



Welcome to this one hundredth and sixth 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 August 2022:

1. [Review the 2021/22 LOTG changes](#)
2. [Make yourself available for competition matches](#)
3. [Attend training every week in 2022 – Venue: Potts Park, Yagoona](#)
4. [Attend the July General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club commencing at 7.30 pm](#)
5. [Good luck to those members who have been appointed to finals series matches](#)

Officials' Skills: Managing Awareness - Advantage

This month continues with the topic of advantages, looking at how referees can use awareness when allowing an attack to continue after a foul.

At every level, officials are taught and coached that the use of advantage (Law 5 – the referee) is not a way of controlling a game, it is a way of making their control (which should be there already) look even stronger, and officials should be aware of the following:

- When executed correctly (in relation to technique) it can make participants from both teams feel confident in the officials' understanding of the game.
- When a foul occurs, players can quickly sense and see if officials are considering advantage or not, with their body language and movement.
- Confusion can come from what an official says or does in the period between the foul and their decision to play advantage, so officials are trained to keep their communication straightforward, and not to make unnecessary signals or say words which will make players stop when advantage is still a possibility.
- Officials who seek to play too much advantage when the players' expectations are a free kick, can find themselves out of touch with the feeling and temperature of the game. Having an awareness when the true advantage to a team, and the referee's match control, is the award of a free kick based on factors such as time of the game, location on the field, score and temperature of the game.

Look at these two clips contained in the link below, where the officials leave the participants in no doubt whatsoever as to their control and what the consequences of continuing play are. In the second clip, the referee comes back correctly to caution for the original reckless challenge.

See video clip - <https://youtu.be/RabAFv3y96k>

Modified and adapted from an article in the Profession Referee Organisation – 10th March 2021

Improving Interpersonal Skills as a Match Official

Confidence is magnetic. Referees who exude genuine confidence appeal to and inspire others. Confidence gives these officials an advantage out in the middle and in personal relationships because their confidence is contagious. When someone is confident in their own abilities, others respond by putting confidence in them, too. But for those looking to improve interpersonal skills, there's a fine line between exuding genuine confidence and displaying pseudo-confidence.

When someone crosses that line, their conduct becomes off putting. Rather than appealing to others, the pseudo-confident referee repels others. This official comes across as untrustworthy and phony.

Improve Interpersonal Skills by Removing the Mask

Sadly, those who are merely acting confident (rather than being confident) seldom recognise the difference. Others see it in them before they see it in themselves. The pseudo-confident generally dismiss others' reactions to them, saying things like "I don't care what they think" or "They're just jealous." The bravado may bolster their spirits, but it also perpetuates the problem and distances others from them even more. After all, who wants to be marginalised by someone who thinks of them in that manner?

Pseudo-confidence is actually encouraged in our society. The "fake it 'til you make it" message reigns supreme. Plenty of people fake it and never really make it because they think the faking it is good enough. So long as this prescription is doled out so loosely, many referees will get stuck in this rut. Real confidence doesn't require faking it. Those who are genuinely confident don't need to fake it.



5 Ways to Be Genuinely Confident

So, what does it look like, then, to be genuinely confident? I can think of five clear differences between real and pseudo confidence.

1. You don't know everything.

Being confident means that you believe in yourself enough to ask questions and to ask for help. It means that you believe in your own abilities to learn and grow, so when you don't know something, you are open to admitting that AND willing to try and try again until you learn.

Pseudo-confidence is just the opposite – not asking for help, not acknowledging skills or knowledge gaps, and not being open and willing to learn.

2. You don't have to be perfect.

Confident officials make mistakes, accept responsibility for those mistakes, correct those mistakes, learn from them, and move on. Those who lack true confidence blame others instead of accepting responsibility. They hide their mistakes (and often magnify them in the process). They don't learn which, of course, means that they are more likely to repeat the same mistakes. In their "fake it 'til you make it" mindset, this is all OK.

3. Do not put on airs.

Confident referees are humble and see no need to call attention to themselves. They rely on substance rather than style. By contrast, the pseudo-confident often have a "look at me" way of presenting themselves. They over-act the part of confidence so that they look "cocky" or arrogant. They deflect questions and oppose differing ideas, usually by attacking those who challenge them. This is because the substance isn't really there and the style won't hold up to any scrutiny.

4. Be unflappable and consistent.

It is not tied to popular opinion or circumstances. Instead, it is steady and ever-present. An official who is confident in himself or herself is not reliant on what others think. Instead, they are content to form their own opinions and to act of their own accord. This type of confidence comes from knowing who they are and what they stand for, anchored in their own values and fully formed beliefs. Those who are merely acting confident lack the foundation to be consistent and independent. Because their confidence isn't rooted in values and beliefs, the pseudo-confident look outward for validation and direction. That makes their confidence situational and puts them on shaky ground.

5. Be giving of yourself.

Confident leaders on the pitch see no need to be protective and stingy with their:

- Time
- Knowledge
- Resources
- Ideas
- Support

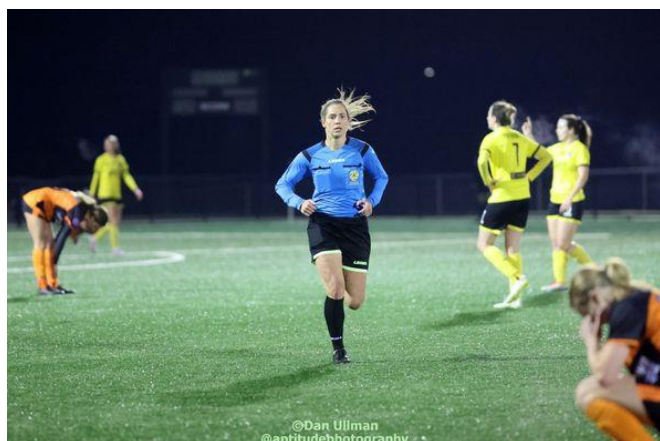
They believe there is plenty to go around, and they welcome the opportunity to help others. They are also magnanimous in spirit, seeing the best in others, overlooking pettiness, forgiving unintended slights, and working earnestly to resolve conflicts. Those who pretend to be confident build walls instead. They isolate themselves and are not forthcoming with information. They don't like to share what they know and are not generous with their time. They protect their turf and see others' involvement or interest as an encroachment. Because they are so defensive, they make "mountains out of molehills" and escalate conflicts. They interpret innocuous comments as insults and think those who ask questions are questioning them as an attack.

Don't Hide, Develop Yourself!

At the root of all these behaviours is the difference between genuine confidence and a lack of confidence. Masking a lack of confidence doesn't fool anyone for very long. It soon becomes clear that the pseudo-confident are trying to hide something.

Usually, what they are trying to hide is the lack of confidence. Just admitting the confidence gap and being confident enough to ask for help resolves this perception and puts referees on the right track towards developing a deeper level of confidence. For some, though, that admission never comes. As a result, they miss out on developing and displaying the genuine confidence that would lead to stronger connections with others.

Modified and adapted from an article in The Third Team Blog by Nathan Sherratt – July 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.

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

Save These Dates

5th August 2022 – General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club commencing 7:30 pm.

2nd September 2022 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club commencing 7:30 pm.

Note: Zoom meetings may replace in person meetings.



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

