

Ball Handling Directive Guidelines

The following information is presented in an effort to clarify the 2008 Ball Handling Directive and to provide for more consistent application of Rule 14.2.3.2.

Goals of the Ball Handling Directive

- Consistency in ball handling judgment
 - Only the contact point should be considered when judging legality.
 - Outside influences such as player technique, spin, coaches' expectations, or crowd reaction should not be considered when judging the legality of the contact.
 - There is no body/ball position or playing technique that automatically results in illegal contact.

- An increase in continuation of play when judging second ball contacts that are directed to a teammate
 - A player in good position must play the ball without discernable double contact.
 - Less severe judgment is applied to a contact by a player who makes a challenging or spectacular play.
 - Mishandled balls resulting in a blatant fault should still be called, regardless of the challenging or spectacular nature of the play.