



79

Welcome to this seventy-ninth 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!



| Course                   | Date           | Cost       | Enrol                      |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Level 2 Referee (Theory) | Saturday 2 May | \$120 \$75 | <a href="#">Click Here</a> |
| Level 3 Assessor         | Sunday 3 May   | \$60 \$40  | <a href="#">Click Here</a> |
| Level 3 Referee          | Saturday 9 May | \$60 \$40  | <a href="#">Click Here</a> |
| Level 2 Referee (Theory) | Sunday 17 May  | \$120 \$75 | <a href="#">Click Here</a> |

- 8.30am to 4pm with an online exam at the end of the day (there will be regular breaks throughout the day)
- Minimum Age is 16yo for L3 Referee and 18yo for the other courses

Questions or registration issues to [courses@nswfootballreferees.com.au](mailto:courses@nswfootballreferees.com.au).



## Referee Positioning at Counter-Attacks

### 5 things that symbolize a counter attack:

In counter-attack situations, the AR should be able to give information such as whether or not a foul has been committed and whether a foul was committed inside or outside the penalty area, and what disciplinary action should be taken. The AR should make a clear movement along the touchline towards the halfway line to indicate when the offence took place outside the penalty area.

Yes, I believe it is very important that your assistant referee can help you. However, as the referee you want to be able to follow play as well. You want to be in the right position. A Concacaf presentation I've seen describes it very accurately. **"Mobility = being able to get 'somewhere' (fitness). Positioning = knowing where that 'somewhere' is."** Football teams have to anticipate to only one other team, as the referee you need to anticipate on both.

First, it's good to see what happens in a counter attack. There are 5 things that symbolise the steps in a counter attack for players.

1. Recognise the developing play. Is it on?
2. Regain possession
3. The early decision
4. Support the attack
5. The end positioning

### Counter attacks for referees:

As referee you'll have such steps as well. There are 5 steps for referees, based on the one's for players – and yes, they're quite similar.

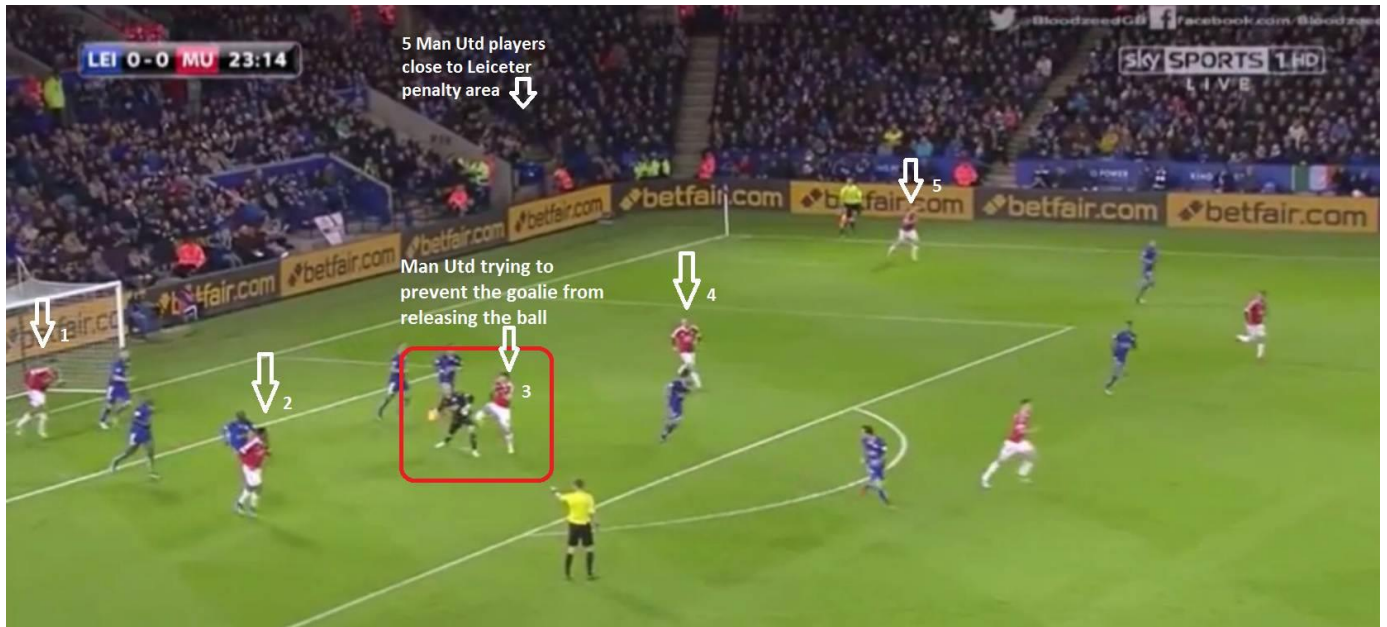
1. Recognise the developing play
2. Regain position
3. The early reaction (anticipation)
4. Follow the attack
5. The end positioning

#### 1. Recognize the developing play

As referee you need to be aware of your surroundings. What happens on the pitch? What can be the next situation you have to focus on? You need to be able to read the game, recognise what players might do.

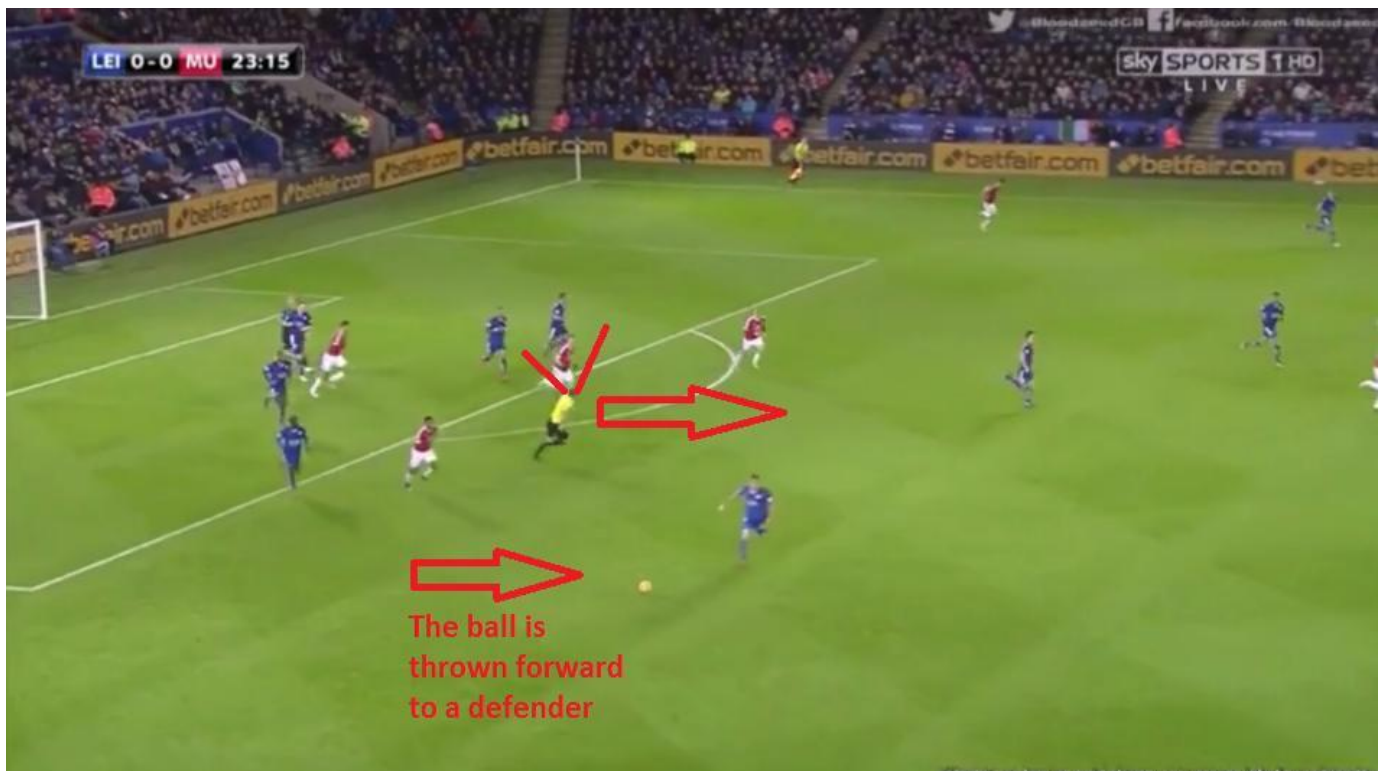
Check out the following image for what the referee has to notice:

There is a player who wants to prevent the keeper from releasing the ball. Now, if you have a broader look, you will see five attackers that are even with the keeper or closer to Leicester's goal-line. There must be plenty of space for a counter-attack because there are less defenders from Manchester United.



## 2. Regain position

The keeper gets the chance to throw the ball forward a teammate, so, they regain position. In the image below you can see that the referee has turned his head to the player who was jumping in front of the goalie. Keep that short, then focus on how play develops. As you can see the referee has changed his direction already with his back to the Leicester goal.



## 3. The early reaction (anticipation)

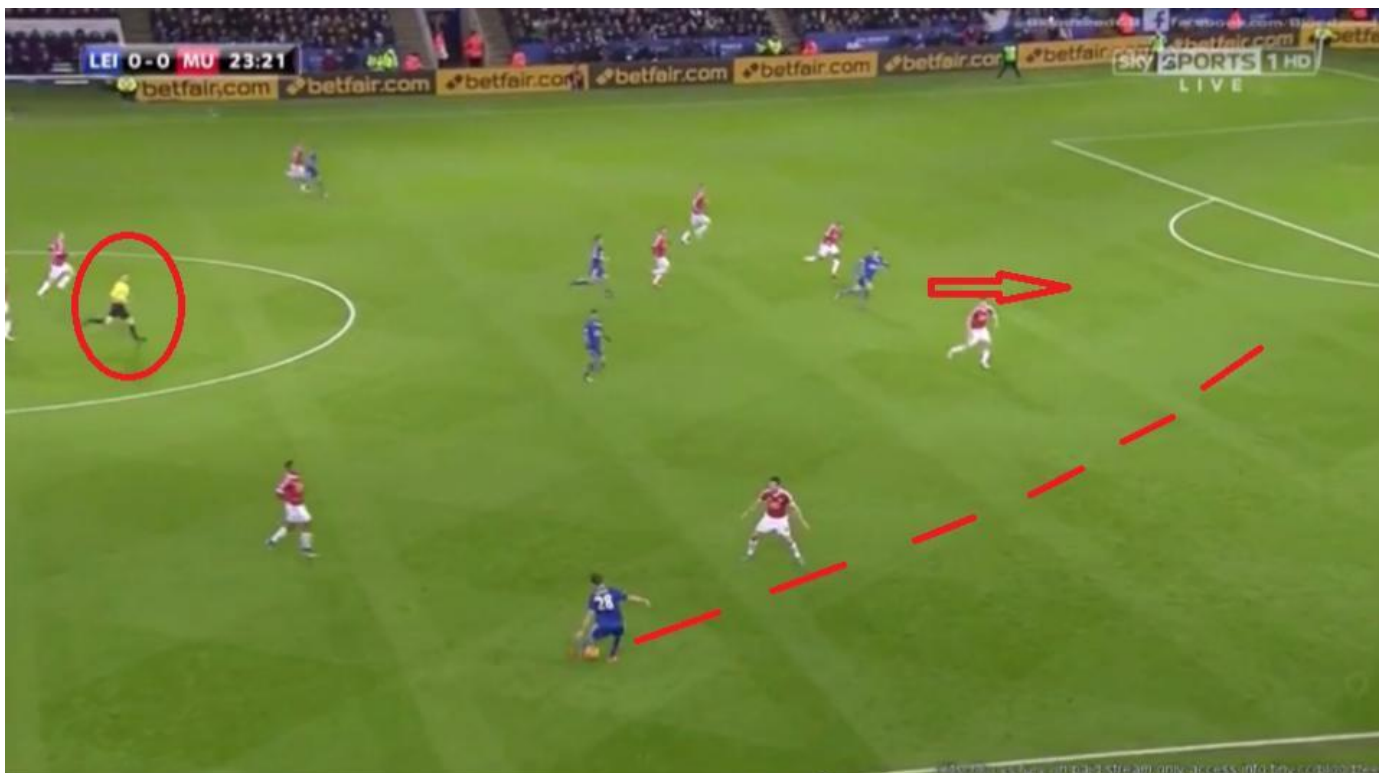
The early reaction has a lot to do with regaining position. They might have been under the same subheading, but I would like to follow the 5 steps as mentioned previously. What is the first thing you would do when you expect a counter-attack? Yes, RUN! In the image following you will see the referee is looking back to the Manchester United player. My advice: don't focus too much on something that happened earlier on, especially when there is no opponent near it, so you don't have to expect any problems.

The good thing you see from image is that you see that the referee is running forward and fast. He has anticipated on the possibility of a counter-attack.



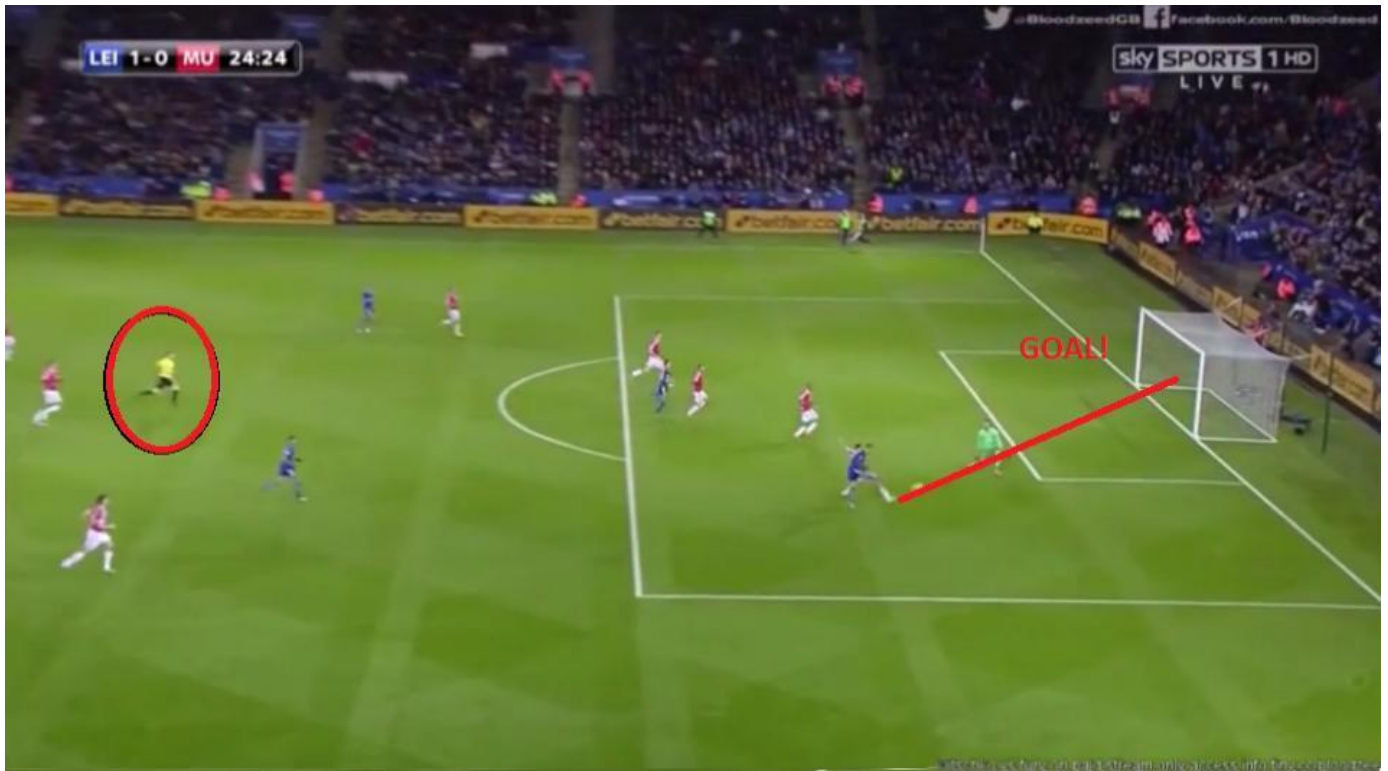
#### 4. Follow the attack

Once you have made that decision to go forward, you need to keep following the attack. In the image below the number 28 has stopped to see where he can pass the ball. This gave the referee some time to cover all the distance and he is shortly behind the ball. However, keep in mind, a ball goes faster than you can run, so keep moving forward and follow the attack. If the right midfielder passes the ball forward, you have a lot of metres to run to be close to the situation again.



## 5. The end positioning

In the end, all you want to do is make the right decision. So, your (end) position when something happens needs to be good. The referee would ideally have been a bit closer to the situation compared to the image below. He has a clear view, but could have been closer and perhaps, a tad wider (he is a little central). In this situation Vardy scores for Leicester, but what if a defender had tackled him?



### *Tips for referee positioning at counter-attacks*

Being in the right position is more than being able to run fast and carry out extended sprints. You need to be able to read play and anticipate on the situation and choose your position smartly. Following are some simple tips for anticipating counter attacks as referees:

- **Do not immediately go wide and deep.** Keep behind play, not in front of the ball. That gives you space, so it will be easier to adapt to situations.
- **Create the best angle of vision.** It must be easy for you to make the right calls by moving to the left or right.
- **Think ahead.** Consider the player's passing options. If you have an idea where the ball might go, you can anticipate on that and move already towards the position where the next challenge will be. So be aware of players and open spaces
- **Always be alert and focused.** Not just important for anticipating on counter-attacks. If there's a counter-attack, focus on that and ignore previous situations that are not relevant anymore.
- **Keep moving.** Don't start running around like crazy, even walking is fine. However, when you are on the move it's easier to change direction or accelerate than when you are standing still. It makes you more flexible in your movements.

How do you keep fit enough to be able to anticipate on counter-attacks? How often do you train? Work on your sprint techniques, anticipate, take off early for the target area and remember to always get the right angle of view (internal or external) to aid and enhance your vision of the action and your foul recognition. If you are not as close as you should be getting a good angle of view will compensate if you are a little distance away from what play has occurred. Remember too to keep running towards the penalty area so that when player(s) turn around or get up you are right there.

## 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.*

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

## Important Dates

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – Online meeting (due to the current COVID-19 situation) using Zoom, starts at 7.30 pm.

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

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

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 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.*

## Respect for the Referee

Every referee experiences it in their careers; coaches that yell at you. However, luckily not every coach is like that. Check out the video clip below in which a coach educates his players to respect the referee. He has some wise lessons for his players. The bottom line is to respect the referee.

[https://youtu.be/HQM\\_Wjrre0o](https://youtu.be/HQM_Wjrre0o)

Relevant points mentioned are "We can't control the opponent or the official but we can control our reaction." "It's very important to respect the referee." "As captain you can be respectful to the ref. If you are a captain and are disrespectful, you can get a card as well." "Most referees make only 1 or 2 mistakes in a game; 3 or 4 tops. An official is never going to make more mistakes than you in a game." "Referees are in the game because they love the game. We want to keep them in the game. Give them the respect they deserve."



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

