

For Australian Referees: Current FINA interpretations on key areas of play *Interpretations are provided by FINA List Referee - Daniel Flahive in November 2011*

Talking to Referees

Any complaint directed to a Referee draws an exclusion. This includes:

- Using Referee name
- Directing complaint to Referee

The FINA viewpoint is that a player / bench cannot be derogatory to a Referee

Centre Forward / Centre Back Decisions

- If the attacking team has the clear option to pass the ball into CF, and the CB takes the advantage away by holding, sinking or pulling back – then an exclusion is called
In this situation, it is an exclusion off the ball
- CF / CB may wrestle, but if one takes the advantage away from the other illegally, then it's a contra foul (turnover) or exclusion (depending on CF / CB).
CF takes advantage away from CB – CB receives a contra foul (turnover)
CB takes advantage away from CF – CB is excluded
- CF gaining an advantage by going underwater to enhance position against CB – draws a contra foul (turnover) against the CF.
CB still has to ensure that that he is not holding / sinking / pulling back
- Where a minor foul is due, it must be given

Defending a drive

- In a balanced situation in front of an attackers goal, if the attacker drives, and the defender has hands down, then it's an exclusion
 - Hands being down indicates the defender is holding / sinking / pulling
- In a balanced situation, if the defender deliberately blocks a drive from an attacker, the defender is excluded
 - Defender cannot take away the space of the attacker in order to block.

Referees making calls in the other Referees area

Referees have a responsibility to watch all play

Head Contact

- Head contact when not in possession of the ball is an exclusion
- Head contact when in possession is an exclusion if it interferes with the outcome of the play

Attacking player is not entitled to receive a foul because they have “turned” their opponent

- Attacking player legally turns the defender and then gains front water, then the defender fouls – exclusion of defender.
- If the attacking player uses two hands or illegally pulls around the defender the ball must be turned over in favour of the defence.

Effective hand signalling by Referees

- Referees to use hand signals to indicate decisions
 - Players / Coaches / Spectators receive far better communication as a result
 - Referees should make sure the signals are given clearly to the players, before signalling the table. In most cases the defending referee should be directing the numbers to the table so the referee under pressure can concentrate

Last minute of game – ball must be moved

In last minute of any game, the ball must be moved forward. Goalie cannot hold the ball without moving forward

Simulation Fouls

- An attacking player who - in the dying seconds of their attack - puts the ball on the water in a “safe” position and moves into the defender must not be given a minor foul (which would allow a 5m shot). Instead the referee must immediately turn the ball over to the defence.
 - The reasoning is that the attacking team has already had 30 seconds to score and have wasted it. Therefore the referee must not reward their poor play