



To: All USPSA Referees
From: Chris Mulholland, USPSA National Supervisor of Officials
Date: 5 June 2015
Subject: **APPLICATION OF LAW 12 – “DANGEROUS PLAY”**

The introduction of new powerchairs designed specifically for the sport of power soccer has made the game much more exciting for both players and spectators. However, they have also created greater risks to other players due to balls kicked at high speed that become airborne. Some recent incidents have highlighted players carelessly or recklessly striking a soccer ball with great force – just because they can – without any regard for a shot on goal or the effect on nearby players.

The game of soccer is intended to showcase power and finesse while not endangering the safety of opponents or teammates. Players are responsible for and charged with playing the game in a safe manner and the referees will assist them with the following new policy:

1. **General:**

- a. Law 9 of USPSA’s “*Laws of the Game*” currently states that, “*The ball is out of play when...it elevates more than 50.8 cm (20 in) from the floor*”
- b. Law 12 states that “*an indirect free kick is...awarded to the opposing team if a player in the opinion of the referee...plays in a dangerous manner.*”
- c. Law 12 also states that “*A player...is cautioned and shown a yellow card if he...is guilty of unsporting behavior [or] persistently infringes the Laws of the Game*”
- d. Law 12 goes on to state that “*A player...is sent off and shown a red card if he...is guilty of serious foul play[, or] is guilty of violent conduct[, or] receives a second caution in the same match.*”

2. **Application:**

- a. ***If a player, in the opinion of the referee, strikes a ball carelessly, without regard for the safety of other players during play, the referee will stop the match for dangerous play, verbally warn the player and restart with an indirect free kick from the spot of the infraction for the opposing team.***
- b. ***If the same player repeats the offense in the same match, the referee will stop the match, caution the player for unsporting behavior (display a yellow card), and restart the match with an indirect free kick from the spot of the infraction for the opposing team.***
- c. ***If the same player repeats the offense for a third time in the same match, the referee will stop the match, caution the player for unsporting behavior or persistent***

infringement (display a yellow card), send off the player for a second caution (display a red card) (no substitution and the team plays a man down), and restart the match with an indirect free kick from the spot of the infraction for the opposing team.

- d. If the referee sees a pattern of fouls by a team it is proper to caution the next player who continues the pattern, *even if this specific player may not have previously committed an infringement* during the match.
- e. The referee's response to an incident is not limited to a sequential step process. Depending upon the severity of the occurrence, the *referee has the authority to immediately caution or send-off* the player *without having to issue a warning first*.
- f. Referees are instructed to begin enforcing this application of the laws immediately.

Happy whistling,



Chris Mulholland