

The IFAB Circular - Deliberate Play Vs. Deflection

As you are all aware, the new interpretation/considerations on deliberate play vs. deflection will start with this weekend's matches.

In the past, we looked to see if there was a deliberate action to the ball and this was enough to say that the defender deliberately played the ball.

Now, we must have a deliberate action to the ball, but the defender must also have **control of the ball or the high likelihood of control of the ball in order to trap, pass, dribble, clear, etc. the ball.**

- A ball that is fully under control and is then played by the defender to an attacker in an offside position is a DELIBERATE PLAY.
- A ball where the defender makes an action to the ball and makes full contact, changing the direction of the ball is a DELIBERATE PLAY.
- A ball that you fully expect a defender to control but he plays poorly is a DELIBERATE PLAY.
- A ball where the defender is running and then stretching to reach it and as a consequence makes slight or limited contact with the ball is a DEFLECTION.

In order to consider a ball to be deliberately played, there can be no doubt in the minds of the Referees (**100% sure**). If there is doubt between deliberate play and deflection, the play should be considered a deflection and offside should be given.