



CLARIFICATION ON HANDBALL

Law 12 clearly states that a [Direct Free Kick](#) should be awarded to the opposing team if a player handles the ball **DELIBERATELY** except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area.

Any deliberate contact with the ball made on the area of the upper and lower arm including the wrist and the hand is deemed to be handling.

Deliberate handball means that a player intentionally moves his hand or arm towards the ball, and could have avoided touching the ball, but decided not to. It is unfairly done to prevent an opponent from gaining possession of the ball.

Characteristics of a clear handling offence

- A player deliberately carries, strikes, or propels the ball with the hand or arm
- It is the player's action that initiates the contact with the ball

Characteristics of ball contact are clearly not handling offences

- The ball strikes the hand or arm (i.e., the ball initiates the contact)
- The contact is accidental (not the result of action by the player)
- The contact is the result of a purely reflexive effort at self-protection