

HELP: Rule 14: Inconsistent line in 7-metre throws – and many wrong decisions



Due to the fact that the number of handball matches shown on television has increased considerably, one has also been given the opportunity to carefully study specific details, among other things situations concerning 7-metre throws.

More and more awarded 7-metre throws are NOT correct.

IS IT FACT?

This might be one of the reasons for the strong reactions seen with the coaches because the players are being trained to perform correctly in the defence, yet, *skilled defenders are not being credited for correct work in the defence*, and this is very frustrating for both players and coaches.

The playing rules are very clear: the concept of a 'clear chance of scoring' is of central importance for referees when it comes to judging the situation and deciding whether or not to award a 7-metre throw. The purpose of this rule is that if an attacker – without any considerable body contact – passes a defender using a feint – and then the slower defender prevents the attacker from getting a free throw by violating the rules – pushing, holding, deliberately standing/running into in the goal area –, the 7-metre throw should be awarded.

Nowhere it says that a defender should move or make way for an attacker who constantly and deliberately runs right into a supposed gap in the defence and thereby *pushes the defender* into the goal area. In many cases, these situations lead to free throes and incorrect 7-metre throws – and sometimes even to a 2-minute suspension against the defender – *because the referees did not pay enough attention to the offensive foul.*

Therefore, we ought to learn more about a better judgement concerning **correct 7-metre throws**. For a long time, we have tried to obtain a more consistent line in passive play which we should continue doing, however, it has also become more and more difficult for referees to find a line when it comes to awarding correct 7-metre throws. Both internationally as well as nationally we experience a growing tendency for some referees to defend a "wrong" 7-metre throw by signalling a violation of rules as the defender is inside the goal area. (And they use an unofficial signal by waving their arms in circles)

These "wrong" decisions do not inspire confidence or offer a fair treatment of the defender. It allows for the attacker to throw himself with the ball into the defender and be awarded for what is in fact an offensive foul.

This tendency has been observed in many international as well as national matches in the Danish League throughout the past two seasons.

I am convinced that this violation of rules must and can be improved if we all discuss it more thoroughly and more often. And this will acknowledge the skilled players and the flow in the matches.

It is unfair that many, and maybe mostly top players, gain improper advantages due to these wrong decisions with regard to 7-metre throw situations.

If it is a fact, only the referees can change it by focusing more on this specific subject – including the guidance from officials, mentors and delegates.