<u>Here is a refresher on the levels of contact fouls and how they are to be administered per Rule 12 of the Laws of the Game (LOTG).</u>

If an offence involves contact, it is penalized by a direct free kick.

- **Careless** is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed.

"Careless" indicates that the player has not exercised due caution in making a play. If the foul was careless, simply a miscalculation of strength or a stretch of judgment by the player who committed it, then it is a normal foul, requiring only a direct free kick (and possibly a stern talking-to).

- **Reckless** is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned (Yellow Card)

"Reckless" means that the player has made unnatural movements designed to intimidate an opponent or to gain an unfair advantage. If the foul was reckless, clearly outside the norm for fair play, then the referee must award the direct free kick and also caution the player for unsporting behavior, showing the yellow card.

- **Using excessive force** is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off (Red Card)

"Involving excessive force" means that the player has far exceeded the use of force necessary to make a fair play for the ball and has placed the opponent in considerable danger of bodily harm. If the foul involved the use of excessive force, totally beyond the bounds of normal play, then the referee must send off the player for serious foul play or violent conduct, show the red card, and award the direct free kick to the opposing team.

It is worth mentioning that the occurrence of contact between players does not necessarily mean that a foul was committed. Contact occurs and it is accepted and welcomed, as long as it is accomplished legally — and that includes most accidental contact.

Additionally, a question arose regarding how to report a Yellow Card Offense that was the result of a Reckless Foul.

A Reckless Foul should be reported as (UB) Unsporting Behavior - What is interpreted as "unsporting behavior" is ultimately down to the referee's judgment. However, to help the referee decide, the official Laws of the Game of soccer provide a list of what is considered unsporting behavior. The following can be found in The Laws of The Game Rule 12.3

Unsporting behavior in soccer includes:

- *Attempts to deceive the referee, e.g., by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled (simulation)*
- *Changes place with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission*
- *Commits in a reckless manner a direct free kick offense*
- *Handles the ball to interfere with or stop a promising attack*
- *Commits a foul that* interferes with or stops a promising attack, except where the referee awards a penalty kick for an offense that *was an attempt to play the ball*
- *Denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offense which was an attempt to play the ball, and the referee awards a penalty kick*
- *Handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (whether or not the attempt is successful) or in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal*
- *Makes unauthorized marks on the field of play*
- *Plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave*
- *Shows a lack of respect for the game*
- *Uses a deliberate trick to pass the ball (including from a free-kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee, etc., to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands*
- *Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart*

Here is a guide for the abbreviations in the game report for Yellow & Red Cards, which I hope are kept to a minimum.

UB or USB - Unsporting Behavior (Yellow Card)
DT - Dissent (Yellow Card)
PI - Persistent Infringement (Yellow Card)
DR - Delaying the Restart (Yellow Card)
FRD - Failure to respect the distance (Yellow Card)
E - Entering without permission (Yellow Card)
L - Leaving without permission (Yellow Card)

SFP - Serious Foul Play (Red Card)
VC - Violent Conduct (Red Card)
S - Spits at an opponent (Red Card)
DGH - Denying a Goal or an Obvious Goal Scoring opportunity by handling (Red Card)
DGF - Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring opportunity by a free kick offense (Red Card)
AL - Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language (Red Card)
2CT or 2Y - Second Caution (Red Card)

Please remember to file your game reports in a timely manner (preferably within 24 hrs): https://www.cognitoforms.com/lvysl1/gamereport