

# Spring Kick-off Meeting 2013

## Muskegon/Lakeshore Referees

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14 March 2013

Doug Prim and Andrew Johnson – Muskegon Area Assignors

Jack Wolf - District Referee Administrator, Assessor

John Corbett - District Director of Assessments, Instructor,  
MSPSL Regional Assignor



# Agenda

7:00 pm Start

- Introductions – *Doug Prim / Andrew Johnson*
- Muskegon Topics – *Doug Prim / Andrew Johnson*
- GVSA Season Issues and Updates – *Jack Wolf / John Corbett*
- Respect Program – Introduction Presentation – *Jack Wolf*
- Training Topics - *John Corbett*
  - Reminder: GVSOA membership is one of the prerequisites for game assignments.
  - Assessors & Mentors: how to link with one.
  - MSPSL Assignments: How to get one.
  - Handling - a coach's perspective
  - - your assessor's perspective
  - - your perspective
  - **Encouraging attacking play**- allowing the foul to move into the penalty area.
- Questions and discussion – *Doug Prim / Andrew Johnson*

8:30 conclusion

# **Topic... Muskegon Referee Issues**

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**Local issues for the Spring Season and points of focus for spring game assigning.**

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# **Topic... GVSA Referee Procedures**

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**The attached handout details all game procedures for Referees and Officials are requested to review and keep this document in their game bag.**

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- Handout.

# **Topic... GVSA New Respect Program**

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**This new program is being introduced in Spring 2013 season for all League and Game Officials and then in the Fall 2013 season for all Teams, Players, Coaches and Spectators .**

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- Respect PowerPoint.
- Handout and sign Code of Conduct

# Training Topic... Handling

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**We still see too many "handball calls" instead of "handling" calls" per the coach...**

“The better officials are great...they will allow a player to protect themselves with their arms and not make a "handling" call. Two weeks ago my U11 Girls were playing at Woodland and one of my girls crossed her arms across her chest to protect herself in a situation inside our penalty box and the ball struck her on the arm...the official awarded a PK. She was clearly making herself "smaller" by bringing her arms together to protect herself. “

# Training Topic... Handling

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**“Another common situation is when a ball bounces off the ground into a player's arm and a “handball” is called.**

It is often physically impossible to react that quickly to "handle" these kinds of bouncing balls and yet the officials too many times are calling these “handballs”.

Handling does not occur that frequently in the typical game. More often, there is simply contact between the hand and ball. We agree with the coach that players are penalized for handling more often than they have handled the ball. “Handling” involves moving the hand from a normal playing position to create contact between the ball and hand to illegally move the ball. Just because the parents call for it, does not mean it occurred.

# Training Topic... Handling

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**Your determination if handling occurred must be made at the time of contact, NOT after the contact based on the outcome of the contact.**

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For example:

An attacker is 4 feet from the defender who kicks the ball at the attacker. The ball hits the attacker's arm,

**This is the moment you determine if handling occurred.**

and the ball falls to the foot of the attacker, and is kicked into the goal.

**What followed did NOT determine if handling occurred.**

You will **NOT** penalize this contact as handling. Nor would you penalize the defender if the attacker had kicked the ball at the defender in this example.



# Training Topic... Encourage Attacking Play

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**During the last 16 years, the emphasis has changed when evaluating attacking play. You are trained to give the benefit of the doubt and allow attacking play to continue (or resume) in the absence of a credible reason to give possession to the defense.**

For example:

- When you determine an attacker is in an offside position, you cannot penalize just for position alone. You have to see active involvement.
- If the offside determination is too close to call, you are NOT to signal the attacker should be penalized for active involvement.
- If a defender and attacker “simultaneously” touch the ball before it goes out of play, you were encouraged to give the ball to the defending team (when in doubt, defense takes it out...). Now, we instruct referees to give the restart to the attacking team.

# Training Topic...Encouraging Attacking Play

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- “Encouraging attacking play” has been applied to deciding when to whistle for a foul.
- You should be most familiar with fouls at midfield, when the foul occurs in one spot, and allow play to continue (applying advantage) when the attacking team retained **control** of the ball.
- Historically, referees were instructed to not award a “cheap” PK. You still want to avoid making it easier for a team to gain a PK than to attack the goal. Your criteria for a foul should remain the same in & around the penalty area as it is at midfield. Teams get frustrated when you fail to penalize their opponent in the PA for the same behavior you penalized them outside the PA. You are creating your own management disaster. Be consistent. If you would not whistle it in the PA, why whistle it outside the PA??

# Training Topic...Encouraging Attacking Play

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- You are encouraged you to look at fouls that begin outside the penalty area and continue towards/into the penalty area, and (if the attacking team maintains possession) not whistle the foul immediately. You are taking a calculated risk that the attacking team will keep possession into the opponents' PA as the foul continues (ie holding).
- If you whistle for a foul, the most advantageous spot for the attack is in the PA because the restart is a PK.
- If you do not take the risk (allow the foul to continue into the PA) and stop play outside the PA, **YOU** helped the defending team. The reason for the foul was to delay or stop a probable scoring opportunity. Your whistle stopped the attack, gave the defense ample time to set their wall(s) and delay play **WITHOUT ANY RISK OF PENALTY TO A DEFENDER.**

# Training Topic...Encouraging Attacking Play

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## USSF Instruction to Apply Advantage to Fouls

From: Alfred Kleinaitis  
Manager of Referee Development and Education  
Subject: When Fouls Continue

“In general, the referee should determine the location of the foul based on what gives the greater benefit to the player who was fouled. FIFA has specifically endorsed this principle in one of its “Questions and Answers on the Laws of the Game “ (12.31) which states that a penalty kick is the correct restart if a player begins holding an opponent outside the player’s penalty area and continues this action inside his penalty area. ”

**REMEMBER:**

The LOTG are not designed to protect the  
stupid...

# Training Topic...Encouraging Attacking Play

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When a defender continually fouls an attacker into the penalty area, it is because he is trying to break up a scoring opportunity.

When you whistle just outside the PA, because you do not want to have to deal with a PK and vituperation from the defenders,

YOU JUST HELPED THE DEFENSE BREAK UP THE SCORING OPPORTUNITY, AND GAVE THE DEFENSE TIME TO SET UP TO DEFEND ON THE FREE KICK. AT THIS TIME YOU ARE PART OF THE GAME, AND PLAYING FOR THE DEFENSE. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH NO RISK TO THE DEFENDERS!!!!!!

Allowing the foul to move into the PA and awarding a PK if necessary allows the attack to develop consistently with the rest of your game, and allows the players to determine the outcome of play. Don't try to be helpful- you'll likely be intrusive into **their** game. You use the WAIT AND SEE technique for other fouls, why not use it for all fouls?

# Training Topic...Encouraging Attacking Play

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Through your voice, positioning and eye contact, you must attempt to establish and retain your command presence during the game, prior to the penalty area problems. Manage the players in order to minimize the problems in the penalty area.

If you are more worried that the players might foul, than the players are worried about how you'd handle their foul, the game is probably above your skill level.

Just as players test you on where the wall is, and you set the wall at 15-20 yards for them to learn, you must be aware you will be tested by players continuing a foul into the PA. By allowing the foul to move into the PA before you whistle, players are encouraged to respect the game to avoid your intrusion. You also encourage players to play up to the level that is consistent with your criteria for fouls for the entire field- not just in parts of the field.

## **IN SUMMARY:**

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- **Be willing to take calculated risks by allowing defensive fouls to continue into their PA in order to promote attacking play (and failing that), a PK.**
- **You do not have to signal “advantage” when allowing the foul to continue into the PA. Manage play to encourage players to try to play through fouls.**
- **No whistle until possession is lost in the PA will keep the restart in the PA typically as a PK.**



# Discussion and Conclusions

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[www.gvsoa.org](http://www.gvsoa.org)

