

# OBYSA Referee Observations

Listed here are just a few of the more complicated laws of soccer. The referee coordinator has agreed to help explain some of them with the intention that the knowledge may be passed on to your team and parents and help alleviate some screaming at the referee!

## 1. HANDLING THE SOCCER BALL:

As the soccer law is written, *intentional* handling is a penalty resulting in a direct kick for the opposing team. This means that if the ball accidentally bounces up and hits someone's hand, or if in the opinion of the referee, an advantage was not gained by the accidental handling, a penalty will NOT be called.

Also be aware, if the handling is done by a field player to prevent a goal, the law says that will result in an automatic red card. In this league, it is up to the discretion of the referee as to whether to issue the red card or substitute a yellow card if the player was instinctively reacting and/or protecting himself/herself.

## 2. OFFSIDE

Offside will be played in this league. However, because there is only one referee, please be aware that the angles on the field and the position the referee is in may not be ideal for making the very close offside calls. The referees will do the best they can to be in the correct position, but as you know, the game develops very quickly and referees do not always have time to react. Blatant cherry-picking will obviously not be allowed.

## 3. THROW-INS.

In order for a throw in to be legal, the player must have both feet on the ground and bring the ball completely overhead. If there is a twist to the throw it is ok as long as both arms were completely overhead. The referees in the lower age divisions may choose to award a second attempt, as we understand this is a learning league.

Please keep in mind the following points also:

1. The referee is human and cannot possibly see everything. He or she can only do the best job they can in any given circumstance. Once again soccer is a quick moving sport.
2. In every soccer law there is a clause that states: "in the opinion of the referee". Because all referees are human, we may interpret scenarios in different ways. You probably won't agree with every call the referee makes, but that does not give you the right to yell at the referee, who may have seen something different being at a different angle.
3. **Referees are learning too. Give them the benefit of the doubt.**