

2024 RULES UPDATE

ADVANTAGE

Advantage...or is it?

This is not a rule change but a 'refresh' of the existing rule to make it clear to everyone what umpires are considering in making the decisions to apply advantage rather than blow the whistle for an infringement.

OVERVIEW



A team should not be disadvantaged when an opponent infringes. If an infringement occurs and the non-infringing team would be disadvantaged by the umpire blowing their whistle, they will refrain and instead call advantage, allowing play to continue.



ADVANTAGE
HAND SIGNAL

PRINCIPLES FOR APPLICATION



MOVE FORWARD

The ball should be able to move forward towards the attacking team's goal end.



TACTICALLY SIDE & BACK

If the ball travels sideways or back, it is a tactical choice and the team has not been forced to do so by the infringement.

TO CALL ADVANTAGE THE UMPIRE WILL:

1. Call "advantage" and state the infringement and playing position of the infringer.
2. Use the umpire hand signal for advantage.

NOTE:



The team with the ball should genuinely be able to play it in a way they want to, and should not be under undue pressure as a result of the infringement.



There are instances where advantage cannot be called, including foul play or incidents where an injury has occurred.



If the whistle is blown for an infringement, the sanction must be awarded.

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