



FIFA Considerations

Condensed – August 2020

Challenges

Mode of contact	What part of the body was used to make contact with the opponent (i.e. studs, etc)?
Point of contact	What part of the body of the opponent was contact made (above the ankle, hard vs soft surface)
Force	Speed, intensity of challenge (this impacts the potential danger of the tackle)
Shape of body	Straight vs bent leg? Off the ground or sliding? Plant leg? Foot on the ground?

Handball

Position of the hands	Outside the silhouette of the body? Unnatural? Making body bigger? Above the shoulder?
Barrier	Did the hand or arm create a barrier that the ball could not pass through?
Secondary motion	Did the arm move toward the ball after it was played?

Holding

Clear	Is it clear to everyone on the field that holding has taken place, or is it two players grappling?
Sustained	Is the hold brief or does it continue for a longer period of time?
Impact	Does it have an impact on the player involved, particularly in the penalty area?
Expected	Is it the kind of play where everyone expects a foul to be called? What does the game expect?

Tactical Fouls

Possession	Clear possession or ability to gain possession (balls bouncing or in the air is lower likelihood)
Personnel	Does the attacking team have equal or greater numbers?
Proximity to goal	How far from the attacker's goal has the foul happened?
Potential for attack	Time, space, options? For DOGSO, all four considerations must be 100% present Inside penalty area: if the player makes an attempt to play the ball, downgrade by one card

Advantage

Possession	Clear possession or ability to gain possession
Personnel	Does the attacking team have equal or greater numbers? Do they want to keep playing?
Proximity to goal	How far from the attacker's goal has the foul happened?
Potential for attack	Time, space, options?
Wait and see	Can you wait to see if the player who would receive the advantage can actually gain one?
Risk/Reward	Every time a foul is not called, you're taking a risk for loss of match control. Is it worth it?

Positioning/Movement

Breakdown of play	When the ball clearly changes possession and is no longer being challenged
Angle of view	Can the referee see between the two players when a challenge takes place?
Body orientation	Does the referee orient their body toward the next likely phase of play or decision?
Drop zone	Does the referee take a position near the anticipated drop zone on a restart?
High pressure	Does the referee recognize when a team is pressuring higher up the field and adjust accordingly?
Proximity	Does the referee maintain a credible proximity to the current phase of play?
Explosive movement	Does the referee change pace to maintain proximity to attacking play or to create necessary viewing angles?
Lateral movement	Does the referee move laterally to keep their body square to the next phase of play?



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Use of the Arms

Tool vs Weapon	Is the hand/arm being used as a tool for a normal football play (YC) or as a weapon (RC)?
Mode of contact	What is used to make contact? Soft surface (forearm) or hard surface (elbow)? Damage?
Force	Is the arm cocked? Is it swung? Is the fist clenched?

Offside – Interfering with Play

Offside position	Is the player in an offside position when the ball is played?
Touch/play the ball	Does the player in the offside position touch or play the ball?
Wait and see	Can the AR wait to see if the player in the offside position actually participates in the play before raising the flag?

Offside – Interfering with an Opponent

Offside position	Is the player in an offside position when the ball is played?
Challenging	Does the player in the offside position challenge an opponent for the ball?
Attempt to play	Does the player in the offside position clearly attempt to play the ball (impact on opponent)?
Line of vision	Does the player in the offside position block the line of vision of an opponent, usually the GK? Proximity is a major factor in line of vision. The closer to the GK, the more likely to raise flag.

Offside – Gaining an Advantage

Offside position	Is the player in an offside position when the ball is played?
Rebound	Offside if the ball rebounds off a goalpost or the referee
Deflection	Offside if the ball deflects (not deliberately played) off a defender
Deliberate save	Offside if a shot is saved (by the GK or a defender) and goes to a player in the offside position
Deliberate play	If the ball is played deliberately by the defender, negates offside (clear playing motion, not a defensive or reaction motion) Time and space can help us determine a deliberate play. How much time did the defender have to react to the ball? Did the defender have control of their body, or did they just throw their body in the way?