



Decision making framework for high tackles

? What is a framework?

A framework is a systematic tool that guides decision making

- Logical, step by step approach to the problem

? What is the goal of a framework?

Guide users to arrive at decisions that are:

- Consistent
- Accurate
- Objective (can be explained even with allowable disagreements)

? Purpose of this framework?

1. Improve consistency in application of sanctions by distinguishing between dangerous tackles that warrant a penalty, yellow card or red card.
2. Support protection of the head of both players by consistently and frequently sanctioning the tackle behaviour that is known to be the highest risk.



Decision making framework for high tackles

Four step process to use the framework

INITIAL DECISION

Is the tackle a shoulder charge or high tackle?

DEFINITIONS

- **Shoulder charge:** Arm of the shoulder making contact with the ball carrier is behind the tackler's body or tucked in 'sling' position at contact
- **High tackle:** An illegal tackle causing head contact, where head contact is identified by clear, direct contact to BC head/ neck OR the head visibly moves backwards from the contact point OR the ball carrier requires an HIA

Note: the head's first movement is back in a head-contact tackle or head-contact shoulder charge, and forward in a 'body-contact' tackle or 'body-contact' shoulder charge

IF SHOULDER CHARGE:

1. Was there BC head/neck contact?
2. What is the degree of danger – high or low?
3. Are there clear and obvious mitigating factors?*

IF HIGH TACKLE:

1. Was the high contact by tacklers with their shoulder, head or arm/elbow?
2. Was head/neck contact direct or indirect?
3. What is the degree of danger - high or low?
4. Are there clear and obvious mitigating factors?*

** For mitigation, only one reduction in sanction can apply, irrespective of the number of mitigating factors present*



Decision making framework for high tackles

DEFINITION

Shoulder charge: Arm of the shoulder making contact with the ball carrier is behind the tackler's body or tucked in 'sling' position at contact

DEFINITION

High tackle: An illegal tackle causing head contact, where head contact is identified by clear, direct contact to BC head/ neck OR the head visibly moves backwards from the contact point OR the ball carrier requires an HIA

VIDEO SIGNS INDICATING HIGHER DEGREE OF DANGER

Preparation

- Tackler draws the arm back prior to contact
- Tackler may leave the ground
- Arm swings forward prior to contact

Contact

- Tackler is attempting an active/dominant tackle, as opposed to passive/soak, or "pulling out" of contact
- Tackler speed and/or acceleration into tackle is high Rigid arm or elbow makes contact with BC head as part of a swinging motion

Follow through

- Tackler completes the tackle (as opposed to immediate release/withdrawal)

SHOULDER CHARGE

Head/neck contact?

1 NO
Degree of danger?

LOW HIGH

PENALTY YELLOW

*See mitigating factors

2 YES

RED CARD

*See mitigating factors

HIGH TACKLE

High contact by tackler's...

3 SHOULDER OR HEAD DIRECT TO BC HEAD/NECK
Degree of danger?

HIGH LOW

RED CARD YELLOW

*See mitigating factors

4 YES
Head/neck contact?

DIRECT
Degree of danger?

HIGH LOW

RED CARD YELLOW

*See mitigating factors

INDIRECT (slips up)
Degree of danger?

HIGH LOW

YELLOW PENALTY

*See mitigating factors

5 NO

Above or over shoulder - seat belt tackle

PENALTY

*See mitigating factors

Aggravating factors :

- If the tackler and BC are in open space and the tackler has clear line of sight and time before contact

Mitigating factors (must be clear and obvious and can only be applied to reduce a sanction by 1 level)

- Tackler makes a definite attempt to change height in an effort to avoid ball carrier's head
- BC suddenly drops in height (e.g. From earlier tackle, trips/falls, dives to score)
- Tackler is unsighted prior to contact
- "Reactionary" tackle, immediate release



Decision making framework for high tackles

Summary of tackle circumstances warranting range of sanctions

RED CARD

- Shoulder charge (no arms tackle) direct to the head or neck of the ball carrier, and mitigation is not applied
- High tackle with any contact between the tackler's shoulder or head and the BC's head or neck, with high degree of danger, and mitigation is not applied
- High tackle with first contact from the tackler's arm, direct to the BC's head or neck, with high degree of danger, and mitigation is not applied

YELLOW CARD

- Any red card offence where mitigation is applied (as per framework)
- Shoulder charge to the body (no head or neck contact), with high degree of danger
- High tackle with any contact between the tackler's shoulder or head and the BC's head or neck, with low degree of danger, and mitigation is not applied
- High tackle with first contact from the tackler's arm, direct to the BC's head or neck with low degree of danger, and mitigation is not applied
- High tackle with first contact from the tackler's arm, which starts elsewhere on the body and then slips or moves up to the BC's head or neck, with high degree of danger, and mitigation is not applied

PENALTY

- Any yellow card offence where mitigation is applied (as per framework)
- Shoulder charge to the body (no head or neck contact), with low degree of danger
- High tackle with first contact from the tackler's arm, which starts elsewhere on the body and then slips or moves up to the BC's head or neck, with low degree of danger and no mitigating factors
- High tackle with first contact above or over the shoulder of the ball carrier, but without contact to the head or neck of the ball carrier during the execution of the tackle (seatbelt tackle)