



Welcome to this eightieth 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 June 2020:**

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

# Dealing With Mass Confrontation

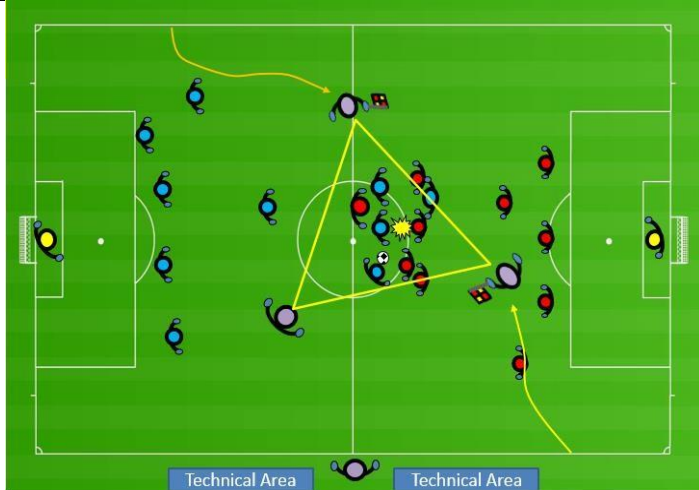
## Mass Confrontation and the Laws of the Game

2019/2020 – Positioning, Movement and Teamwork – Page 101

The newly revised 'Laws of the Game' identify Mass Confrontation in the section of Positioning, Movement and Teamwork on page 111. It states: "In situations of mass confrontation, the nearest AR may enter the field of play to assist the referee. The other AR must observe and record details of the incident. The fourth official should remain in the vicinity of the technical areas."

Definition of Mass Confrontation

Where three or more players are involved, in a situation by engaging in a physical and / or verbal confrontation, or toward the referee by players of the same team involving intimidating or aggressive behaviour

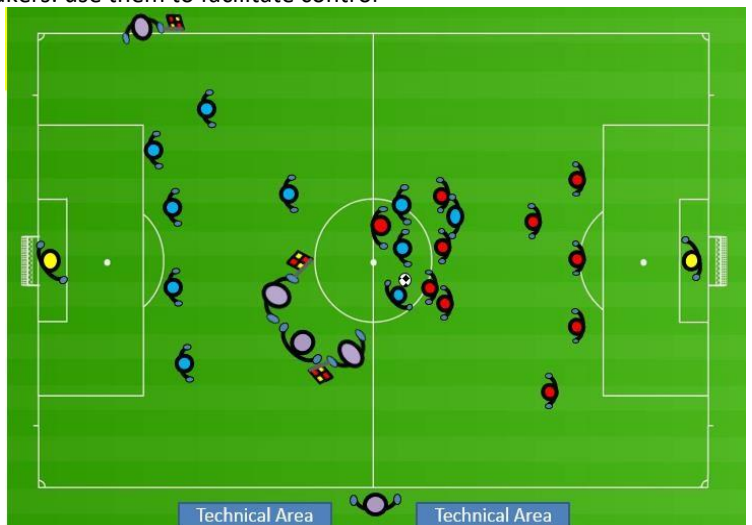


**If the referee can identify situations of mass confrontation then they can avert this with active intervention.**

- If the situation involves only 2 players, the referee has flexibility and discretion to manage this situation as normal.
- However, particular focus should be given to the Instigator / Provoker – the player who aggressively initiated the melee. Referees should deal more firmly with this player.
- The aggressive nature of the confrontation should be considered when determining the sanction.
- If the situation involves a number of players, the referee should pay particular focus to the Instigator / Provoker – the player who aggressively initiated the commotion. Referees should deal more firmly with this player.
- The aggressive nature of the confrontation should be considered when determining the sanction

**The triangle of control, as in the above image, is to be employed by the officiating team in instances of major mass confrontation using the following procedures:**

- Recognise or be aware of the flashpoint / warning sign and expect the unexpected
- Become the third team and get there early: the closest official acts quickly
- If an official is able to, defuse the situation before it starts or escalates (especially, to prevent the commotion from escalating to mass confrontation by dealing with the Instigator / Provoker
- Consider getting the card out quickly to discourage others from joining in
- Do not be the one that raises the temperature of the situation as a result of your actions/approach so remain calm and in control. Use authoritative body language and voice, without escalating matters.
- If it is easy to do so, attempt to separate players (when only 2 involved) or channel them to neutral areas or zones, away from other players
- **Once the commotion becomes mass confrontation (3 or more players):**
  - For personal safety reasons and clear thinking and decision-making, step back and the officiating team forms a triangle of control around the situation. All other officials take their lead from the referee's position.
  - Identify and watch for negative players / instigators / escalators / third person in
  - Identify and watch for positive players / peace makers: use them to facilitate control
  - Take out your note-pad and take notes such as numbers
  - Once the confrontation settles, step in and isolate or channel players to neutral areas
  - All officials should meet to compare notes, as in the 2<sup>nd</sup> image.
  - Here the team has time to consider their response, then
    - Administer any obvious red cards first
    - Administer any obvious yellow cards second to any other player(s)
    - If needed, deal with any technical area issues next, and then...
  - Get the game restarted as soon as practical



**Please also note the considerations (101 to 111) for Confrontation in the FFA LOTG 2019/2020 Page 132 Modified and updated from the FFV Referees Technical Committee publication of March 2018.**

## Managing Mass Confrontation

### Mass Confrontation Defined:

- Verbal or physical actions which are disrespectful to the game, the opponent or officials where three or more players are involved.
- Can be toward opponents by more than one player from a single team that involves physical/verbal confrontation, aggressive behaviour toward each other and, often, physical contact happens. Normally involves the coming together to engage in physical and/or verbal confrontation. Intimidation and a source of strength are often trademarks.
- Can be toward official(s) when players exhibit aggressive behaviour often characterized by surrounding, hindering or forcing movement. An overall attitude focused on intimidation to influence a current or future outcome/decision.

**Positioning** by the referee can often be the difference between identifying or missing an off-the-ball offense. Failure to identify off-the-ball violent behaviour offences can lead to mass confrontation and game control issues. As a result, match officials must identify the optimal position to anticipate and observe the next phase of play. In addition, a strategic position lends itself to prevention because players will see and feel the aura and presence of the official.

**Channel players to neutral areas:** In cases of potential game disrepute or mass confrontation, use your physical presence as well as verbal (including the whistle) to separate players without making inappropriate physical contact.

**Game Management:** Management of game disrepute is vital in overall match control as it often escalates into mass confrontation which is difficult for referee teams to control. Game disrepute usually involves two opponents and occurs during a dead ball situation when aggressive behaviour is exhibited toward an opponent to provoke them.

**Recommendation:** In situations of mass confrontation, the first step is for one official, usually the referee, to immediately intervene to separate and disperse the group of players. The nearest AR may enter the field of play to assist the referee. The other AR must observe and record details of the incident. The fourth official should remain in the vicinity of the technical areas. This is to make sure that no substitutes leave the bench area.

Scenarios should be covered in the pre-game talk which allows officials to better monitor and manage these situations when they arise. Once the situation is under control and players have been separated, the referee must dispense the appropriate punishment after ensuring he or she has solicited input from the entire referee team.

[Clip 1 Manhattan vs Rutgers - Mass Confrontation](#) **Referee Awareness:** The referee intervenes to the situation with urgency. When he recognises too many players getting involved, he takes a step back to view for any additional misconduct. At this point the referee needs to be using his whistle to jostle the minds of the players in order to de-escalate the confrontation. **Assistant Referee Awareness:** When the AR sees the players confront each other he tries to step in and de-escalate the situation.

[Clip 2 Mercer vs Furman - Mass Confrontation](#) In this clip, ask yourself... What was handled well, and what could be managed differently. Did we have the appropriate outcome? In this match there is no fourth official assigned, therefore, as the referee you would need to adjust your pre-game talk so that Assistant Referee 1 assumes the responsibilities of the bench area prior to assisting with the identification of misconduct during the mass confrontation.

[Clip 3 Clemson vs Duke - Mass Confrontation](#) Lastly, should the referee in this clip have intervened sooner? Did the triangle of control work? What was positive? In this match, VAR was available and used to determine if violent behaviour and/or fighting occurred within the mass confrontation.

## 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.*

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

## Important Dates

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – Online Zoom General Meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions starting 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.*

## Replacement of a Defective Ball

If the ball becomes defective:

Play is stopped and restarted by dropping the replacement ball where the original ball became defective. If the ball becomes defective at kick-off, goal kick, corner kick, free kick, penalty kick or throw-in the restart is retaken.

If the ball becomes defective during a penalty kick or kicks from the penalty mark as it moves forward and before it touches a player crossbar or goal posts the penalty kick is retaken.

The ball may not be changed during the match without the referee's permission.

Additional balls which meet the requirements of Law 2 may be placed around the field of play and their use is under the referee's control.



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

