



REFEREES CIRCULAR

Date
14/05/07

**ISSUED BY THE NSW REFEREES STANDING
COMMITTEE FOR ALL NSW SOCCER
REFEREES**

Issue
022/07

“STUDS UP TACKLES”

The increasing pace of modern football has brought with it a trend towards tackles that seek to ensure that the progress of the player in possession is prevented past the point of the tackle. Invariably this means many tackles have become more vigorous and that the intent of the laws of the game to encourage tackles being made shoulder to shoulder is becoming less relevant.

The use of “studs up tackles” is one of the most serious challenges facing our game and one that has the capacity to cause serious injury to players if not managed appropriately by match officials. The purpose of this Circular is to highlight this aspect of the game to match officials and to require that such tackles be managed in a particular fashion.

In much the same way as FIFA has sought to eliminate the use of two footed tackles from the game the “studs up tackle” poses a very similar and real danger to players worldwide.

Effective immediately players who choose to lunge into tackles with legs outstretched exposing the soles of their boots are to be cautioned and shown the yellow card as an absolute minimum sanction.

Tackles of this type can at best be classified as “reckless” and MUST be treated as such by match officials.

This direction will, in no way, limit the referee from dismissing and showing a red card to a player whose actions exceed the level of recklessness and involve the use of excessive force.

Referees have a duty to protect players to the best of their ability and while it is not possible to penalise these tackles before they occur it is mandatory that they be dealt with whenever they occur.

Eliminating “studs up tackles” is your responsibility and referees are required to act accordingly in this matter.

State Referees Coach
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