

## **HANDLING THE BALL 2019-2020**

### **It is an offense if a player:**

- Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- Gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
  1. Scores in the opponents' goal
  2. Creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- Scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

### **It is **usually** an offense if a player:**

- Touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
  1. The hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
  2. The hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

**The above offenses apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.**

### **Except for the above offenses, it is **not usually** an offense if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:**

- Directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- Directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- If the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger
- When a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body

### **Explanation**

Greater clarity is needed for handball, especially on those occasions when 'nondeliberate' handball is an offense. The re-wording follows a number of principles:

- Football does not accept a goal being scored by a hand/arm (even if accidental)
- Football expects a player to be penalized for handball if they gain possession/control of the ball from their hand/arm and gain a major advantage e.g. score or create a goal-scoring opportunity
- It is natural for a player to put their arm between their body and the ground for support when falling.
- Having the hand/arm above shoulder height is rarely a 'natural' position and a player is 'taking a risk' by having the hand/arm in that position, including when sliding
- If the ball comes off the player's body, or off another player (of either team) who is close by, onto the hand/arm it is often impossible to avoid contact with the ball.