

2024 RULES UPDATE

TOSS UP REMOVAL

The good old toss up! It's gone!

A toss up was previously used if an infringement occurred simultaneously. However, due to improved umpire education and training, the use of toss ups has become much less frequent and umpires are instead, correctly, penalising the infringement that occurred first.

This means that the skill of the toss up has been lost for both players and umpires.

WHAT NOW?

If a simultaneous infringement occurs the umpire awards possession to the team that was last in possession of the ball, where the ball was when play stopped.

Any player from that team may take the ball for the restart of play. It does not have to be the player who actually had the ball last.

If it is in a team's goal circle, the GS or GA may shoot for goal.

NEW RULE IN ACTION:

Some moments it might be used are:

1

Two opposing players gain possession of the ball simultaneously with one or both hands.

2

At a centre pass, two opposing players enter the centre third before the whistle and one or both touch or catch the ball.

3

Any other mutual infringement.

Because the new action only applies in the same situations where a toss up would have been awarded under the previous rules, it is expected that it will not be used frequently.

DIFFERENT FROM POSSESSION CLARIFICATION

Please note this is different from a situation where possession is called as a clarification when two players gain possession of the ball in quick succession.

NOTE:

We expect this to be used as often as we would've seen a toss up - so not very often!

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