

October 2, 2020

Attention: BC Soccer Members/Affiliated Clubs and Head Referees
From: Lori D'Andrea, Director of Community Development, BC Soccer
Subject: **Refresher Clinic Update & Modified Dropped Ball Procedure**

Dear BC Soccer Members/Affiliated Clubs and Head Referees,

BC Soccer is pleased to share that the 2020/2021 Refresher Clinic is now open and available online through [RefCentre](#) for registration! As previously stated, the clinic will be delivered via Zoom; therefore, will be coordinated directly by BC Soccer based on Instructor availability. BC Soccer will not be accepting any requests for the Refresher Clinic from Clinic Hosts, all Refresher Clinics will be open/student pays. Maximum participation for each Refresher Clinic is 30 students per clinic; therefore, registration for these clinics will be on a first come, first serve basis. As we continue development towards delivering the Small Sided and Entry Level Clinics in more virtual based formats, we're appreciative of your patience and will continue to provide timely updates.

As many teams resumed match play last weekend, questions regarding the dropped ball procedure for referees have come to BC Soccer's attention. More specifically, whether referees are to handle the ball for a dropped ball if players are not to be handling the ball for a throw in.

Referees should also avoid handling the ball; therefore, please find the Modified Dropped Ball Procedure below:

- When the referee determines there will be a dropped ball, they will communicate which team will be receiving the ball.
- Using their foot, referees are to place the ball on the ground where the dropped ball would occur.
- All other players (of both teams) must be at least 4 metres away from the ball until it is in play.
- The referee will blow their whistle to indicate when the player may touch the ball.
- Once the ball is touched, the ball is in play.

NOTE: Consistent with [IFAB's Laws of the Game](#):

- Any dropped ball awarded in the penalty area will be given to the defending team's goalkeeper.
- A goal cannot be scored directly using the modified dropped ball procedure.

Should you have questions regarding the Modified Dropped Ball Procedure, please contact Jose Branco, Referee Development Coordinator (josebranco@bcsoccer.net) or, Igor Cvetkovski, Referee Assignor & Development Coordinator / BC SPL Referee Manager (igorc@bcsoccer.net).



BC Soccer has also received inquiries regarding the number of steps a player may take before kicking the ball into play, following the Kick-in Procedure. The intent of the Kick-in is to restart the game as quickly as possible and to create a situation that is as “game-like” as possible. While [BC Soccer’s Kick-in Clarification](#) does not specify the number of steps a player may take before kicking the ball, many leagues have implemented a rule that players may only take one-step (and in some cases no step) before kicking the ball. As an example, the BC Soccer Premier League, along with the BC Coastal Soccer League have implemented the following:

The player taking the Kick-In is to only take a maximum of one step (length no longer than a meter) prior to kicking the ball. If more than one step is taken prior to kicking the ball, referees will award the kick-in to the opposing team.

Members and Leagues may implement a rule around the number of steps a player may take before kicking the ball in (or not) at their discretion as doing so is dependent on the age, ability and development needs of the players participating. If Members and Leagues do implement a temporary rule specifying the number of steps, it is imperative that they communicate this to coaches, referees and parents to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary conflict. As a reminder, referees’ decisions are made to the best of their ability following the Laws of the Game, modifications aligned with Return to Play Guidance, and the ‘spirit of the game’.

Kind Regards,

Lori D’Andrea
Director of Community Development
BC Soccer

CC: *Jason Elligott, Executive Director, BC Soccer*
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