

Fouls For The Ages – Age Group Development Patterns

Activity / Development	U6	U8-10	U12-14	U16-19
Physical Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Runs jumps and skips well 2. Lots of energy 3. Runs, starts & stops & moves around obstacles with ease 4. Can't sit still long 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work & play hard to begin to participate in competitive activities 2. Better timing 3. Eye hand coordination improves 4. Significant improvement in agility, balance & endurance 5. U10 practice skills to perfect 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Becoming dedicated to limited number of sports 2. Athletic skills developing rapidly 3. Motor skills very well developed 4. Individual skills can be very high but will range within the group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specializes in limited number of sports 2. Very high athletic skills 3. Strength, speed and reactions at an adult level 4. Less differential in group skills
Social / Emotional Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many fears persist 2. Moods changes rapidly & unpredictably 3. Tall tales 4. Need for reinforcement 5. Shows difficulty sharing 6. Lover of praise & attention 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Definite likes & dislikes 2. Friendship important 3. Afraid of failure, older will blame others 4. Starting to compare self to others 5. Self esteem a big issue 6. More outgoing 7. Peer acceptance important 8. Quick to tattletale when other not obeying 9. Cooperative with adults and needs reinforcement 10. Interested in the group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beginning to assert their will 2. Social activities during play important 3. Has high knowledge of relative worth of teammates 4. Self esteem continues a major issue 5. Peer pressure extremely high 6. Some rebellion shown to adults 7. Requires both positive and negative reinforcement 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistently assert their will 2. Individual performance very important 3. Critical of adults, team mates, and Self 4. Peer acceptance important 5. Strong rebellion against authority 6. Reacts to situations with little thought
Thought Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does not like to repeat 2. Judgment not adequate to own safety 3. No logic to thought 4. Asks for information 5. Fond of stories 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internalize moral rules of behavior 2. Can solve some problems 3. Recognizes parts of a whole & older understands cause and effect 4. Understands others viewpoint 5. Needs concrete reinforcement 6. Treat every mistake as a major crime 7. Rigidly applies understanding to justice and fair play 8. Begins to rank items according to criteria 9. Older like to show off 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing an ability to judge others behavior 2. Emotional reaction to some behavior 3. Understands logic of the game 4. Does not accept poor performance 5. Can place value on mistakes 6. Consistently ranks items to criteria 7. High degree of self promotion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will manipulate others 2. Keen understanding of tactics and strategy of the game 3. Well focused on actions at hand 4. Will manipulate game and laws to individual benefit 5. Justifies all individual action. 6. Will retaliate when wronged 7. High degree of self promotion





Fouls For The Ages – Called Fouls by Age Group

DFK Foul	U6	U8-10	U12-14	U16-19
Kick / Attempt (against opponent)	MAYBE , One of the first things taught: don't kick others. Should be reminded not "called for foul".	YES , Should be improving as they grow. Fouls should be called in most instances at U10.	YES , Kicking, especially at the back of the legs begins to appear at U12 and by U14 can be planned and very intentional.	YES , Kicking after the play is much more common and kicks after successfully challenging for the ball are not unusual.
Trip / Attempt (against opponent)	YES , A basic taught at U6 level.	YES , Should be improving as they grow. Fouls should be called in most instances at U10.	YES , As player speed improves trips are more common. Often this is a result of a player being beaten in a play.	YES , Tripping in the attack zone are common. At this point dives also become evident.
Jump at (against opponent)	NO , This level will jump a lot and will fall into others.	MAYBE , At U10 begin to introduce the concept as the ball is now played more frequently in the air.	YES , As the ball is played more in the air, heading is developed and jumping at an opponent is more common. Warnings are in order for this foul at this level.	YES , Jumping at when the ball in the air is not unusual. In addition undercutting (trip) is also common and the referee must learn to distinguish between the two.
Charge (against opponent)	NO , This concept is not understood at this level. They will run through anyone to get to the ball.	NO , This is still too early to introduce this concept. If there is a difference in size, unfair charges can be considered dangerous play.	YES , Tactical charging and physical one-on-one challenges for the ball are becoming common. This foul should now be called.	YES , Charges are now very strong and are often violent. They are also more prolonged as players move down the field.
Strike / Attempt (against opponent)	NO , Not applicable except in rare individual cases. Then a "time out" from the coach will help.	MAYBE , At U10 this can begin to become evident. At this level the players should know not to strike/	YES , By U12 the player should clearly know that striking is not permitted. This foul should be called.	YES , This should be called on all occasions and misconduct considered. Goal keepers striking with the ball now begins to appear.
Push (against opponent)	NO , Pushing is natural at this age. Here the referee should begin to "teach" players not to push.	YES , The concept is introduced at U8 and should be well developed by U10. This foul should be called.	YES , As player speed improves pushes are more common. Often this is a result of a player being beaten in a play.	YES , Pushing is common by both players in a challenge. Incidental contact should not be punished. However, persistent action that gives on player an advantage should be called.



Fouls For The Ages – Called Fouls by Age Group

DFK Foul (cont)	U6	U8-10	U12-14	U16-19
Tackles Opponent w/contact before contacting the ball	NO , Not a concept that is understood. Players should be kept on their feet whenever possible. Often the act of falling to the ground or sliding will be considered dangerous play.	NO , Still unknown. Players should be kept on their feet whenever possible. Dangerous play (even if ball hit first) or Tripping, as appropriate. Verbal warnings for slides that end up 1 yard from the player and ball (common at this age)	YES , Playing on the ground under some control begins to appear and should be allowed at the U12 level. Players should be warned before fouls are called if on the verge of careless. U14 does not require warning.	YES , Slide tackles are common at this level. Players will often hit the ball and body at the same time. This should be called. Often the player will "get" the ball and then hit the attacker. This should be called as either tripping or kicking.
Hold (Against Opponent)	NO , Like pushing this is a common social activity at this age. Here the referee should begin to "teach" players not to hold.	YES , This activity should begin to be reduced at U8 and eliminated by U10. This foul should be called, especially at U10.	YES , Tactical holding is now becoming evident. Especially shirt pulling and elbows or arms out.	YES , Holding is common by both players in a challenge. Or when attempting to gain an advantage. Incidental contact should not be punished. However, persistent action that gives one player an advantage should be called. Arms out as well as hand grabs are holding.
Spit at (Against Opponent)	NO , Many children at this age are beginning to learn to spit. Usually it is not directed at the opponent or intended to be a objectionable act. The act should be discouraged through teaching and, if necessary, a "time out" from the coach will help.	YES , Highly unlikely except in accidental cases. However, players should understand the foul. This foul should be called. Misconduct should not be used except in extremely rare circumstances.	YES , Like striking the player should understand this foul and its implications.	YES , Spitting at this level is malicious and when directed at an opponent should be considered misconduct and cause for a send-off.
Handle Ball (Deliberate)	MAYBE , Only call a foul if they catch or pick up the ball. Otherwise a quiet reminder. Want the players to understand that they do not play with the hands. It is natural for this age to try to touch the ball.	MAYBE , At U8 we begin to introduce the deliberate nature of handling. By U10 the players should be well aware of the foul. However, hand and arm positions are often not natural at this age so make sure deliberate AND advantage gained (unfair).	YES , Players at the U12-U14 level begin to employ handling as a tactic, especially the chest trap that might hit the shoulder or upper arm. Hand to ball (deliberate) should be called at this level. Arms should not be in awkward positions.	YES , Handling as a tactic, continues. Hand to ball should be called at this level. However, trifling should be avoided. Remember that incidental handling, even if an advantage is gained, is not a foul.



Fouls For The Ages – Called Fouls by Age Group

		IFK Foul	U6	U8-10	U12-14	U16-19
By Goalkeeper	Six Seconds		<p>NO, Generally no goalkeepers</p>	<p>NO, Goalkeeping begins to be introduced at U8 and goalkeeper skills are introduced at U10. Goalkeeper is usually a rotated position with limited skill development.</p> <p>MAYBE, At U10, a reminder should first be made, followed by a warning and then a foul on persistence and unfair advantage.</p>	<p>MAYBE, Goalkeeping is now a primary position for a player. Warnings should be quick and if time wasting persists a call should be made; especially in U14.</p>	<p>YES, Goalkeeping is now a nearly exclusive position for a player. No more than one warning (if any) should be given to the goalkeeper.</p>
	Second Touch				<p>YES, Goalkeepers at this level should be very aware of this and it should always be called.</p>	
	Plays ball with hands after kicked back by teammate				<p>MAYBE, Goalkeepers at this level should be very aware of this. Call if the kick was clearly intended for the keeper. Kicking skills are not developed to a high level and miss-kicks are common.</p>	<p>YES, Goalkeepers at this level should be very aware of this and it should be called. Kicking skills should be well developed and miss-kicks uncommon.</p>
	Plays ball with hands after throw-in by teammate				<p>YES, Goalkeepers at this level should be very aware of this and it should always be called.</p>	
	Prevents Keeper from Putting Ball into Play		<p>NO, Referee should remind players of rule.</p>		<p>YES, It is rare at this level and verbal warnings usually are effective.</p>	<p>YES, The players now know this is a foul. Usually a warning will be sufficient.</p>
	Dangerous Play	<p>YES, A catch-all at this level. If it looks dangerous should probably call it.</p>	<p>YES, Continues to be a catch-all. However, other fouls should now be called and identified.</p>	<p>YES, Becomes less common as other fouls are called. After high kicks or low headers; on the ground entrapment of the ball is now the most common reason.</p>	<p>YES, Dangerous play is now more rare. Most of the time this can be seen when challenging for the ball.</p>	
	Impeding		<p>NO, Concept not understood.</p>	<p>MAYBE, The concept should begin to be understood. At this time warnings will be most effective. The is controversial and heavily dependent on the level of play. Non contact foul away from the ball.</p>	<p>YES, Impeding is now done in a tactical situation to control the ball by a player or for a teammate. Impeding is also common on plays around the goalkeeper. This foul should be called.</p>	
	Stopped game for misconduct but no foul		<p>NO, Misconduct and the showing of cards is a game control tactic. You do only long term damage and likely no real game control by using a public display of the card at this age group.</p>	<p>MAYBE, Misconduct is still better handled in U12 through voice communication with the player and coaches. U14 is the transition time where public display of cards may be needed and appropriate.</p>	<p>YES, Misconduct is prevalent and the public display of cards is needed for overall game control among all the players.</p>	