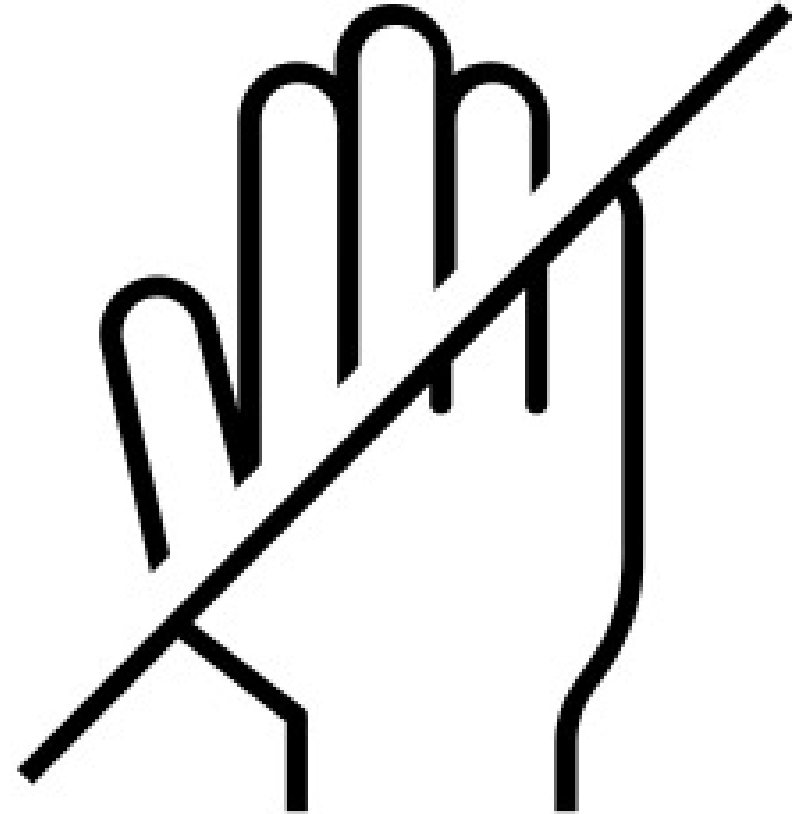




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USA



Challenges

Reckless vs Excessive Force

November 21, 2024

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Agenda

- Considerations for Challenges – Reckless vs Excessive Force
- Discussion Clips
- Q&A





Definitions

From the Laws of the Game (Law 12):

Cautions for Unsporting Behavior (yellow card)

- Commits in a reckless manner a direct free kick offence
- Reckless: any action by a player which disregards the danger to, or consequences for, the opponent

Sending-Off Offences (red card)

- Serious foul play
- A tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality
- Any player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent

How do we differentiate between reckless and excessive force?



Considerations for Challenges

Visual cues to look for:

- **Force**
 - **Speed** of player committing challenge
 - **Intensity** of the challenge
 - **Distance** traveled before or while making the challenge

Force





Considerations for Challenges

Visual cues to look for:

- **How and Where**
 - **How** is contact made? What is used to make contact? (Mode)
 - Studs? Top/side of foot?
 - **Where** is contact made? (Point)
 - Top/side of foot vs achilles, ankle, knee
 - The higher it is, the more dangerous it can be
 - Hard surface vs soft or delicate surface

How and Where





Considerations for Challenges

Visual cues to look for:

- **Force**
 - **Speed** of player committing challenge
 - **Intensity** of the challenge
 - **Distance** traveled before or while making the challenge
- **How and Where**
 - **How** is contact made? What is used to make contact? (Mode)
 - **Where** is contact made? (Point)
 - Hard surface vs soft or delicate surface
- **Nature of Contact**
 - Full vs glancing or slight
- **Consequences or Impact**
 - Potential for injury (endangering the safety of the opponent)



Considerations for Challenges

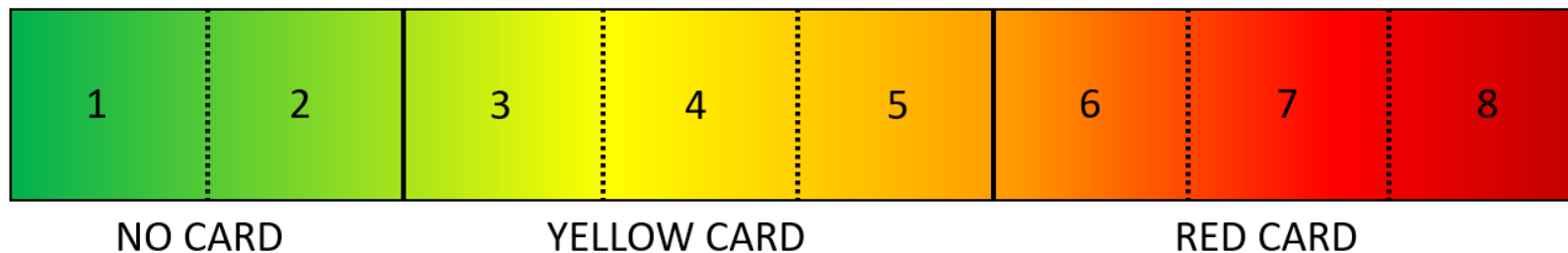
Combination of considerations for each challenge

- Force with contact to the achilles, ankle or knee?
- Challenge received on top/side of foot (hard) vs ankle or achilles (soft)?
- Moderate force to sensitive area vs sturdy area?
- Timing of challenge (late vs attempt to play the ball)

Basic differentiator: Force

The higher the force, the higher the potential for injury.

Was the amount of force used necessary to commit the challenge?





Considerations for Challenges

Questions on Considerations?



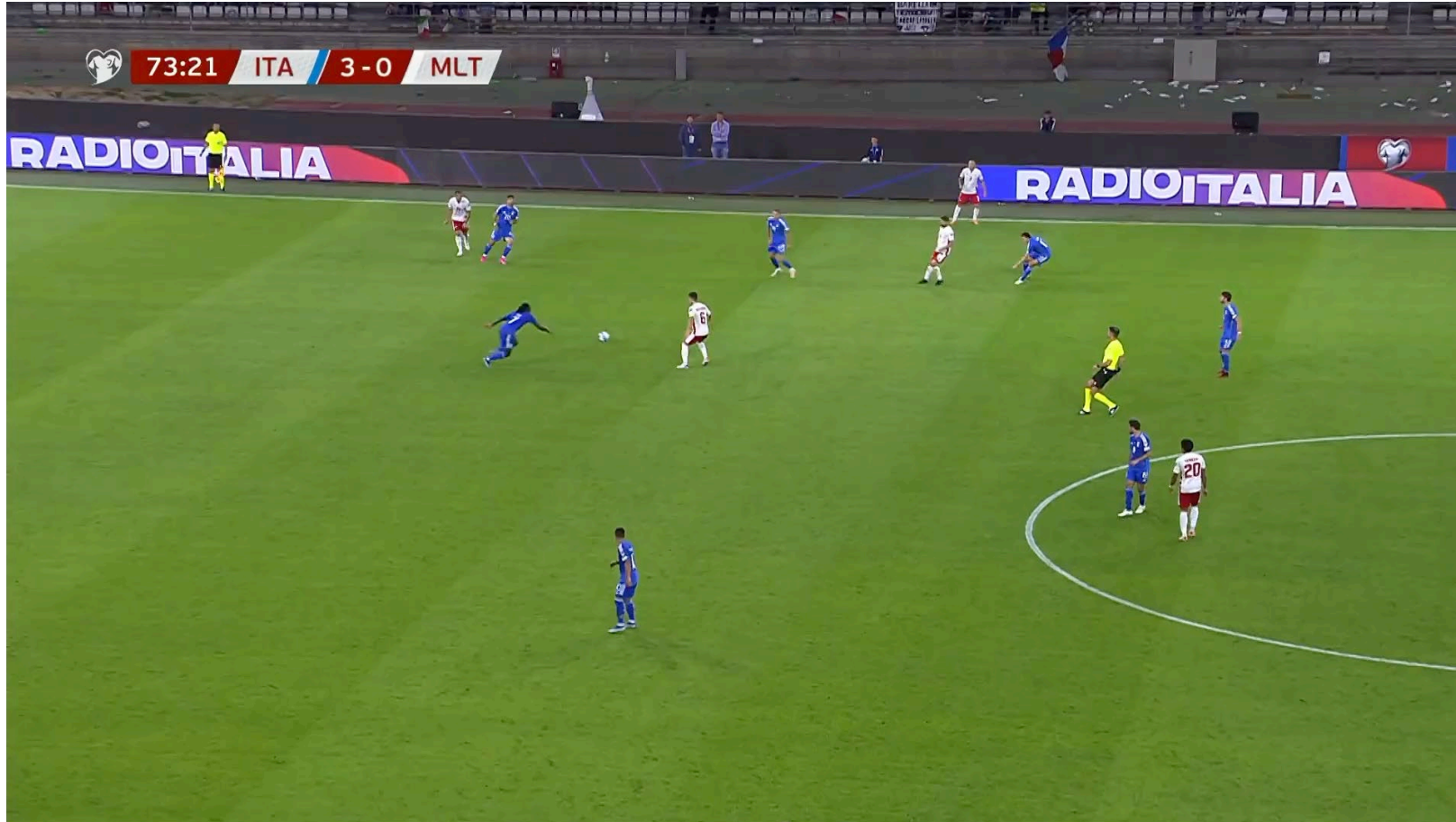
Discussion Clips

- Clips will be played twice with replays
- Poll – what is your decision?
- Volunteers to talk through their decision
- U.S. Soccer decision

Key Considerations

- Force (speed, intensity, distance)
- How and Where (mode and point of contact)

Clip 1



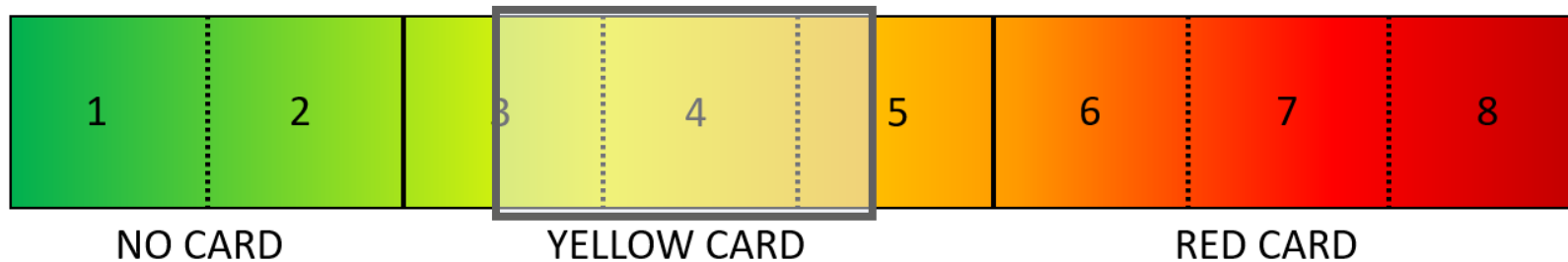


Clip 1 Decision

Caution (yellow card) for a reckless challenge

Considerations

- Force: Low to moderate (both players moving same direction)
- How: Soft surface of defender (thigh/hip area)
- Where: Soft surface of the opponent (calf)
- Impact: Lower potential risk of injury



Clip 2



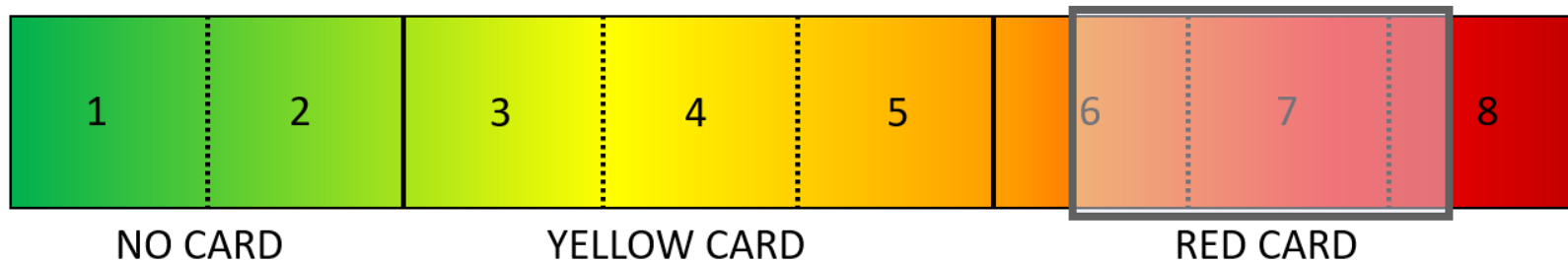


Clip 2 Decision

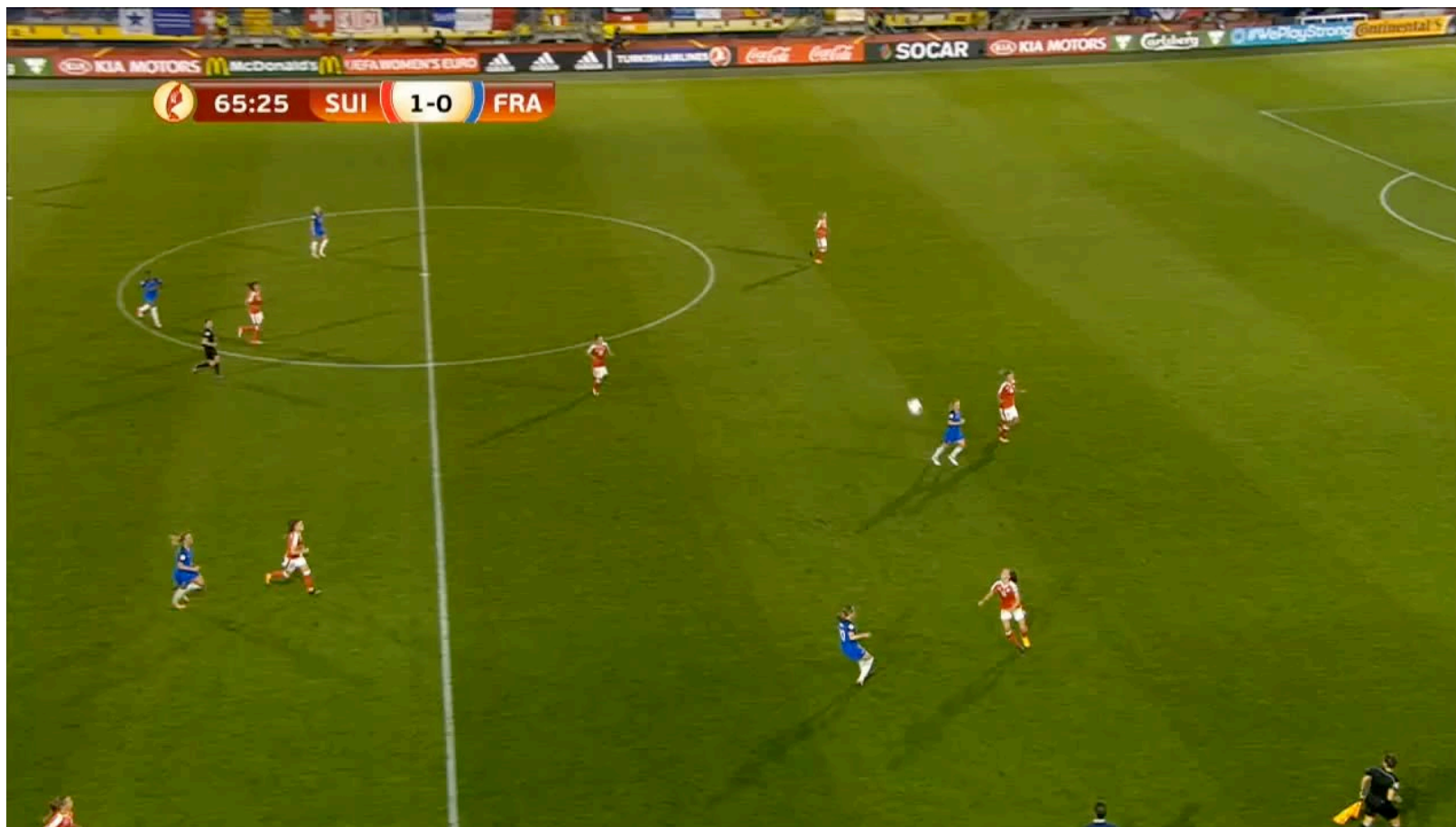
Send off (red card) for a serious foul play challenge

Considerations

- Force: High (defender runs a long distance at speed)
- How: Hard surface of defender (studs/cleats)
- Where: Soft/vulnerable surface of the opponent (calf/achilles)
- Impact: High potential risk of injury (from behind, attacker unaware)



Clip 3





Clip 3 Decision

Caution (yellow card) for a reckless challenge

Considerations

- Force: Moderate (player runs shorter distance at normal speed)
- How: Hard surface of defender (studs/cleats)
- Where: Sturdy surface of the opponent (top/side of foot)
- Impact: Lower potential risk of injury



Clip 4



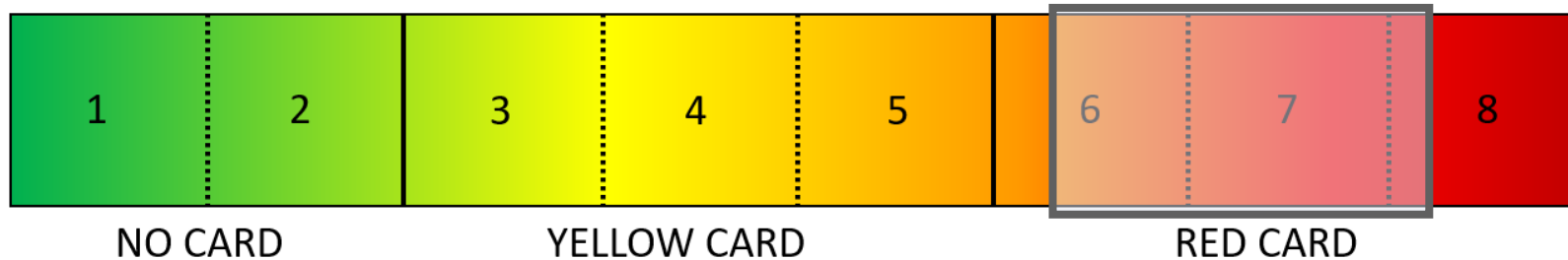


Clip 4 Decision

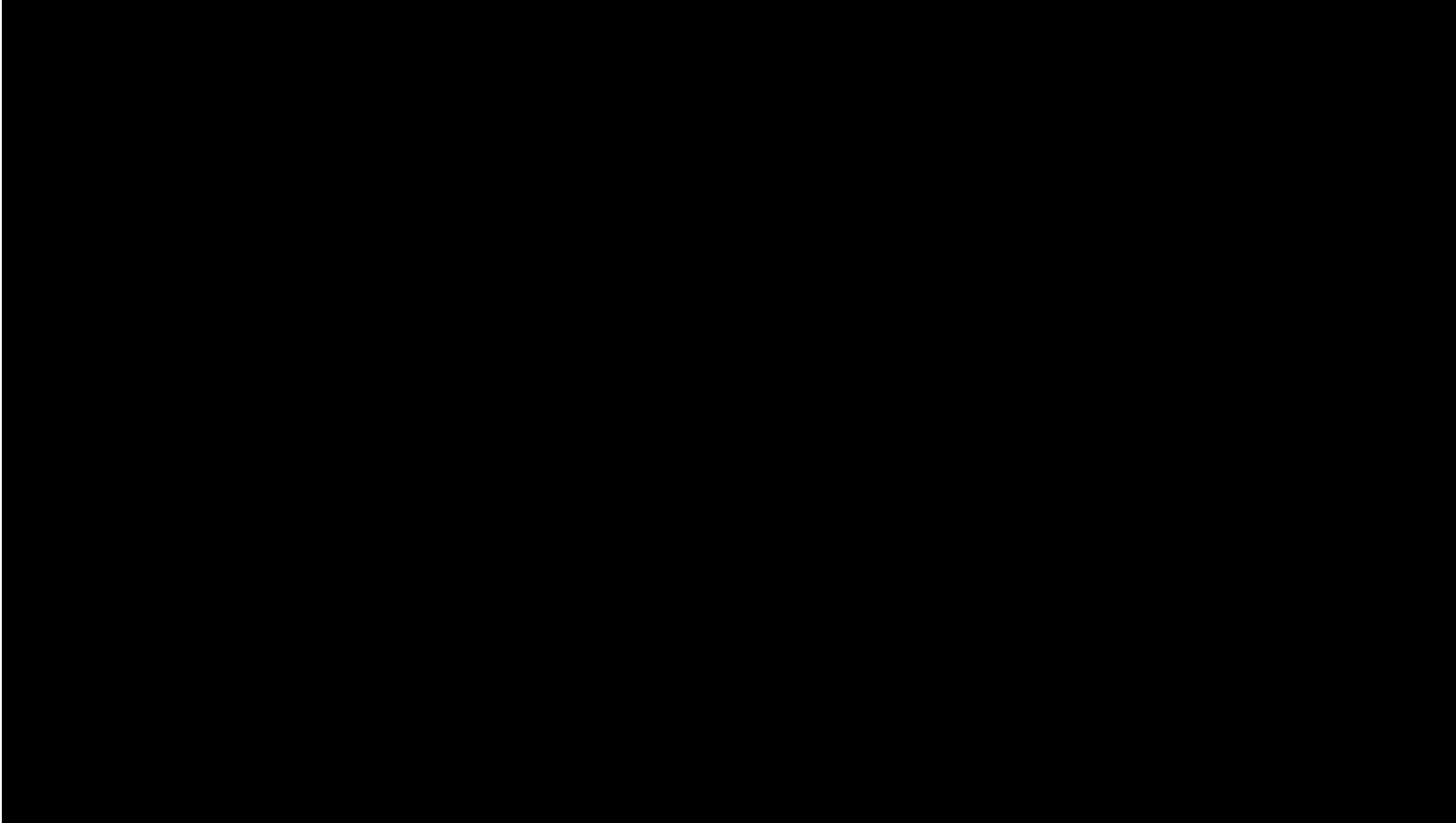
Send off (red card) for a serious foul play challenge

Considerations

- Force: High (defender runs at high speed)
- How: Hard surface of defender (cleats/studs)
- Where: Soft/vulnerable surface of the opponent (calf/achilles)
- Impact: High potential risk of injury



Clip 5



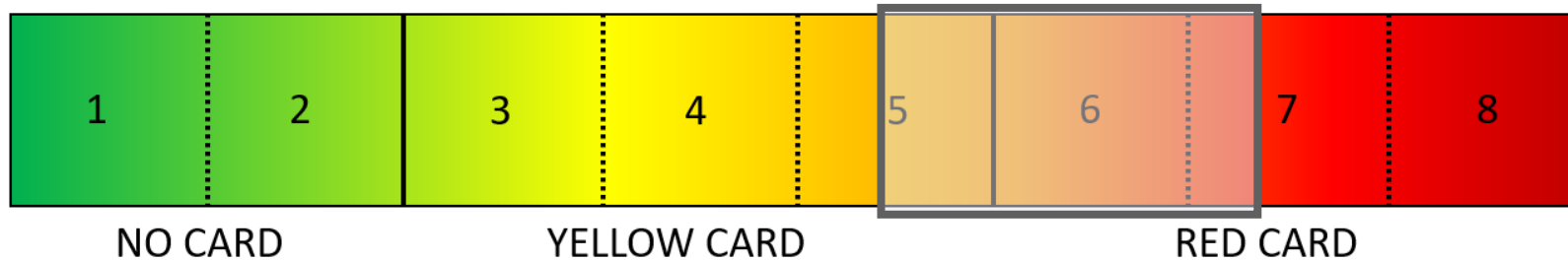


Clip 5 Decision

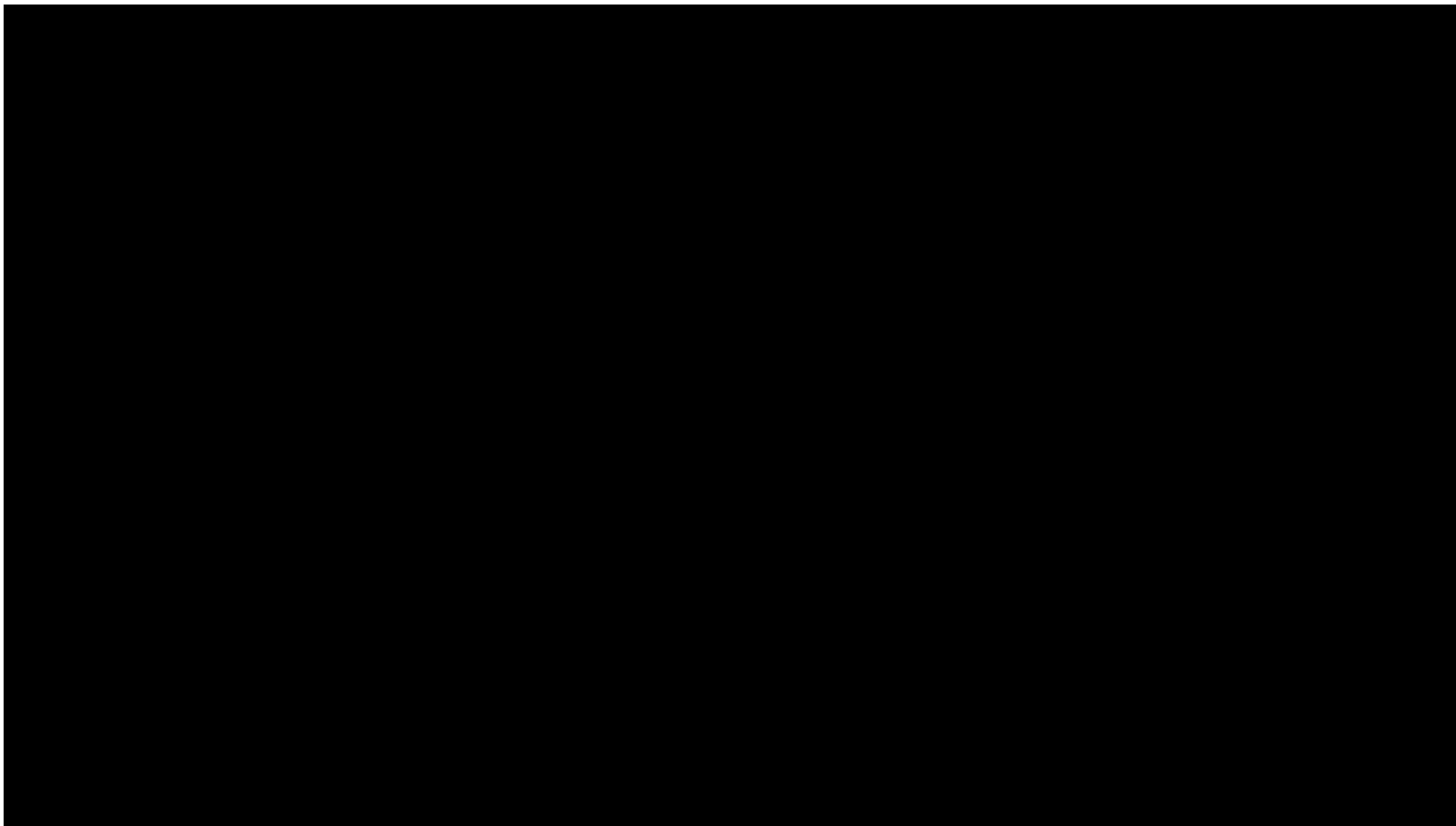
Send off (red card) for a serious foul play challenge

Considerations

- Force: High (defender accelerates into challenge, straight leg)
- How: Hard surface of defender (cleats/studs)
- Where: Vulnerable surface of the opponent (over ball & above the ankle)
- Impact: High potential risk of injury (manner in which the challenge is made)



Clip 6



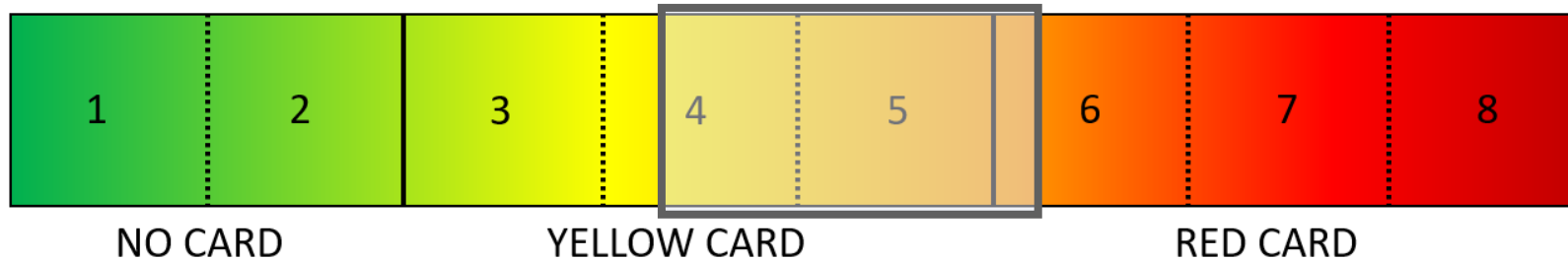


Clip 6 Decision

Caution (yellow card) for a reckless challenge

Considerations

- Force: Moderate to high (defender runs long distance at speed)
- How: Soft surface of defender (torso/hip area)
- Where: Sturdy surface of the opponent (shin/foot)
- Impact: Glancing contact, lower risk of potential injury (attacker sees it coming)





Q&A

