



Welcome to this seventy eighth edition of **“The Referee”**, the newsletter for all NSW State League Football Referees. This newsletter will enable our branch to communicate directly with our members and will cover issues and areas of interest to all referees.

We wish to ensure that all information, educational resources and opportunities that our branch provides for referees finds its way to those who are likely to benefit most – and that’s you!




To do for NSWSLFR members in March 2020:

1. [Register for the branch for 2020](#)
2. [Review the 2019/20 LOTG changes](#)
3. [Make yourself available for matches on Horizon WebRef](#)
4. [Attend training every week](#)
5. [Attend April General Meeting](#)

LOTG 2019-2020 - Law 11 Offside

OFFSIDE POSITION - It is not an offence to be in an offside position. A player is in an offside position if:

- any part of the head, body or feet is in the opponents' half (excluding the halfway line) and
- any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent.

The hands and arms of all players, including the goalkeepers, are not considered. A player is not in an offside position if level with the:

- second-last opponent or
- last two opponents.

OFFSIDE OFFENCE - A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched (*The first point of contact of the 'play' or 'touch' of the ball should be used*) by a team-mate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by:

- interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team-mate or
- interfering with an opponent by:
 - preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or
 - challenging an opponent for the ball or
 - clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent or
 - making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball

or

- gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when it has:
 - rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, match official or an opponent
 - been deliberately saved by any opponent.

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save by any opponent) is not considered to have gained an advantage.

A 'save' is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).

In situations where:

- a player moving from, or standing in, an offside position is in the way of an opponent and interferes with the movement of the opponent towards the ball this is an offside offence if it impacts on the ability of the opponent to play or challenge for the ball; if the player moves into the way of an opponent and impedes the opponent's progress (e.g. blocks the opponent), the offence should be penalised under Law 12

- a player in an offside position is moving towards the ball with the intention of playing the ball and is fouled before playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the foul is penalised as it has occurred before the offside offence
- an offence is committed against a player in an offside position who is already playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the offside offence is penalised as it has occurred before the foul challenge.

NO OFFENCE - There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- a goal kick
- a throw-in
- a corner kick

OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS - If an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick where the offence occurred, including if it is in the player's own half of the field of play.

A defending player who leaves the field of play without the referee's permission shall be considered to be on the goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage in play or until the defending team has played the ball towards the halfway line and it is outside its penalty area. If the player left the field of play deliberately, the player must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.

An attacking player may step or stay off the field of play not to be involved in active play. If the player re-enters from the goal line and becomes involved in play before the next stoppage in play or the defending team has played the ball towards the halfway line and it is outside its penalty area, the player shall be considered to be positioned on the goal line for the purposes of offside. A player who deliberately leaves the field of play and re-enters without the referee's permission and is not penalised for offside and gains an advantage must be cautioned.

If an attacking player remains stationary between the goalposts and inside the goal as the ball enters the goal, a goal must be awarded unless the player commits an offside offence or a Law 12 offence, in which case play is restarted with an indirect or direct free kick.

Examples of offside decisions - Following are a couple of video clips with correct decisions:

The first example is not offside and play should continue with a goal awarded.

https://youtu.be/IRU15MeY_-E

Considerations are – Is the red attacker on the far side in an offside position when he receives the ball? If so which part of the body? There is no offside offence – Red 7 is in an offside position but not interfering with play. The red attacker on the far side is not offside and he crosses for a fair goal to Red 11 who comes from behind in an onside position.

The second example is offside by interfering with an opponent.

<https://youtu.be/AuUvmE7fm18>

Considerations are - is the Blue player in an offside position by interfering with an opponent and if so how? At the moment the ball is played the blue attacking player is in an offside position. He is interfering with the opponent by challenging for the ball. So, it is offside by interfering with play and the restart is an indirect free kick to Red.

The third example is offside by interfering with play.

https://youtu.be/xnUE7By3_m0

Considerations are - is Blue and White 9 in an offside position by interfering with play and if so which part of the body? At the moment the ball is played by a team mate Blue and White 9 is in an offside position and interfering with play by playing the ball. So, the decision is offside by interfering with play and the restart is an indirect free kick to Blue.

The final example is offside by gaining an advantage.

<https://youtu.be/sTxB2Q5RZRk>

Considerations are - Is Blue 8 in an offside position gain an advantage by playing the ball? Does Blue 8 receive the ball after a deliberate save by the White keeper? At the moment the ball is played by a team mate Blue 8, in an offside position, gains an advantage by playing the ball when it has deliberately saved by the White goal keeper. So, the decision is offside by Blue 8 who gains an advantage by playing the ball when it has been deliberately saved by the White keeper.

Ben Abraham Interview



Recently, A-League and NPL1 referee, Ben Abraham travelled to Kuala Lumpur to attend the AFC Referees Academy, which was a great achievement to be selected in his first year as a HAL Referee. We asked him to answer a few questions about his Refereeing career.

⚽ How old were you when you started Refereeing and with what Branch?
I started refereeing when I was fifteen with the Eastern Suburbs (ESFA) branch.

⚽ With the season still underway, how have you enjoyed your first season as a Referee on the HAL so far?
Obviously being named on the panel brings great excitement and satisfaction. For me personally, it has been a wonderful opportunity to get to work with some fantastic refereeing talent and coaches within Australia and to continue to develop my skills and work on my game.

⚽ How were you selected for the AFC Referees Academy and what does the program entail?
The AFC Referees Academy has an emphasis on talent identification and development to provide the opportunity to every member association to enhance and nurture world-class referees. The course composes of four modules per annum across a four-year period providing candidates with the opportunity to develop their skills on and off the field. The first module was recently held at AFC House in Kuala Lumpur during February of this year. The week long modules consists of both practical/physical testing as well as technical sessions focused on the core principals of the program – nurturing and developing elite officials. As there is three months in between modules the weeks that we are in KL cover an extensive amount of the topics and development areas as one would expect as face-to-face time becomes so valuable. The course continues every other week we are not together as we have external work to be completed via an internet portal.

⚽ What impact do you see the Academy having on your performance in the HAL?
With every facet of life, the more you practice and train the better you'll become. The introduction to elite processes and programs throughout AFC and the constant work and application will allow for greater development in my own game. The course workload ensures that with application there will be growth in performance through improvements physically, mentally and technically. From the learning points coming out of this program in Asia there will be an easy transfer and improvement to my performances in Australia within both HAL and NSW competitions. As such I'm looking forward to bringing back what I have learnt from AFC and sharing this with others in NSW.

⚽ What advice can you give to our new members to State League for 2020?

Enjoy the season. It's a pretty simple and easy notion but one that reminds you of your why and reason for refereeing in the first place. To merely be a part of football is a fantastic thing and something that shouldn't been taken for granted. If you are aspiring to increase the level you are refereeing at you need to focus on yourself. Focus on those things that are in your hands and are controllable, don't get bogged down by those that you cannot control.

👉 *If you are a new member or someone that hasn't had the chance to meet Ben, he regularly attends our General Meetings. Don't be shy and say hello.*

2019-2020 Laws of the Game Quiz

A thorough understanding of the Laws of the Game is an essential quality of a good referee. All referees should regularly review their Laws of the Game book to ensure they are correctly interpreting and applying them.

This monthly LOTG Quiz is highly recommended for all active referees and assessors and counts towards meeting part of the criteria for honour games consideration and annual awards. To reinforce your knowledge, you are encouraged to utilise your Laws of the Game Book to assist in answering the quiz questions. All quiz questions are based on the new 2019/2020 IFAB LOTG.

Click Here

Click on the "Click Here" button to complete the highly recommended monthly LOTG Quiz to test yourself on how well you know the laws.

March LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - C; 2 - D; 3 - A; 4 - B; 5 - C; 6 - A; 7 - D; 8 - B; 9 - A; 10 - C.

Important Dates

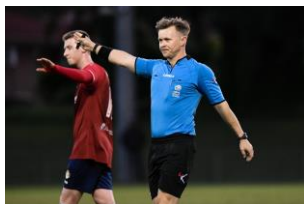
Friday 3rd April 2020 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm. **Unfortunately, this meeting has been cancelled due to the current COVID-19 situation.**

Friday 1st May 2020 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Friday 5th June 2020 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Friday 3rd July 2020 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Note: All dates are subject to the current COVID-19 situation and any further restrictions that may be imposed.



**Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member
and Newsletter Editor**

