

Yellow Card Management Guide

A description of each yellow card code. Memorize the codes when documenting the reason for the caution.

- (UB)** Unsporting behavior
- (DT)** Dissent by word or action
- (PO)** Persistent Offenses
- (DR)** Delaying the restart of play
- (FRD)** Failure to Respect the required Distance when play is restarted with a corner, free kick or throw-in
- (ERL)** Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission

Substitutes or substituted player is cautioned if any of the following offenses are committed

- (UB)** Unsporting behavior
- (DT)** Dissent by word or action
- (DR)** Delaying the restart of play
- (ERL)** Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission

(UB) Unsporting Behavior continued

- 1) Commits a direct free kick offense in a RECKLESS MANNER whether within playing distance or not
- 2) Commits a foul which INTERFERES with or IMPEDES an opposing team's PROMISING ATTACK, except where the referee awards a PK for the offence that was an attempt to play the ball
- 3) 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
- 4) 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
- 5) Plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
- 6) Commits an act that in the opinion of the referee SHOWS A LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE GAME
- 7) Attempts to deceive the referee e.g. by faking an injury or by pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- 8) Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
- 9) Unfairly distracts or impedes an opponent performing a throw-in (including moving closer than 2 yards to where the throw-in is to be taken)
- 10) Changes places (jerseys) with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (caution both players at the next stoppage)
- 11) Engages in trickery to circumvent the goalkeeper's limitation on handling the ball played from a teammate's foot (the defender who initiates the "trickery" is cautioned, the decision does not require that the goalkeeper actually handles the ball, and the misconduct can occur during dynamic play or at a restart)
- 12) Makes unauthorized marks on the field
- 13) Refuses to leave the field due to injury after the referee authorized the doctors or stretcher bearers to enter the field of play, or due to illegal equipment, bleeding, or blood on the uniform
- 14) Throws an object (or the ball) in a reckless manner
- 15) Celebrates a goal by:
 - a) climbing onto a perimeter fence and/or approaching the spectators in a manner which causes safety and/or security issues
 - b) gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory, or inflammatory way
 - c) covering the head or face with a mask or similar device
 - d) removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt
- 16) Commits an offense described in Law 14 - The Penalty Kick (during the match, extra time, or kicks from the penalty mark) for which the referee must caution a player(s):
 - a) the kicker feints to kick the ball once the run-up to the ball has been completed
 - b) the goalkeeper offends and the ball does not enter the goal
 - c) both the kicker and goalkeeper commit an offense at the same time and the kick is missed or saved (kick is retaken)
 - d) the kicker when both the kicker and goalkeeper commit an offense at the same time and the kick is scored (goal is disallowed)

Red Card Management

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent off (shown a red card) for committing any of the following seven offenses:

1. **(SFP)** Serious foul play
 - a. Commits a tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality
 - b. Lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side, or from behind using excessive force or endangers the safety of the opponent
2. **(VC)** Violent conduct
 - a. Uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a team-mate, match official, spectator, or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made
 - b. When not challenging for the ball deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, unless the force used was negligible
 - c. Throws an object (or the ball) using excessive force
3. **(S)** Spitting at an opponent or any other person
4. **(DGH)** Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)
 - a. DOGSO by deliberate handling offense wherever the offense occurs (outside or inside the penalty area)
5. **(DGF)** Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick
 - a. DOGSO by an offense within the offender's penalty area, for which the referee awards a penalty kick, and the offense was NOT an attempt to play the ball (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.)
 - b. The following must be considered: - distance between the offense and the goal - general direction of play (if player moves diagonally to pass the last defender or goalkeeper, this can still be a DOGSO) - likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball - location and number of defenders
6. **(AL)** Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
7. **(2CT)** Receiving a second caution in the same match