



## NEW LANGUAGE FOR ADULT LEAGUE SAFE PLAY

### BASIC BREAKDOWN

#### \*Referees' responsibility:

*Playing space* - Safety of the play for female players and designated players

#### \*Managers and Captains responsibility:

*Extra touches* for designated players

### COMMON LANGUAGE TO USE

**Designated players:** Players who have communicated they would like the added protection of *playing space* AND *extra touches* (this could be new to soccer players, new to the league players, less skilled players, older players, players recovering from injury, female players, etc)

**Female players:** Will automatically receive *playing space* (safety) but will only be given *extra touches* if they choose to be a “Designated player”

**Playing Space:** This is the term in the **league rules** regarding what referees will call for female and designated player safety. The actual league rules, as well as the definition of that area, will be pasted below.

**Extra Touches:** This refers to giving a player extra time in the middle of the field **to make 2 or 3 touches and a play prior to applying pressure**. This is the language **managers and captains** will use to communicate with their team (this is NOT going to be monitored by or called by referees).

### LANGUAGE WE ARE PHASING OUT

Halo

Bubble

Let her play

## **LEAGUE RULES IN REGARD TO PLAYING SPACE**

**\*"Playing Space Area"** definition – middle of the field from the top of the Penalty Arc to the other top of the Penalty Arc

### **In this "Playing Space" area:**

\*Opponents are not allowed to approach aggressively (speed of approach) towards the female and designated player.

\*Tackles and other physical challenges are not allowed towards the female and designated player.

\*Opponents can challenge the ball, move to block progress, and take the ball away from the female and designated player, so long as it is without physical contact and not aggressive.

\*Aggressive approach includes the speed of approach towards a female and designated player from any direction and pertains to 50/50 balls as well.

\*Female and designated players get "playing space" when in control of the ball and on 50/50 balls.

\*No "Playing Space" for a female or designated player when there is a contest between two female and/or designated players.

\*No "Playing Space" for a female or designated player when a female or designated player initiates contact with a male player.

\*No "Playing Space" for any player outside of the "Playing Space" area of the pitch.

\*The restart for a "Playing Space" infraction is an indirect free kick for the other team, unless advantage is given.

## **UNDERSTANDING EXTRA TOUCHES**

***We have moved the extra time to take a few touches from a referee's call to the responsibility of managers, captains, and players.***

Managers and Captains will ask and be aware of who on their own team is requesting extra time in the middle of the field to take 2 or 3 touches and make a pass or play before pressure is applied. Managers and Captains will share this with the opposing teams' managers and captains and the referees prior to the game. Note that this may be different

game to game based on injuries, circumstance, etc. Managers and Captains will then make sure their own team knows who on the other team would like time for extra touches. **Note: if a player is requesting this, we will also inform the referees so that those players are also protected with the *Playing Space* mentioned above.**

It is important that we convey to our own players the importance of communicating with us. If they feel like they are not getting time to take 2-3 extra touches, they need to talk to US – not complain to other players, other teams or referees. Then we can address it with the managers and captains of the other team.

### **Important things to remember:**

As with other calls, there is an element of subjectiveness – let's keep in mind we are trying to create a safe and inclusive environment for all players while also trying to best allow for the regular flow of a soccer game. Referees are trying their best to figure out how to make this safe and fair when making their calls.

Most of these rules above are really just common sense and drawing attention to players to be thoughtful of the players they are playing against, understanding the range of level, age and physical condition.

Managers and captains' language and example will be the best way to help implement this and open communication will be important.

Overall, we just want players to remember to not be a jerk 😊