

## Wisdom of a Wednesday

What a great start this women's season is off to! Already many great hard fought games that went down to the wire. Please ensure your game preparation is the same for each and every game. All games deserve your very best. Strive to be consistent and correct at all times in your application of the rules. Enjoy your work and competitive atmosphere of this season.

### ***Additional Attention Requested***

One rule that has come up multiple times across the country is:

#### Rule 8 – Penalty Fouls

##### **Section 2. Within 5-Meter Area to Prevent Goal**

For a defending player to commit any foul within the 5-meter area but for which a goal probably would have resulted.

It is important to understand that there are numerous fouls that can be committed which could prevent a probable goal. The rule specifically outlines:

*Note 1: **In addition to other offenses** preventing a probable goal, it is an offense within the meaning of this rule:*

- a. For a goalkeeper or other defending player to pull down or otherwise displace the goal (Fig. 18);*
- b. For a defending player to attempt to block a shot or pass with two hands inside the 5-meter line (Fig. 19). The defending player does not have to touch the ball nor does a shot have to be taken nor does the shot have to be a probable goal;*
- Interpretation:** If the defending player intentionally blocks or attempts to block a pass with two hands that prevents a probable goal, a penalty foul is awarded. It is not a penalty foul if the ball is being passed to a player who was in such a position that the pass would not have led to a probable goal. An exclusion foul should be awarded in this case.
- c. For a defending player to play the ball with two hands;*
- d. For a defending player to play the ball with a clenched fist;*
- e. For a goalkeeper or other defending player to take the ball under the water when tackled;*
- f. For the goalkeeper to push off the wall in an attempt to block a shot (if the ball goes into the goal, the goal is scored; if the shot is blocked, a penalty throw shall be awarded); or*
- g. For a defending player other than the goalkeeper to jump off the bottom within the 5-meter area to prevent a probable goal.*

*Note 2: If a field player replaces an excluded goalkeeper, the field player does not assume the privileges of the goalkeeper. If the player attempts to play the ball with two hands, a penalty throw shall be awarded.*

Seven fouls are enumerated, however, the rule specifically states that these are “in addition to other offenses”. One such other offense is a defender in front of the goal clearly sinking the offense in order to elevate themselves to block a portion of the goal and/or a shot.

Please hear me clearly, the EXCLUSION foul for sinking should be called early and often when the foul is taking the advantage away from the offense. If the sinking foul presents itself as the shot is taken, with the intent of blocking the shot or part of the goal, it is absolutely at that point a PENALTY FOUL. Make every effort to be consistent and correct in your application of this rule as well as all our rules, always keeping in mind the advantage rule.

Once again, enjoy your work and do it well. Through consistent and correct application of all our rules, and with best judgement, this season will be the best yet!

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