

Clock Management – late in the season games take on a greater importance as teams are vying for tournament eligibility. It becomes important for us as officials to make sure we are managing the clock as accurately as possible. The clock needs to be stopped on all of the following situations:

Goals

Injuries where medical attention is required.

Cautions or red card disqualifications.

Timeouts

Situations where you need to verbally warn a player for their actions.

Make sure your partner is ready before the re-start is initiated and the game clock is started again. You are not required to count down the seconds to the end of the game but letting players and coaches know “one minute left” can be helpful.

REMEMBER – the clock does not start until the “ball is in play”, not when you blow your whistle.

Goalkeeper Possession – it has come up in conversations with several coaches that we as a group are not being consistent with our interpretation of when a goalkeeper has possession of the ball. The rule book states: **“Possession or control of the ball includes when the goalkeeper has the ball trapped by either or both hands or when bouncing it to the ground or when releasing the ball into play.”** (Rule 12.5 Sect. 4, Art. 2) If an opponent charges the goalkeeper or challenges him/her while the keeper is in possession the resulting penalty is an **indirect free kick** for the keeper’s team. Some situations that should result in an IDFK:

- Keeper grabs the ball out of the air with one hand and is bringing it down to the other hand and is bumped by an opponent, loses the ball and it goes into the goal.
- Keeper dives and saves a shot with both hands, is lying on the ground and an opponent kicks the ball out of his hands.

- Keeper releases the ball to a teammate using an underarm throw and an opponent steps in front of the keeper and tries to impede his release of the ball.

Remember that a keeper is in a very vulnerable position when diving, leaping in the air or outstretched on the ground. This rule is intended to provide protection for the keeper. It has been argued that even a finger or two on the ball constitutes possession. To this point, we all need to make sure we are in the best position to view whether a keeper has possession and whether an opponent infringes. And also remember that as soon as a keeper leaves his own penalty area he/she relinquishes all goalkeeper privileges and becomes just another field player.