



Welcome to this one hundredth and second 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

Congratulations to Michael Weiner on his 100th NPL match between Sydney United 58 and Mount Druitt Town Rangers on Sunday 20th March 2022. Michael joined the NSWSLFR in 2010 and officiated his first ever NPL NSW Men’s match in the final round of the competition in 2012.



To do for NSWSLFR members in April 2022:

1. [Review the 2021/22 LOTG changes](#)
2. [Make yourself available for competition matches](#)
3. Register on the new FNSW Competition System – Dribl
4. Attend training every week in 2022 – Venue: Potts Park, Yagoona
5. Attend the April General Meeting via Zoom at 7.30 pm

Kicking the Ball Against an Opponent

On occasions in a match there are players who kick the ball deliberately at an opponent either just before play is stopped or just after the whistle has gone. Within the Laws of the Game, officials must decide whether the action itself constitutes a **Lack of Respect for the Game** (Caution/Yellow Card) or **Violent Conduct** (Violent conduct is when a player uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a teammate, team official, match official, spectator or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made).

When evaluating these situations, consider the following:

- Point of contact – contact with the ball to more sensitive areas of the body (such as the head, or ‘softer’ areas) should normally result in higher disciplinary action.
- Was there excessive force or brutality used? Higher the force or evidence of brutality will normally equate to a higher disciplinary action.
- Was the action during live play, just after the whistle or was there a longer period of time after the whistle? This consideration has to be applied with a degree of caution, because if the action involved excessive force/brutality, the whistle is irrelevant. However, if the action happens a period of time after the whistle, the official should ask themselves, did the player have time to think about their action?
- What direction did the player kick the ball? If Team A is playing right to left and a member of Team A kicks the ball towards the opponent’s goal but strikes the opponent, the officials must decide if the action was similar to what they may have done had play been ongoing. Then, the officials should consider the first three considerations in conjunction with this.

Officials should be very aware of the consequences of such actions for their match control. If the temperature of the game is high at this point, the aftermath of such actions could result in a mass confrontation or further disciplinary action to other players if they carry out retribution. Therefore, immediate intervention is recommended, if possible.

Kicking the ball at an opponent example Video 1 – https://youtu.be/9yTEfc_N6yY

With the first incident, the point of contact was to the back of his opponent with the ball, very close to the whistle and the player was kicking the ball in what potentially could be interpreted as a normal direction and style for the movement. Therefore, the preferred outcome here is a Yellow Card for Lack of Respect for the Game.

Kicking the ball at an opponent example Video 2 - https://youtu.be/i_KMjZmbRIY

In this incident, the referee’s whistle does not sound, however the player kicks the ball with force and a degree of brutality at the head of his opponent. This is a Red Card for Violent Conduct. Note the players decide to take the law into their own hands after the action, and involve themselves in a mass confrontation.

Kicking the ball at an opponent example Video 3 - <https://youtu.be/VuZPS3FZg5Q>

In this incident, the Tulsa player (obviously frustrated due to the score line) kicks the ball with excessive force and brutality into the head of his opponent. Regardless of any other consideration, this is Violent Conduct and should result in a Red Card.

Kicking the ball at an opponent example Video 4 - https://youtu.be/l_5oGgkkU1s

In the fourth incident, initially we see how the action of the player from North Texas causes an angry reaction from opponents and potentially more match control problems for the officiating team. When the ball went for a throw in, the North Texas player kicked the ball with excessive force and brutality into the softer mid-section of his Greenville opponent's body, in front of AR1. This should be a Red Card for Violent Conduct.

Kicking the ball at an opponent example Video 5 - <https://youtu.be/q1wftXuxA0E>

In this incident the ball goes out of play for a throw in and the Memphis player pushes his Atlanta opponent to the ground. In his frustration, the defender gets up, has time to think about his action, and with force and brutality, deliberately kicks the ball at the back of his opponent before play restarts. This should be (as the Referee on the day correctly recognised) a Red Card for Violent Conduct. Again, look at the reaction to such incidents with the players coming in to a mass confrontation. If officials do not deal with such actions appropriately, these types of reactions and unnecessary difficulties with player behaviour will continue.

Modified and adapted from an article in the Profession Referee Organisation – 16th July 2021

What's the Best Mindset for Honour Appointments

Does an Australia Cup, Cup Final or a Grand Final mindset mean referees officiate at a higher level in knockout competition?

When you think of a cup final mindset, you probably think of Howard Webb in the 2010 World Cup Final, Mark Clattenburg at the 2016 European Championships Final... or his excellent performance at the UEFA Champions League Final of the same year.

The knockout competition mentality has been characterised as raising your game to a new level or going all out in the cup competitions. This implies that those with a prestigious appointment mentality referee in cup games than they perform in the regular season.



The Perspective of Those in Other Sports

For example, a softball player who has a playoff mentality is “expected” to hit higher than their regular season batting average. A hockey goalkeeper with a playoff mentality is “expected” to allow fewer goals in a playoff game than their regular-season goals-against average.

When you feel you need or are expected to perform at a higher level in Cup Finals, you put more pressure on yourself. This added pressure will lead to increased anxiety. You might think, “I have to referee better, or I will be demoted, fail or be embarrassed.” These thoughts, feelings, and mental and physiological stress responses lead to underperforming or, even worse, choking.

Still, confusion exists around the term “Cup Final mindset.”

As the Major League Baseball (MLB) side, the Chicago White Sox, headed into the 2021 playoffs, their cup final equivalent, White Sox bench coach Miguel Cairo discussed the team’s mentality and approach to each game.

“You try to play every game like it’s the last game you are going to play. You want to beat anyone that is in your way. It’s like every game is a playoff game from now on. You can get your mindset on what you want to do when October starts.” – Miguel Cairo, Chicago White Sox Bench Coach

Shouldn’t every competition have the same importance? Making the game “bigger” than it is becomes added pressure. To officiate to a high level consistently during the season, you should focus on preparing intently each day, competition, or task at hand... And to succeed in a knockout competition, you should be focused on preparing each day, competition, or task intently at hand.

“You don’t want to think ahead, but the way you play the game, the way your mindset is, it’s like a playoff atmosphere, playoff mentality. You still have to do the little things to win games: Catch the ball, hit the ball. Just keep playing baseball.” – Miguel Cairo, Chicago White Sox Bench Coach

Consistent mental and physical preparation and focusing on the little things were why Howard Webb and Mark Clattenburg were consistent performers. Refereeing consistently near your peak requires the same mental and physical preparation for EVERY game, whether it is in the league or cup.

Getting The Cup Final Mentality

A Cup Final mentality is not something you “have.” A Cup Final mentality is something you work to achieve.

Building a knockout competition mentality starts with identifying the characteristics of peak performance or how you want to officiate when the stakes are high.

Next, how would you train if every prestigious appointment could be your last? Would you up your intensity? Would you want to enter the game with high confidence? Would you want to embrace the challenge of games extra to those you referee in the league? One key is to be consistent in preparation for training, pre-season, league, and cup competitions.

Modified and adapted from an article in The Third Team Blog by Nathan Sherratt – March 2022

2021 -2022 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 2021/2022 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.

March 2022 LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - C; 2 - A; 3 - A; 4 - D; 5 - B; 6 - C; 7 - D; 8 - A; 9 - B; 10 - D.

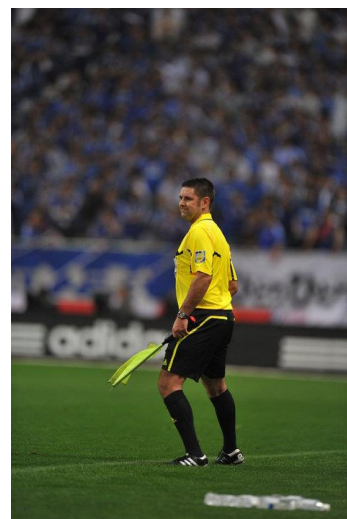
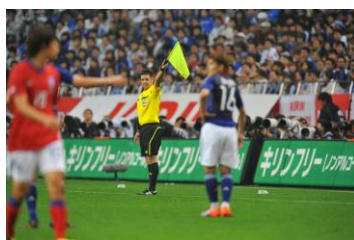
Save These Dates

1st April 2022 – General Meeting commencing 7:30pm via Zoom.

19th April 2022 – Start of the 2022 Competition for NPL NSW Women's.



Blast From The Past - Alex Glasgow



Member Since: 1997 – Started as a referee in 1991 with Macarthur Association culminating with obtaining his FIFA Assistant Referee's badge in 2008. Some notable Referee Career Highlights follow:

- 1991 U9 Div 4 Ron Dine Cup Final referee (At the time the lowest final in the Macarthur Football Association possible to referee.)
- 1993 Under 9 Div 2 Referee- Improvement Award
- 1997/1998 - Appointed to the National Youth League Assistant Referee Panel (NYL)
- 1998/1999 - Appointed to National Youth League Referee Panel (NYL)
- 1998/1999 - Refereed National Youth League Grand Final (NYL)
- 1999/2000 - Fourth Official at the National Youth League Grand Final (NYL)
- 2000 - Refereed Gold Medal Match at the Paralympics
- 2001/2001 - Refereed Northern National Youth League Grand Final (NNYL)
- 2001/2002 - Appointed to the National League Assistant Referee Panel (NSL)
- 2003/2004 - Refereed National League Semi Final, Marconi Vs South Melb (NSL)
- 2005 - Appointed to the Hyundai A-League Assistant Referee Panel
- 2005/2006 - Assistant Referee on the Hyundai A-League Pre-season Cup Final
- 2005/2006 - Assistant Referee on the Inaugural Hyundai A-League Semi Final
- 2008 – Awarded Assistant Referee Badge
- 2011 – Appointed to the NPL1 Grand Final
- 2011 - Football NSW Referee of the Year
- 2016 – NSWSLFR Assessor of the Year
- 2018 – NSWSLFR Assessor of the Year
- Alex is currently a Level 1 Assessor for the A League and our branch

Advice: The game is not about officials; it is best not to be noticed! Listen to every piece of advice you get; it is up to you what you do with the advice. Enjoy the refereeing journey.

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

