



Law 5



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



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

Advantage is:

A fundamental concept in Law 5, which enables the Referee to keep play moving when stopping play for an offense would benefit the team which committed the offense.



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

Advantage – The Core Concept

- **A player commits an offense**
- **Should the Referee stop play or not?**



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Why are some offenses committed?

- **Slow the pace of play**
- **Give the team time to defend**
- **Break up momentum**



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The Law expressly recognizes that, often, the reason an offense occurs is to disrupt the play of the opposing team and, when this is the case, stopping play for the offense can end up supporting that strategy rather than punishing it.



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

This presentation is about:

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



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

This presentation 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 applied



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What Offenses?

Traditional View

- **Fouls (Law 12)**
- **Misconduct (Law 12)**

Ex. If player A10 tripped opponent B32, the referee needed to decide if stopping play would benefit Team A (or harm Team B). If either was the case, the referee could signal clearly that play should continue by playing "advantage".



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What Offenses?

Contemporary View

- **Any offense committed by a player while the ball is in play, i.e. extend beyond Law 12**



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What is Needed?

Two Keys:

- **Offense committed by a player (not a substitute)** Focus is only on violations which can be committed by a player.
- **While the ball is in play** Does not apply to things that happen while the ball is out-of-play.



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“By a Player”

**This automatically eliminates
“advantage” being applied to Laws
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10**



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“Ball in Play”

Advantage cannot be applied to any restart prior to the ball going into play.

This means that “advantage” can only be applied to a situation involving a 2nd touch violation (and nothing more) with regard to Laws 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.



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Scenario A

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 A

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 B

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 B

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 C1

On a throw-in Blue #23 throws the ball in toward her GK. A nearby Red attacker runs in to try and intercept the ball. The GK deflects the ball away with her hand, but the ball continues on into the goal.

Advice C1

Advantage should be applied in this situation and the goal allowed (the violation is a foul under Law 12 and would be covered under previous guidelines anyway). No advantage signal should be given and the goal should be counted.



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Scenario C2

On a throw-in Blue #23 throws the ball in toward her GK. All the Red team opponents are 20 yards up-field and nowhere near the thrown ball. The GK slips and falls and in the process deflects the ball away with her hand, but the ball continues on into the goal anyway.

Advice C2

The foul on Blue should be called (the same decision as per the previous guidelines) and advantage should not be applied and the goal should not be allowed. In this scenario the touch of the ball did not take a possible play away from the Red team, thus no offense was directed against the Red team from being able to take advantage, as they were all well up-field.



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Scenario D

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 D

Advantage should be applied (the violation is not a foul, but it is described in Law 13 as 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 E

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 E

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 F

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 F

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



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

BRAIN TEASER #5

On the taking of a Penalty Kick, a teammate of kicker encroaches into the penalty area prior to the kick.

The GK catches the ball and punts it up field.

The referee allows play to continue, thus giving the advantage to the GK's team.

This is a good implementation of the updated advantage concept.

TRUE

FALSE



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

BRAIN TEASER #6

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 GK takes clear control of the ball and makes a long punt downfield.

What would you do as the referee?

- A. Stop play because Blue is guilty of offside - IFK coming out
- B. Apply advantage with no advantage signal
- C. Apply advantage with the advantage signal
- D. "Wait and see" to ensure the advantage develops, and if the advantage is not convincing, call the offside offense.



ADVANTAGE UPDATE

- Remember -

This expanded view of Advantage:

- Should only be used in uppermost level games
- Only appropriate in games where "advantage" is called (probably not all youth games).
- Just another way of saying "Apply Law 18 - Common Sense"