

To: Chair, State Referee Committee  
State Referee Administrators  
State Youth Referee Administrators  
State Directors of Referee Instruction  
State Directors of Referee Assessment  
National Referee Instructors and Trainers  
National Assessors

From: Alfred Kleinaitis  
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Re: **Throw-In to Keeper by Teammate**

Date: January 1, 2000

---

As of the 1997-98 Laws of the Game, Law 12 prevents the goalkeeper from handling the ball directly from a throw-in by a teammate. An indirect free kick must be given from the place where the handling occurred (subject to the usual special circumstances within the goal area). As with the restriction on handling if the ball is received from a teammate's kick, questions have arisen regarding the proper action to take under several scenarios.

- A thrown ball is apparently going toward goal and the keeper reaches out to parry or punch the ball away. A violation of Law 12 has clearly occurred but, since a goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in, there is no misconduct. Only the technical foul is punished with an indirect free kick.
- Starting with the same scenario as above, suppose the handling by the goalkeeper is unsuccessful and the ball continues directly into the goal. First, a violation of Law 12 has occurred but, as with any other violation of Law 12, the referee would apply advantage and allow play to continue. Second, the goal would count since it was not scored directly from the throw-in.
- Suppose another teammate (not the goalkeeper) reaches up and touches the ball. If the handling is successful, the player has violated Law 12 (penal foul) and a penalty kick restart must be awarded if the handling occurred within the penalty area (otherwise, a direct free kick). This foul has not prevented a goal (a sending-off misconduct) since a goal could not be scored directly from the throw-in. Likewise, if the handling had been unsuccessful and the ball went into the net, the goal would be counted as the referee would apply advantage to the offense (a caution might be considered for unsporting behavior, bringing the game into disrepute).

Referees must carefully study these situations and their expected outcomes so that decisions are rendered quickly, authoritatively, and accurately in the fast paced environment of a match.