



Welcome to this seventy third 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!



LEGEA

Serious foul play (e.g. a challenge which uses excessive force, is designed to injure an opponent or shows complete disregard for an opponent’s safety) is a red card offence. If a player has been seriously injured as a result of serious foul play then identifying the offender and remembering to deal with them after enabling the assessment of the injured player by the physio is important. As player safety is paramount, the injured player should be assessed and, if necessary, removed for treatment before the sending off. This can be difficult if the challenge has resulted in a mass confrontation, and it may be easier to call the physio on immediately without checking the injured player and just observe who the offenders are prior to taking disciplinary action when things have calmed down.

Example of Video Review in the MLS

Click on the link below to take a closer look at the use of Video Review in the MLS (Week 31) USA. It shows how they use VAR in the USA and the examples given are helpful for decision making for referees worldwide. Good for education and identifying Key Match Incidents/Decisions.

<https://youtu.be/SE1JiuQROE>

Laws of the Game Changes 2019/2020

The 2016/17 revision of the Laws of the Game started the most far-reaching and comprehensive period of Law changes in The IFAB's history. The aim is to make the Laws clearer, more accessible and to ensure they reflect the needs of the modern game at all levels.

Many of the changes are the result of suggestions from individuals, groups and national FAs from around the world which have been reviewed by The IFAB's Football and Technical Advisory Panels to ensure that all areas of football contribute to the evolution of the Laws, as the Laws are for everyone involved in the game, not just the referees.

The most recent changes have extended many of the principles established in the 2016/17 revision and, as outlined in the 'play fair!' strategy, have tried to improve the game's attractiveness and the levels of behaviour. In this context, the 2017 AGM approved some significant changes to help develop the lower levels of football, including:

- extending the flexibility of national FAs to modify some of the 'organisational' Laws to help promote football in their countries
- introducing the option to use temporary dismissals (sin bins) as an alternative sanction to a caution (YC) in youth, veterans, disability and grassroots (lowest levels) football
- extending the use of return substitutes to youth, veterans and disability football (they are already permitted in grassroots football).

In March 2018, The IFAB AGM approved a further series of changes, the two most significant of which were competition options allowing an additional substitute in extra time and the use of video assistant referees (VARs).

The option to use an additional substitute in extra time has benefited football at all levels as the extra 'fresh' player can both save another player from the possibility of exhaustion/injury and increase the chances of the game being decided in extra time.

The introduction of VARs has been the biggest revolution in professional football for more than a century. Given that it took football many years of debate before it took the tentative steps to see if technology could assist decision-making without destroying the game's almost non-stop flow of action and emotion, it has been a remarkably fast 'revolution'.

The first VAR match took place in New Jersey, NY, USA on 12 August 2016 and, remarkably, only 23 months later, VARs were being used in the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ final in Moscow. VARs will never solve every 'dispute', as so many decisions are subjective, but its adoption by most of the world's major footballing countries demonstrates that football believes that VARs bring greater fairness and improve player behaviour.

Many of the Law changes for 2019/20 will directly and positively affect the way the game is played and its image, e.g.:

- more constructive play at goal kicks as the ball no longer has to leave the penalty area before it can be played
- attacking players will not be allowed into the defensive 'wall' to cause disruption and conflict (which also delays the game)
- a fairer dropped ball procedure will stop the current 'abuses' – a dropped ball will also be given if the ball hits the referee and goes into the goal, the team in possession changes, or a new attack begins.

As part of The IFAB's on-going determination to use the Laws to improve behaviour and the image of the game, misbehaving team officials will now receive a yellow or red card and, if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach will get the card.

The IFAB will continue to experiment with significant Law changes. Most of the experiments so far have been successful but the so-called 'AB-BA' system of kicks from the penalty mark – where the team taking the 2nd kick alternated – proved not to be especially popular, primarily because it was complicated and football is essentially a simple (and traditional!) game, so it has been discontinued.

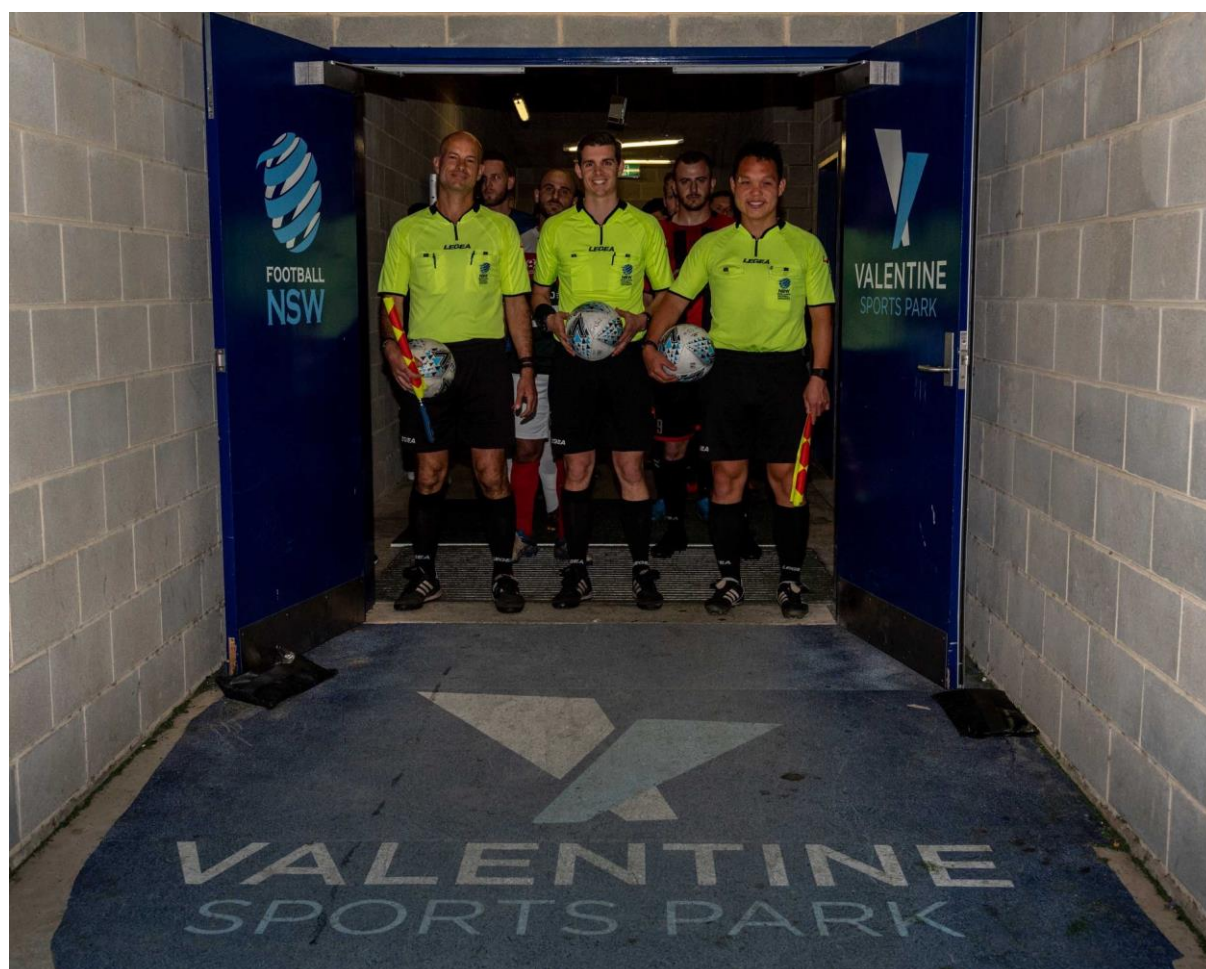
Click on the following links for information on the 2019/2020 Law changes:

[Summary of the main law changes 2019/2020](#)

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

[Presentation of all changes to the Laws and Clarifications, including video examples](#)

[Presentation of all changes to the Laws and Clarifications, including video examples \(pdf version\)](#)



2018-2019 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 current 2018/2019 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.

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

Important Dates

Friday 6th December 2019 – Annual 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

