



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 5 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 reduces the distance to the defender. 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?

OBSTRUCTION PHOTO ACTIVITY

Use your rule book to complete the following.

Would you call Obstruction?

If so, on which player?

Why/Why not?

What Sanction would you award if it occurred in the Goal Third and where would the Sanction be awarded?

Would any player be out of play?



RULES IN ACTION

Would you call Obstruction?

If so, on which player?

Why/Why not?

What Sanction would you award if it occurred in the Goal Third and where would the Sanction be awarded?

Would any players need to stand out of play?



PHOTO ACTIVITY ANSWERS

PHOTO 1

Would you call Obstruction?

Yes

If so on who?

The Centre

Why/Why not?

An opposing player may attempt to deflect or intercept the ball or defend a player in possession of the ball, provided there is a distance of not less than 0.9 m (3 ft) measured on the ground from the nearest part of the landing foot of the player with the ball to the nearest part of the opposing player's nearer foot.

What sanction would you award if it occurred in the Centre Third and where would the Sanction be awarded?

Penalty pass where the infringer (C) was standing.

Would any player be out of play?

Yes - the Centre would be out of play.

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 if the player with the ball reduces the distance between them.