



OBSTRUCTION

RULE REFERENCE

7, 11

RELATED SANCTION AND ACTION

Penalty Pass

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE

To provide umpires with the opportunity to apply the **Obstruction** rule in a games-based activity.

AREA REQUIRED

Your choice of indoor or outdoor playing area.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

1 x Rule Book per umpire

1 x Obstruction photo card per umpire

10-15 MINUTES DURATION

WHAT TO DO

- Divide the group into smaller groups of 3-4 (depending on numbers).
- Provide each group with one of the **Obstruction** photo cards.
- Ask groups to look at the photo and discuss the questions.
- After about five minutes, ask groups to share their thoughts on the photo and explain their answers to the question.
- Use the **Ask the Umpires** questions to promote further discussions around the rule and reinforce the most important aspects of the learning by referencing the **Umpire Coaching Tips**.

UMPIRE COACHING TIPS

- Umpires' decisions are influenced by:
 - What they see.
 - When they see it.
 - From where they see it.
- Defending has two aims:
 - Attempting to prevent the opponent from throwing or moving in the direction desired.
 - Attempting to intercept the pass
- The Sanction for Obstruction is a Penalty Pass.
- The Sanction is taken where the infringer was standing, unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage.
- The infringer must move quickly to the position indicated.
- The infringer must stand beside but away from the player taking the sanction so as not to impede that player.
- The infringer must remain in this position and not move or take any part in play (including verbal comments) until the ball has been released.
- Be aware of a player with the ball who shortens the distance. Know that if the defending player takes up the correct distance from the original landed foot, they do not have to readjust their defending position.
- Understand that a defending player may take up the correct distance prior to or after a player with the ball shortens the distance.

ASK THE UMPIRES

- How does positioning affect your ability to judge defending distance?
- What is the Sanction for Obstruction?
- Where is the Sanction taken?
- Who is allowed to take the Sanction?
- Does anyone stand out of play?
- What are the hand signals for Obstruction?

RULES IN ACTION

Use your rule book to complete the following.

Would you call Obstruction?

If so, on which player?

Why/Why no?



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Use your rule book to complete the following.

Would you call Obstruction?

If so, on which player?

Why/Why no?



PHOTO ACTIVITY ANSWERS

PHOTO 1

Would you call Obstruction?

No

Why/Why not?

Obstruction of a player not in possession of the ball: A player who is within 0.9 m (3 ft) of an opponent may not, whether attacking or defending, use movements that take the arms away from the body so as to limit the possible movement of an opponent, except as required for natural body stance. Her arm position and movement are part of a natural body stance.

PHOTO 2

Would you call Contact?

No

Why/Why not?

An opposing player who is the correct distance from a player with the ball may attempt to intercept the ball or defend the player with the ball either by jumping upwards or towards the player with the ball and landing within 0.9m (3 ft) provided this does not interfere with the shooting or passing action.

