



Welcome to this seventy fifth 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!



**Happy New Year to All
NSWSLFR Members and
Referees Worldwide**



To do for NSWSLFR members in January 2020:

1. [Register for the branch for 2020: See secretary email for when activated](#)
2. [Review the 2019/20 LOTG changes](#)
3. [Make yourself available for trial matches on Horizon WebRef](#)
4. [Register for the seminar: Sunday 19 Jan 2020 - Assessor and Sunday 2nd February 2020 - Referee](#)
5. [Register for a fitness test](#)

Handball Before Goal is Scored - A Case Study

Handball decisions have changed, especially before a goal has been scored. To highlight handball before a goal is scored, which is a new situation in the Laws of the Game from the 2019/2020 season onwards; that is for our season starting 2020 in Australia. I will try to demonstrate this new situation with text and a video example in this article. You will need to be aware and how to handle this situation from the 2020 season onwards. Check out the new LOTG changes for 2019/2020 with clarifications at the following link:

[Changes to the Laws and Clarifications 2019/2020](#)

Because of the recent law changes, you need to make a different decision as a referee compared to previous seasons. The scenes are from the game between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur. Referee Michael Oliver allows the goal, but then VAR tells him to wait. Take a look at the video link below:

<https://streamable.com/wwyk8>

A quick recap - The score is 2-2 and there is a corner kick for Manchester City. The cross comes in and touches Laporte's (MC14) arm, but it seems not deliberate by the City player. His teammate Gabriel Jesus (9) receives the ball and scores. Referee Michael Oliver disallows the goal after VAR intervention. However, isn't the handball accidental? Yes, I'd say so.

Why does the referee and VAR then make the call to disallow the call? Check out the explanation below about the LOTG changes.

Laws on handball before a goal (IFAB 2019/2020 LOTG Law 12 – Page 104.):

It's an offence if a player: gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:

- scores in the opponents' goal
- creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

The second bullet is crucial here, as a teammate of Laporte gets a goal-scoring opportunity (he scores actually). The reasoning behind this law change? IFAB explains in the Laws of the Game book (IFAB 2019/2020 LOTG Law 12 – Page 163): *“Football expects a player to be penalised for handball if they gain possession/control of the ball from their hand/arm and gain a major advantage e.g. score or create a goal-scoring opportunity”*.

Discussion Point:

In the Manchester City vs Tottenham Hotspur situation, the VAR tells referee Michael Oliver that there is handball before the goal. He then disallows the goal by Gabriel Jesus without doing an on-field review with the VAR explaining the situation via the headset communications gear. In Australia we often have the VAR suggest that the referee checks via the on-field review screen and to make the final decision. This often upsets the players, coaches and spectators because of the delay in play. Do you prefer the referee to do an on-field review (OFR) or is it fine for you if the VAR tells the referee what to decide as is the majority case in the EPL and Bundesliga?

Adapted and modified from an article by Jan ter Harmsel (@dutchreferee).

Laws of the Game Changes 2019/2020 - Law 12 Handling the Ball

Continuing our theme in this Newsletter of changes to the laws concerning handball and handball offences following is exactly what the LOTG 2019/2020 actually say concerning handball - *IFAB 2019/2020 LOTG Law 12 – Pages 104 to 105 and 163 to 164*:

Handing the ball - It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
 - scores in the opponents' goal
 - creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

It is usually an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
 - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger
 - the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

The above offences apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger
- when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. Inside their penalty area, the goalkeeper cannot be guilty of a handling offence incurring a direct free kick; or any related sanction but can be guilty of handling offences that incur an indirect free kick. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction.

Explanation - Greater clarity is needed for handball, especially on those occasions when 'nondeliberate' handball is an offence. The re-wording follows a number of principles:

- football does not accept a goal being scored by a hand/arm (even if accidental)
- football expects a player to be penalised for handball if they gain possession/control of the ball from their hand/arm and gain a major advantage e.g. score or create a goal-scoring opportunity
- it is natural for a player to put their arm between their body and the ground for support when falling.
- having the hand/arm above shoulder height is rarely a 'natural' position and a player is 'taking a risk' by having the hand/arm in that position, including when sliding
- if the ball comes off the player's body, or off another player (of either team) who is close by, onto the hand/arm it is often impossible to avoid contact with the ball.



NSWSLFR JANUARY/FEBRUARY TRAINING

- Training is at Lidcombe Oval at 7pm on Wednesday. Training status is updated via Facebook Group and email
- Members who cannot attend training should submit their own data via the Garmin Group or [link](#). All training sessions should include an appropriate warm-up and cool down with appropriate rest between drills.
- Fitness tests are at Barden Ridge – Register through the link. Pre-registration is compulsory.
- Practice FTs are at Barden Ridge however it is a shared track. The Practice FT on 22 Jan will replace training however dual sessions at Lidcombe and Barden will be run in February.
- The TSC has decided to continue with the same fitness assessment eligibility criteria of attending three of the formal sessions prior to registering for the fitness tests. Members who are unable to make three sessions should contact John Parker, Fitness Co-ordinator at training@nswfootballreferees.com.au or 0412 060 499 to discuss alternatives

Wed Jan 1 No training New Year's Day	Wed Jan 8 Lidcombe 7pm A1 – 12 mins B1 – 1 set A2 – 8 mins C1 – 1 set	Wed Jan 15 Lidcombe 7pm A1 – 16 mins B2 – 1 set A2 – 10 mins C2 – 1 set	Wed Jan 22 Practice FT Barden Ridge 7.30pm	Sat Jan 25 Practice FT Barden Ridge 8.00am	Wed Jan 29 Lidcombe 7pm A1 – 18 mins B3 – 1 set C3 – 2 sets
Wed Feb 5 Fitness Test 1 Barden Ridge 6pm & training at Lidcombe 7pm A3 B4 – 2 sets A1 – 12 mins	Wed Feb 12 Lidcombe 7pm A2 – 18 mins B1 – 1 set C1 – 1 set	Sun Feb 16 Fitness Test 2 Barden Ridge 8am	Wed Feb 19 Lidcombe 7pm A1 – 18 mins B2 – 1 set C3 – 2 sets	Sun Feb 23 Fitness Test 3 Barden Ridge 8am	Wed Feb 26 Fitness Test 4 Barden Ridge 6pm & training at Lidcombe 7pm A4 – 2x8mins B3 – 1 set C1 – 1 set

DRILLS

	1	2	3	4
A	75m run/25m rest Straight line At fitness test times Count Your Reps Targets NPLM – 10 reps/5½' NPLW/SL – 9 reps/5½'	75m run/25m rest Curved line At fitness test times Count Your Reps Targets NPLM – 10 reps/5½' NPLW/SL – 9 reps/5½'	8x20m Sprint up jog back 6x40m Sprint up jog back 4x60m Sprint up jog back 2x80m Sprint up jog back with 1:1 recovery in between each of the distance groups. Max of 2mins for each of the four distance groups.	150m run, 50m walk 150m run, 50m jog 2 runs = 1 lap Count Your Laps Targets NPLM – 4 laps/ 8 mins NPLW/SL – 3 laps/8 mins
B	6x20m falling start sprints Walk recovery <30secs	6x40m sprints Walk recovery <1min	4x 30m sprints 3 min rest 4x 40m sprints Walk recovery <1min	10m sprint, walk recovery 20m sprint, walk recovery 30m sprint, walk recovery 40m sprint, walk recovery 4 reps, 3 mins between sets
C	10m sprint 30m jog 20m sprint 20m jog 30m sprint 10m jog 40m sprint Continuous in 1min, then 1min rest – 5 reps	20m shuttles in 1 min with 1 min rest. Repetitions of 10, 10, 11, 11 and 12	3x25m shuttles in 20secs 20secs rest 12 reps	

Sprint = Your Maximum Effort, Run = Your Fitness Test Pace, Jog = Your Recovery Pace. Walk = Your Walking Pace

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.

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

Important Dates

Sunday 19th January 2020 – Assessor's Seminar at Valentine Sports Park, 235-257 Meurants Lane, Glenwood NSW 2768, starts at 9.00 am. Name confirmation from 8.30 am. The seminar finishes at 15.00. **Note:** Pre-registration through the Registration JotForm is essential. The seminar is compulsory and all assessors are required to attend. Failure to attend will impact on appointments.

Sunday 2nd February 2020 – Annual Seminar at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 8.30 am. Name confirmation from 8.00 am. The seminar finishes at 13.00. **Note:** Pre-registration through the Registration JotForm is essential. The seminar is compulsory and all referees are required to attend. Failure to attend will impact on appointments.

Wednesday 5th February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 6.00 to 8.30 pm – be there at 5.30 pm for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.

Sunday 16th February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 8.00 to 11.00 am – be there at 7.30 am for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.

Sunday 23rd February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 8.00 to 11.00 am – be there at 7.30 am for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.

Wednesday 26th February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 6.00 to 8.30 pm – be there at 5.30 pm for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.



Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

