



Law 5



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Advantage Update
June 2012



ADVANTAGE

Advantage – A Core Concept

- **An offense occurs**
- **Stop play or not?**
- **Why are offenses committed?**
 - **Slow the pace of play**
 - **Give the team time to defend**
 - **Break up momentum**



ADVANTAGE

What Offenses?

- **Traditional View**
 - **Fouls (Law 12)**
 - **Misconduct (Law 12)**
- **Contemporary View**
 - **Any offense committed by a player while the ball is in play**



ADVANTAGE

This is not about

- **What criteria should be used**
- **How to signal advantage**
- **What to do if the advantage does not continue**
- **Coming back for misconduct even when advantage is applies**
- **Etc.**



ADVANTAGE

This is about

- **Explaining how the advantage concept has expanded**
- **Providing concrete scenarios which help referees understand the expanded concept**



ADVANTAGE

What is needed?

- **Offense committed by a player**
- **While the ball is in play**



ADVANTAGE

“Ball in play”

Advantage cannot be applied to any restart

Restart requirements exist prior to the ball going into play

Example: Throw-in



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Scenario 1

Red #4 takes a throw-in and violates Law 15 by having one or both feet completely within the field of play. The ball goes to a Blue player.

Advice 1

Advantage is not applied in situations involving a violation of a restart requirement. In this case, the throw-in is given to the opposing team.



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Scenario 2

The Red team is taking a goal kick but the kicker does not hit the ball squarely so it only travels six feet and stays inside Red's penalty area. The kicker runs to the ball and kicks it again, this time causing it to leave the penalty area but coming directly under the control of a Blue opponent.

Advice 2

Advantage is not applied in situations involving a violation of a restart requirement. In this case, the goal kick must be retaken.



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Scenario 3

Blue #23 performs a goal kick. The ball leaves the penalty area but is blown back toward the Blue goal. The Blue goalkeeper handles the ball but the ball continues into the goal.

Advice 3

Advantage should be applied in this situation (the violation is covered under previous guidelines). No advantage signal should be given and the goal should be counted.



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Scenario 4

Blue #23 performs a goal kick. The ball leaves the penalty area but is blown back toward the Blue goal and Blue #23 kicks the ball in an attempt to keep it from going into the goal. The ball goes into the net anyway.

Advice 4

Advantage should be applied (the violation is not a foul and is described in Law 16 – a 2nd touch offense). The advantage signal should not be given as counting the goal makes the decision clear.



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Scenario 5

Red #11 takes a free kick and then kicks the ball again but inadvertently delivers it to a Blue opponent who is able to begin a credible attack on the Red goal.

Advice 5

Advantage should be applied (the violation is not a foul and is described in Law 13 – a 2nd touch offense) and the advantage signal should be given as it is necessary to make clear that play will not be stopped.



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Scenario 6

Blue #35 is in an offside position when a teammate passes the ball in her direction. She makes contact with the ball but the ball then goes directly to Red #9 who appears to gain clear control. Red #9 takes a step or two but misplays the ball to a Blue opponent.

Advice 6

This situation is governed by the “wait and see” concept and, though advantage is being initially considered, no advantage signal should be given. When it is evident that Red’s control is not maintained, the offside offense should be called.



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Scenario 7

The referee drops the ball to restart play and Red #18 kicks the ball into his own or the opposing team's net before the ball touches the ground.

Advice 7

Advantage is not applied in situations involving a violation of a restart requirement. In this case, the dropped ball restart must be retaken.



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Scenario 8

Blue #35 is in an offside position when a teammate passes the ball in her direction. She turns and shoots on goal but the Red goalkeeper takes clear control of the ball and makes a long punt downfield.

Advice 8

Advantage is applied but, in the special case of offside, no advantage signal should be given. The “wait and see” concept is used to ensure that the element of control by the opposing team is reliable and demonstrated by the opposing team being able to maintain an active, credible attack on the goal of the team which committed the offside violation. If the evidence of advantage is not convincing and maintained, the offside offense should be called.



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Scenario 9

Red #2 takes the kick-off for her team after a goal but gives the ball only a glancing strike. It travels forward only a few feet and Red #2 kicks the ball again. It goes to Blue #29 who begins dribbling the ball downfield toward the Red team's goal.

Advice 9

Advantage could be applied in this situation (and, if so, the advantage signal would be given) if, in your opinion, Blue #29 is able to maintain a credible attack on goal. If this is not the case, the second touch violation would be called and play restarted with an indirect free kick where the second touch occurred.