

Q) Watching a U14 Boys P1 match recently, a blue defender was running stride-for-stride with the white ball carrier, as they were both sprinting down the flank. As the blue defender gained enough advantage to clearly not be considered "behind" the ball carrier, he reached his inside leg across and planted his foot directly in front of the ball. The white ball carrier subsequently tripped over the ball and went down pretty hard. There was clearly no contact made by the blue defender except with the ball, and the tackle was clearly not from behind. Still the blue defender was red-carded. Can that be right?

A) Prior to 2005, the wording in the LOTG (Laws of the Game) stated that a player should be sent off (red-carded) if he performed a "tackle from behind, which endangers the safety of an opponent". For this year, the words, "from behind" were removed, so that ANY tackle deemed dangerous by the referee is to be considered "Serious Foul Play", and the guilty player must be sent off.