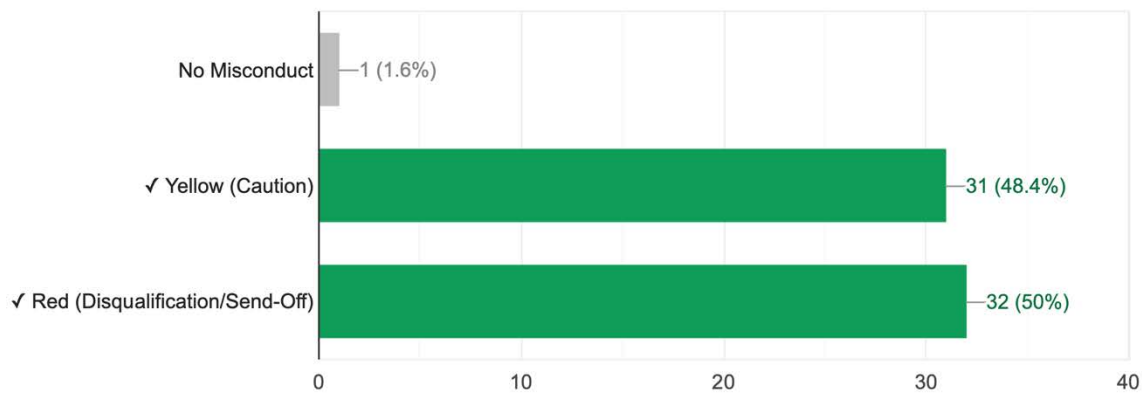
### Select the Foul (if any) (AUS v HM)

61 / 64 correct responses



### Select the Misconduct (if Any) (AUS v HM)

63 / 64 correct responses



**CLIP 9: UNSPORTING BEHAVIOR**  
**St. Paul Academy v. St. Anthony Village**  
**2023 MSHSL Boys 1A Final**

Quiz Clip: <https://youtu.be/r75swU4ViKQ>

Analysis: <https://youtu.be/OVUCDM9ji74>



**Decision**  
**Direct Free Kick**  
**Yellow**



NFHS Rule 12-4-1 “A player shall be penalized for charging an opponent in a dangerous or reckless manner, or using excessive force. An allowable fair charge is where players make shoulder-to-shoulder contact in an upright position, within playing distance of the ball, have at least one foot on the ground and the player's arms held close to the body.”  
PENALTY: Direct free kick<sup>11</sup>

“Reckless Play” occurs when “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.” NFHS Rule 18-kk.<sup>12</sup> Unsporting behavior is punished with a caution and includes reckless play

Considerations for Charging

- Shielding increases with player skill (and thus age), is more likely to occur near boundary lines
- Legal charges must be (1) shoulder-to-shoulder, (2) a challenge for the ball, and (3) not use force beyond what is needed to win the ball
- Height differences should be considered “shoulder-to-shoulder” based on the “spirit” of the challenge, but size differences can also put more pressure on the larger player to moderate the amount of force used

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<sup>11</sup> [IFAB Law 12](#) states: “A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force . . . charges . . . If an offence involves contact, it is penalised by a direct free kick.”

<sup>12</sup> This is identical to [Law 12 of the IFAB Laws of the Game](#): “A player has acted with disregard of the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent. A player who displays reckless play shall be cautioned.”

## Analysis

- *Is this charge shoulder-to-shoulder?* No. White goes shoulder to back.
- *Are the players in an upright position?* Yes.
- *Is the White player challenging for the ball?* Yes, *but* White is not getting to the ball fairly or without going through the opponent.
- *Is the White player within playing distance of the ball?* At the moment of contact, yes, but he starts his charge earlier and isn't really going for the ball.
- *Does the White player have at least one foot on the ground?* Yes. (Note when a player leaves the ground, the foul is "jumping at" and we have different considerations and concerns about misconduct.)
- *Are the White player's arms close to his body?* Yes, White's arms are near his body—it is White's shoulder/side/tucked-in-arm making contact.
- *Does the White player use reasonable force needed to win the ball?* No. As discussed in the caution considerations, White has come in from a distance to challenge and goes with his shoulder into Blue's back while blue has little opportunity to prepare.

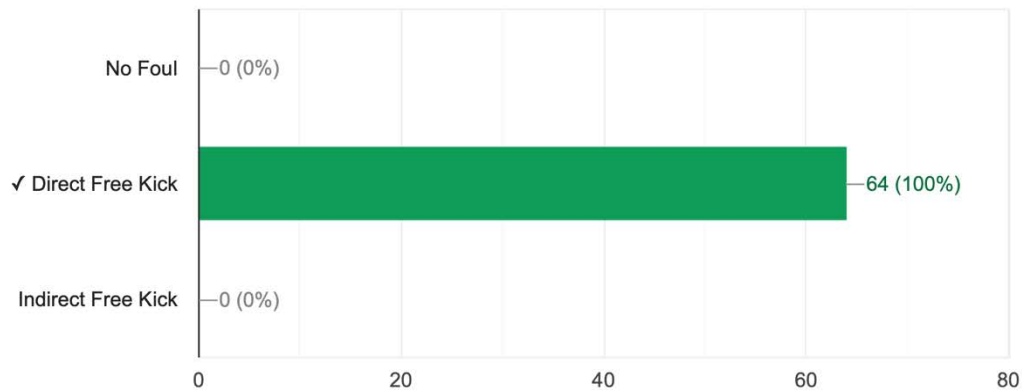
## Unsporting Behavior Considerations

- *Who played the ball?* Blue played the ball first based on direction/distance ball travels. (Even if White got a foot on the ball it is accomplished by taking going through Blue *first*)
- *Who initiated the contact?* White
- *Where was the point of contact?* White shoulder to Blue back/spine
- *First contact with ball or player?* Player
- *Studs Exposed?* Not applicable
- *Speed/Distance/Intensity?* Speed builds a little but the intensity/force used here is against a more vulnerable opponent who can't see it coming. White has to knock Blue off the ball to actually challenge for it.
- *Chance to Play Ball in Fair Manner?* Not really here. White has to go through Blue to get to this ball. He does not attempt to set up or prevent Blue from turning—he just goes through him.

- *Did the Challenge put Opponent in a Dangerous Position?* Yes. White is challenging an opponent who cannot see him coming or prepare. Blue's footing leaves him exposed as he prepares to take the ball.
- *Malicious?* No. White is looking at the ball and not the player (at least initially). There is no particular nastiness in the challenge, but that doesn't mean it is not a caution.

Select the Foul (if any) (SPA v SAV)

64 / 64 correct responses



Select the Misconduct (if Any) (SPA v SAV)

63 / 64 correct responses

