

Wards/Illegal Contact - Rule 6-11 Warding Off

A player in possession of the ball shall not use his free hand **OR ANY OTHER PART OF HIS BODY** to hold, push or control the direction of the movement of the crosse or body of the player applying the check. A player in possession of the ball may protect his crosse with his hand, arm or other part of his body when his opponent makes a play to check the crosse.

Lesson Plan:

Warding off shall be called when...

- The offensive player uses his free arm or hand to physically and deliberately remove the defender's stick from applying a check
- The offensive player buries his shoulder or body (i.e. bull rush) into the defender in an overt physical and deliberate manner

Note: Illegal body check or unnecessary roughness may be called if the bull rush by offensive player is excessively violent and/or deliberate. Remember, only the player with the ball or within 5 yards of a loose ball may be body checked. A defender riding a player in possession does not meet those criteria.

Watch for "spearing" or helmet-to-helmet contact on the bull rush.

Warding off shall not be called when...

- The offensive player uses his free arm or body to defend himself from an attempted stick check (arm used as shield with no outward motion is allowable)
- The offensive player applies mild contact (i.e. equal pressure) into the defender in an attempt to set up a dodge maneuver
- The offensive player winds his or pulls his arm away from a defender's stick while in the act of "extracting" himself from a mild hold or stick check by the defender

Please note the basic tenets of when to make or not make a warding off or illegal body check call.

Safety: Did the offensive player act in disregard to the safety of the player defending himself? Examples: The overt running through the defender or head butt would require at the least a ward call – illegal body check if violent or excessive

Advantage/disadvantage: was there mild movement of the free arm that had little or no effect on the defender's ability to stay with the check? If so, do we need to stop the flow of the game? NO.

Did the offensive player's free arm movements/actions contribute direct to his ability to fend off the check and/or did it create an avenue or a scoring opportunity for the offensive player to take advantage of? Then YES you have a warding off call.

Obvious: Plain as day, crystal clear, blatant warding off (not extraction) **MUST** be called