



Welcome to this seventy seventh 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 trial matches on Horizon WebRef](#)
4. [Attend training every week](#)
5. [Attend March General Meeting](#)

LOTG 2019-2020 - The Referee Plays Advantage

The referee plays advantage perfectly when you let the non-offending team build up an attack. So, where do you apply the advantage? In this article you will see video examples, plus criteria to keep in mind when giving advantage. Let's take a look at the following video clip:

<https://streamable.com/1noll>

As you can see there is a foul in a counter-attack by Juventus. Referee Carlos del Cerro Grande plays the advantage in the clip above. Dybala from Juventus is on the left wing. In the middle Ajax player Ekkelenkamp clearly pulls Ronaldo back, because he wants to stop him moving forward. As pointed out the player on the wing has a lot of space in front of him, which gives the referee a good reason for play to continue. It is good to see how closely the Spanish referee follows play after a counter-attack (very good positioning).



The Laws of the Game are clear on this subject. “The referee allows play to continue when an offence occurs and the non-offending team will benefit from the advantage.” However, where does the caution come in? “If the referee plays the advantage for an offence for which a caution/send-off would have been issued had play been stopped, this caution/send-off must be issued when the ball is next out of play. In the past it was also always stated that you didn't have to stop play except for the denial of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity when the player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour.”

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 additional text now states – “Once the referee has decided to caution or send-off a player, play must not be restarted until a sanction has been administered, unless the non-offending team takes a quick free kick, has a clear goal-scoring opportunity and the referee has not started the disciplinary sanction procedure. The sanction is administered at the next stoppage; if the offence was denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, is cautioned.

Explanation: *Occasionally, an attack is stopped by a cautionable or sending-off offence and the attacking team takes a quick free kick which restores the “lost attack”; it is clearly “unfair” if this “new” attack is stopped to issue the YC/RC. However, if the referee has distracted the offending team by starting the YC/RC procedure, the quick free kick is not allowed. For a DOGSO offence, the player will be cautioned and not sent off because the attack was restarted (as when advantage is applied for a DOGSO offence).*

When not to apply advantage: Advantage should not be applied in situations involving serious foul play, violent conduct or a second cautionable offence unless there is a clear opportunity to score a goal. The referee must send-off the player when the ball is next out of play but if the player plays the ball or challenges/interferes with an opponent, the referee will stop play, send-off the player and restart with an indirect free kick, unless the player committed a more serious offence.

Things to consider when you play advantage: The referee may play advantage whenever an offence occurs but should consider the following in deciding whether to apply the advantage or stop play -

- the severity of the offence – if the offence warrants a sending-off, the referee must stop play and send off the player unless there is a clear opportunity to score a goal
- the position where the offence was committed – the closer to the opponent's goal, the more effective the advantage can be
- the chances of an immediate, promising attack
- the control of the ball
- direction of play
- location of the number of defenders' vs attackers'
- injury management
- the atmosphere or temperature of the match
- skill level
- state of the match
- condition of the field
- referee's control

All of the above factors play an important part when considering playing an advantage. Ultimately, it is down to the referee's control of whether the referee applies the advantage clause or not.

Examples of good advantages: Following are a couple of video clips

The first example is advantage in the attacking half of the field of play.

<https://youtu.be/v7rSj-DGNRw>

The second example is advantage played in the middle third of the field of play.

<https://youtu.be/8rjVrQAQgDg>

This is where you need to be careful if there's a chance for a promising attack. If you look at the video clip you will notice that the AR even flags for the foul. The advantage works perfectly here, but always ask yourself where play is going.

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



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.

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

Important Dates

Friday 6th March 2020 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

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

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.



Richard Baker - NSWFLR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

