



Rules



Rule Interpretations, Clarifications and Approved Rulings

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Restraining Line Violation (USL/NCAA):

Blue attack is on a scoring play and shoots; Red Goalkeeper saves the ball and passes it to a teammate just below the Restraining Line when a Blue player crosses early over the line to play the ball. Where and how is play restarted? Ball is coming out.

Blow the whistle and indicate an offside foul on the defense. Give the ball to the closest Red player below the line and the closest Blue player goes behind. Correct the offside. Restart play **BELOW** the Restraining Line coming out. Note: If the Goalkeeper has not cleared the ball she would keep it and remain in her goal circle and the closest Blue player would go 4m behind the circle. If the Goalkeeper has exited the goal circle, the free position shall be no closer than 8m from the goal circle and the closest Blue player would go 4m behind.

(See Manual 5:15, #6; USL RB pg. 49, Section 6; NCAA RB p. 43, Section 6)

Illegal Cradle (USL/ NCAA):

1. Can a player with the ball cradle the ball in and out of her sphere when a defender is in a good defensive position to check?

A player may not either hold the ball within the sphere or cradle in such a way that her stick never leaves the sphere when an opponent is within playing distance. At some point during the cradling motion the stick must be outside the sphere.

2. Is it illegal for the player's crosse to move through the sphere when she passes the ball or takes a shot if a defender is in a good defensive position to check?

No. A player's normal shooting or passing motion will sometimes have her crosse moving through the sphere. As long as the player does not hold her stick within the sphere or cradle only within the sphere no foul has taken place.

(See Manual 3:44, B, #1; USL RB pg. 41; NCAA RB pg. 36)

Defensive Goal Circle Violation:

This is a reminder that the penalty administration for a Defensive Goal Circle violation has changed in both the USL and NCAA rules. For **USL rules**, the free position is taken at the 12m on the goal line extended with the offender behind. This is still an indirect free position.

For **NCAA rules**, the free position is taken at the 8m mark on the goal line extended with the offender 4m behind. The player may shoot and the penalty lane is not cleared.

This new penalty administration applies to ANY defensive goal circle violation not just in the case where the defender runs through the goal circle.

If the Goalkeeper commits a goal circle violation foul, she will either remain on the spot of the foul if outside her circle or she will remain in her circle if she is within or partially within the circle when she commits the foul. No other player is placed behind. This part of the penalty administration for a defensive goal circle foul ***has not changed***.

(See Manual 3:53 d; USL RB p. 51; NCAA RB p. 44)

Green Card:

In the event that the speaking captain is not on the field, simply indicate to the scorer to record the green card on the scoresheet to the team in violation.

Early Re-Entry After a Card:

This is a reminder that Early Re-Entry after a card has been issued is being handled differently depending on the level of play.

USL level: The head coach will be assessed a card. The head coach must designate a player who will leave the field and serve the two minute penalty. The player who entered early will return to the sideline to serve the remainder of the penalty time. If the player entering early is not the player who received the original card, the officials will remove a player who is closest to her team bench area and she will serve the remainder of the penalty time.

(USL RB p. 57)

NCAA level: The head coach will NOT be assessed a card. The player who originally received the card will return to the penalty area to serve the remainder of her penalty time. Should the opposing team score a goal during this time the original penalty will be considered complete. This player will also serve an additional two minute penalty though no additional card will be administered. The added two minutes will begin once the original time is over, either because the full two minutes has expired or because the opposing team has scored a goal. If the opposing team scores a goal during the added two minutes the player will be released.

(NCAA RB, p. 48)