

Slide tackle:

Definition:

A slide tackle is a tackle in which a player attempts to take the ball away from an opposing player by deliberately leaving his feet and sliding along the ground with one leg extended to push the ball away from the opposing player.

Background:

Slide tackles are among the most dangerous aspects of soccer. There are countless videos of players' legs being broken by reckless opponents who fly in with their studs up. Many VUSL games got out of control in the past because of slide tackles that should have been yellow carded but were not called because of inexperienced referees. In the VUSL 2015 season I heard from DRAMSC coaches concerns voiced that slide tackles were used as means of intimidation.

In order to provide a safer environment for our recreational players, I propose the following VUSL rule for the upcoming 2016 season in all age divisions:

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A slide tackle as described above is a cautionable offense.