



Welcome to this one hundredth and fifth 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 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

## Talking Points – Goalkeeper Distribution

Over the last couple of years there have been a number of incidents relating to possible offences involving goalkeepers releasing the ball from their hands to put it back into play. These have generated debate among the football public.

The Laws of the Game state an indirect free kick is awarded if a player prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it.

### Example 1: TOR vs VAN

See video clip - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHJlnn8IKqk>

In this incident from MLS Week 2, Vancouver Whitecaps No.4 moved towards the goalkeeper, lifted his leg and made contact with the ball while the goalkeeper was in the process of kicking the ball. The goalkeeper had not yet distributed the ball, so the referee was correct to stop play and award an indirect free kick.

### Example 2: NYC vs TOR

See video clip - <https://youtu.be/efur-7aPKA0>

In MLS Week 5, there was an incident in the New York City versus Toronto FC match which was different in a few ways. In this situation, the goalkeeper moved towards NYC No.19. The NYC player did not move towards the goalkeeper. There was also some distance between NYC No.19 and the goalkeeper (2.9 metres) when the ball was kicked by the goalkeeper, who was able to distribute the ball in this case. NYC No.19 jumped straight up, and not towards the goalkeeper, to intercept the ball which had already been distributed.

This is comparable to a free kick situation where the team takes the kick quickly and a defender who has not had time to retreat moves laterally to intercept the ball, which is allowed in the Laws of the Game, with the risk being taken by the team taking the quick free kick. The same principle applies here, and ultimately a goal should have been awarded.

When evaluating these situations, consider the following:

- Does the player move to the point where the goalkeeper is going to distribute the ball?
- What is the distance between the player and the goalkeeper?
- Does the player PREVENT the goalkeeper from distributing the ball?
- Does the player make a clear action TOWARDS the goalkeeper or does the player INTERCEPT a ball that has already been distributed?

### Example 3: PHI vs HFD

See video clip – <https://youtu.be/9aeJqlcgo0k>

In this incident from the USL Championship, the goalkeeper moved towards the point on the field where the attacker was standing. The attacker did not move to a different position to prevent the goalkeeper from distributing the ball. The attacker raised his leg straight up into the air and intercepted the ball after it had been distributed, and did not move his leg towards the goalkeeper. There was a considerable amount of space between the goalkeeper and the attacker, and therefore the goalkeeper was able to cleanly distribute the ball. The referee was correct to award a goal to the attacking team.

## Example 4: HOU vs UTA

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

In this incident from NWSL, the attacker moved to the point where the goalkeeper was going to distribute the ball. When she blocked the clearance, her foot was approximately one metre away from the goalkeeper's foot. This movement and subsequent action by the attacker prevented the goalkeeper from distributing the ball. The officiating team were correct to cancel the goal and award an indirect free kick to the defending team.

## Example 5: CIN vs MIA

See video clip - <https://youtu.be/9fbvGHJBLdM>

In this situation from MLS, the attacker ran to the point where the goalkeeper was going to distribute the ball. He jumped towards the goalkeeper with his leg extended to prevent the clearance. Due to this movement and the direction of the jump, had this attacker made contact with the ball the referee should have awarded an indirect

When examining all these incidents, officials were reminded of the importance of applying the considerations mentioned above. No two incidents are exactly the same, and subtle variances can make a difference to the final outcome in each case. However, by following similar thought processes, and analysing incidents with these considerations in mind, it is hoped officials can feel confident in their reading of such situations, and be consistent in the outcomes achieved.

***Modified and adapted from an article in the Profession Referee Organisation – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021***

## ***Leading the Third Team Honestly and Authentically***

There's the referee who tells his colleagues to arrive an hour before kick-off, and then turns up 45 minutes before, himself. There's the referees' coach who is critical of officials for poor positioning but remains predominantly within the central third of the field of play all afternoon when they have a whistle in hand. Then there's the Referee Development Officer/Manager who recommends a stepped approach but then marks officials down for not cautioning more.

Do you know any of these people?

There's hardly anything worse for morale amongst officials than leaders who practice the "Do as I say, not as I do" philosophy. When this happens, you can almost see the loss of enthusiasm and goodwill among the referee workforce. It's like watching the air go out of a balloon – and cynicism and disappointment usually take its place.

No matter what the situation is, double standards – witnessing people say one thing, and then doing another – always feels like a betrayal. They can be very destructive. If this ever happened to you, you can probably remember that sense of disappointment and let down.

If you're in a leadership position, either on or off the field of play then you know that you have a responsibility to your team. They look to you for guidance and strength; that's part of what being a leader is. Remember, a big part of your responsibility is to lead them with your own actions.

So, why is it so important to lead by example; and what happens when you don't?

## ***Making Sure You “Walk the Walk”***

There’s an old saying about the difference between a referee and a leader, “referee do things right. Leaders do the right things.” (It’s best to be both a referee and a leader – they’re just different processes.)

As a leader, part of your job is to inspire your colleagues around you to push themselves – and, in turn, the refereeing team or pool – to greatness. To do this, you must show them the way by doing it yourself.

Stop and think about the inspiring people who have changed the world with their examples. Consider what Mahatma Gandhi accomplished through his actions: he spent most of his adult life living what he preached to others. He was committed to nonviolent resistance to protest injustice, and people followed in his footsteps. He led them, and India, to independence – because his life proved, by example, that it could be done.

Although Gandhi’s situation is very different from yours as an official, the principle is the same. When you lead by example, you create a picture of what’s possible. Colleagues can look at you and say, “Well, if they can do it, I can do it.” When you lead by example, you make it easy for others to follow you.

Look at the renowned businessman, Jack Welch of General Electric. Welch knew that to push GE to new heights, he had to turn everything upside down. So that’s just what he did.

He developed the whole idea of a “boundaryless organisation.” This means that everyone is free to brainstorm and think of ideas – instead of waiting for someone “higher up” in the bureaucracy to think of them first. He wanted his team to be loose, and he promised to listen to ideas from anyone in the company. And he did. Everyone from the lowest line workers to senior managers got his attention – if they had something to say or a new idea that might make the company better. It wasn’t just talk, and it didn’t take his team long to figure that out.

Welch stayed true to his passions and what he knew was right. As a result, GE became an incredibly successful company under his management. His team was always willing to follow his lead, because the people within it knew that he always kept his word.

What does this mean for you? If you give yourself to your refereeing team and show them the way, then, most likely, they’ll follow you anywhere.

## ***When You Don’t Lead by Example***

We’ve seen just how powerful it can be to lead by example. But what happens when you don’t follow this rule? How does your officiating team feel when you tell them to do one thing, and then you do the exact opposite?

As we said earlier, if this ever happened to you, then it shouldn’t be hard to remember how angry and disappointed you were.

When leaders don’t “practice what they preach,” it can be almost impossible for a refereeing team to work together successfully. How can anyone trust a leader who talks about one thing, but does another?

Consider what might have happened if Gandhi had, even one time, been in a physical fight with his opposition. His important message of nonviolent protest would probably have been much harder to believe after that. His followers would have looked at him with suspicion and distrust. The chances of them getting into physical arguments or committing acts of violence probably would have increased dramatically.



Do you think that Alexander the Great's soldiers would have fought so hard for him if he had sat on top of a hill, safe from the battle? Probably not. He would have been just another average general in our history books, instead of the example of a successful leader that we know today.

And so, it is with your officiating team. If you say one thing and do another, they likely won't follow you enthusiastically. Why should they? Everything you tell them after that may meet with suspicion and doubt. They may not trust that you're doing the right thing, or that you know what you're talking about. They may no longer believe in you.

Good leaders push their people forward with excitement, inspiration, trust, and vision. If you lead a team that doesn't trust you, the support you receive will drop. Enthusiasm may disappear. The vision you're trying so hard to make happen to deliver the game successfully may lose its appeal, all because your team doesn't trust you anymore.

### **Key Points**

Good leadership takes strength of character and a firm commitment to do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason. This means doing what you say, when you say it. If your team can't trust you, you'll probably never lead them to a key fixture, such as a cup final.

Leading – and living – by example isn't as hard as it might sound. It's really the easiest path. If your team knows that you'll also do whatever you expect from them, they'll likely work hard to help you achieve your goal of delivering games successfully.

Mahatma Gandhi and Alexander, the Great helped change the world because they lived by example – and, as a result, they accomplished great things.

### **Apply This to Your Refereeing Career**

- If you ask a colleague to do something, make sure you'd be willing to do it yourself.
- If you implement a rule for the team on matchday, then follow those rules just as closely as you expect everyone else to follow them. For example, if the new rule is "signals on incidents outside your credible area," then don't flag for a foul in the other half.
- Look closely at your own conduct. If you criticise the management of colleagues, but yours is poor, you need to fix this. Yes, you want people to pay attention to one another and listen to all viewpoints, so demonstrate this yourself.
- If, in the spirit of goodwill, you make a rule for everyone to leave the home club hospitality after one drink, then you need to do it too. If you stay for a second drink, your team may feel guilty and start staying for a second, which can destroy the whole purpose of the rule.

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

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

## Save These Dates

1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club commencing 7:30 pm.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

