

Northwest Indoor Soccer Referee Player News

May 31, 2016



Volume 1 Issue 1

Special points of interest:

Our First Ever Newsletter Directed Toward Players— We have been doing newsletters directed toward referees, this is our first attempt to communicate directly to you—the players! We'd love your feedback!



Who We Are And How You Can Help

Referees are Independent

Contractors - assigned through the Northwest Indoor Soccer Referees Association and paid by the teams, the facility has no relationship with and no supervision of any referee when acting as a referee (even if, at other times they happen to be an employee of the facility). Most of us do not work for the facility, nor do we generally know what goes on off the field or how the facility runs, you as players, may well know more about the facility than we do. We supply referees for nine different facilities and most of us work at several of them, each facility has different sets of house rules and policies and each facility has it's own "culture" we try to uphold each of them.

We tend to be current or former players who thought we could do as well as some of the

people

refereeing our games –That's right, we were you!

We know players make mistakes, and we do too. We do not get every call correct, just like you miskick the ball sometimes.

As an Association, we strive to improve our membership, and we can live with mistakes, what we really want to hear from you about is when referees look or act like they don't care—if your game is disrespected by the referee please let us know.

Our website at <http://nwisr.com/>

Has two forms—a formal [Referee Evaluation Form](#) and a [Rant and Rave form](#) when you just want to let us know about a problem, but don't want to go the formal route. This is where you can go to tell us the Good, the bad and the ugly of what you think about the referee.

MeMetro PDX Soccer, LLC

Working with the Referee

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Were on the Web!

<http://nwisr.com/>

At those facilities where the team directly pays the referee, you should expect to pay in cash, prior to the game, one player should have the entire amount and hand it to the referee. Referees are strongly advised not to accept partial payment and are encouraged to start the clock at game time, but not start the game until they have been fully paid. At most facilities we have two or three minutes to check cards, get payment, run to the restroom, get a drink of water, etc. You can help by being prepared to give us cards and to hand us money. The rule at most facilities is NO CARD, NO PLAY. So each player should expect to turn in a card each and every game. Most facilities provide a temporary card for those who need one. The referee is correctly following procedure when they require every player to have a card BEFORE they play—not take care of it at halftime, not after the game. Prior to playing, each player must have a valid card present—this is really on the players to make sure you have a card or a temp present and turned in to the referee prior to playing. As a side note, paying with the correct change is always appreciated, especially early in the evening. Paying with coins is not a good way to have a happy referee.

Ask A Ref

Your email : Eric@toservethegame.com with questions about rules or interpretations and we answer.

The ball hit the arm of a player on the other team and the ref didn't call it, the ball fell right at his feet, so it was a real advantage to them, the ref said he saw it, but he didn't call handball, what is up with that?

We know, it seems wrong and if you watch games on TV, you'll see nearly every (but not every) time the ball hits someone's arm it is called, probably something like 90% of the time Handling (what you call handball) is called. Okay, back to your game—the referee almost certainly judged that the contact was not intentional, in which case it doesn't matter that an advantage was gained, it may seem unfair, but it is the rule—from The United State Soccer Federation:

"The offense known as "handling the ball" involves deliberate contact with the ball by a player's hand or arm (including fingertips, or outer shoulder). **"Deliberate contact" means that the player could have avoided the touch but chose not to,** Moving hands or arms instinctively to protect the body when suddenly faced with a fast approaching ball does not constitute deliberate contact unless there is subsequent action to direct the ball once contact is made. Likewise, placing hands or arms to protect the body at a free kick or similar restart is not likely to produce an infringement unless there is subsequent action to direct or control the ball. **The fact that a player may benefit from the ball contacting the hand does not transform the otherwise accidental event into an infringement ."**

So each and every time we call handling, three things must occur:

1. The ball must make contact with the hand or arm of a player.
2. The player or their team must gain an advantage from the handling and the advantage must be tactical in nature—that is, if the only advantage is that the player doesn't get hit in the face it really isn't an advantage.
3. The player must intentionally (Deliberately) cause or allow the contact. Professional players are expected to avoid the contact about 90% of the time, at the amateur level, the reverse is true and probably only about 10% of the time the ball makes contact with the arm should actually be called.

So, the fact that you say two of the three elements occurred leads us to assume that *in the opinion of the referee* the third element did not, so almost certainly the referee determined that the contact was not intentional and therefore the infringement of handling the ball did not occur and for this reason "Handball" was not called.