



Welcome to this sixty 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!



LEGEA

Approach players calmly and deal with them assertively demonstrating a positive attitude and body language. There is no rush when approaching a player, you wish to deal with. Usually you will call a player to you, but don't stand still, meet the player halfway – having directed them to space where other players are not hanging around. If the player is wound up or giving you their opinion, just be patient and use a calming signal, such as both hands held out with palms facing down and in a low voice ask the player to calm down and let you have your say. Whilst speaking to the player they should respect you, so make sure they face you and stand up (i.e. not bending down to pull their socks up), as not doing so is a sign of disrespect and a challenge to your authority.

Ask Yourself What the Players Want

Last season I was struck by several referees who do not appear to be willing to referee differently and, in my opinion, will not develop much further than the level they are at. They may well be very happy at this level and not wish to do higher level games; this is fine if that is all they want in their refereeing however, by not listening to assessors, coaches and what the players want they will often get into trouble by not adapting to match situations when needed as their approach never changes.

Now this could be because that is the personality of the referee or the personality of their assessors, referee coach or they are just scared to put themselves out there for fear of failure. The personality of the referee is important when it comes to how high they will climb in refereeing circles. If they are scared of failing then they will not risk trying anything new on the field, and this could leave them stuck where they are.

Remember the old saying: "if you always do what you've always done, then you will always get what you've always got!"

Read this again please because it is important in refereeing and every part of your life.

Of course, when as a referee you do try something new and it comes off for you then that will become the norm for you as an official. So, if you want to get on – try something new and see what the reaction is. New means something acceptable to the game (I don't mean refereeing pulling up every single foul or using profane language or etc, etc, etc!)

What could you do that's within the spirit of the game? Like commentating out loud or playing on even if a player has been pushed slightly or allowing free kicks to the defence to be taken from anywhere in the defending third – but remember every defending kick must come out of the penalty area!

Many referees allow the defending free kick placement to within 5 metres of the offence! However, if you listen to footballers – they seem to want to get the game playing as soon as possible (unless they're winning with two minutes to go). In this example, as the referee all you need to ensure is the side taking the free kick are not taking it from the wrong place to "take out" the opposition.

Get the game going as soon as possible in the defensive third is a good thing to try, but remember that if you get the ball correctly placed then you are being correct in Law, therefore an assessor cannot mark you down (but the clubs can!)

Then we move onto the referee coach – their ideas about your role may well influence how you referee. If your coach has officiated or played at a higher level, they will coach you in the ways that they wanted referees to be at that level; if your coach was always on the local community football as a player and/or a referee they will want you to referee differently.

Neither is right or wrong – but the simple thing is to understand where they are coming from and ask yourself what do you want to achieve? The most important thing is to adapt your officiating to the level of football you are officiating at – generally the more skilful the player or team – the more they want you to keep the game flowing.

Many assessors correctly will simply watch your level of empathy and control of the players and ensure that you are giving the game what it expects. So, before your next game ask yourself: what do the players expect from us as the officials?

Based on an article in "the-ref.co.uk" and my personal experience.

Selling Decisions

Many referees have matches that they have refereed excellently according to law but they could have improved the selling of their decisions. Sometimes you can make the incorrect decision and because you're there everyone accepts the decision as correct. If you think about it every decision is either correct or incorrect! However, you can make the incorrect decision and get it accepted whereas sometimes you make the correct decision and get grief for it because you're not selling the decision well.

Generally, the selling or not selling of the decisions is down to positioning of the referee or it could be inconsistency in the clubs and players eyes – last time that was not a foul and this time it was.

If a referee gave the home side a free kick just outside the opposition penalty area, near to the goal line, and the away side conceded the equalising goal from there problems can result. It doesn't matter that the home team were allowed three shots at goal before they scored the referee was blamed for the original free kick! The challenge with the free kick may have been a simple one and it probably was a free kick but the referee was not in a good position to give the free kick. Let me stress – it probably was a free kick but it was not accepted by the away side because the referee was not in a good position to give it.

As I often say when talking to referees – a defensive free kick is very rarely remembered, if a team scores from an attacking free kick it will never go away, ever! That doesn't mean you don't give attacking free kicks! It means when you give an attacking free kick it most definitely was a free kick and you can sell it. If the referee has a clear angled view and is close to the incident it is so much easier to sell the decision. Bear in mind that the credibility of the decision is as equally important as its accuracy. One thing that does my little brain in – regardless of where the referee was the majority of players, spectators and the clubs would have expected the official to give the defence a free kick.

Let us say that when the referee was standing next to the incident, he gave a foul if it was a foul, when he was not next to the foul, he didn't give a foul if he could not be sure. Now this was perceived as inconsistent because that's how it looked! He was most certainly correct in Law but incorrect in the eyes of the players, clubs and spectators.

How do you combat "inconsistency" in your own performance? (Bear in mind, you cannot be consistent with the referee last week because that's impossible.) The first rule of consistency is remembering what you did last time. If you gave a foul last time either give it again or play on so loud everyone knows you've made a decision. If you do nothing then you look inconsistent, whereas if you either give the foul or play on you look consistent. In my experience it doesn't matter if you're right or wrong!

Now both the incidents could have been read correctly by the official, the one close to him was indeed a foul and the one away from him was a fair challenge, but the unfortunate thing is that the clubs thought he was inconsistent because he didn't do anything with the second foul! You can say if the referee did both things well surely, he should be rewarded for that – and you would be correct but the players and clubs do not think like that!

Finally let me leave you with a thought – why am I right when I am wrong and, on the flipside, wrong when I am right? That is the conundrum that you have to work out the answer to if you want to move up the leagues. Being consistent and having the ability to sell your decisions (even when wrong) will make you a better and well-respected referee.



2018-2019 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.

A new format has been introduced, in our Newsletter, for testing your knowledge of the LOTG. 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 current 2018/2019 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 LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - D; 2 - B; 3 - A; 4 - A; 5 - C; 6 - D; 7 - B; 8 - A; 9 - C; 10 - A.

Important Dates

Friday 5th April 2019 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Friday 3rd May 2019 – Trivia Night at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Friday 7th June 2019 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Friday 5th July 2019 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Relationship Between Referees and Their Assistants

Relationships should be based on trust and mutual respect. These conditions are essential if the officiating team is to operate at an optimum level. Referees must accept that they are charged with the responsibility of controlling matches. They should accept this key responsibility, make decisions, and not force or allow their assistants to make the critical decisions. Assistants offer opinions and assist the referee they do not direct or command. If the referee has seen an incident assistants should only intervene in extreme circumstances.

This principle extends to all decisions including offside. A referee should not automatically accept an assistant's signal, and must be prepared to decline that advice if considered appropriate to do so. Being an effective assistant is a multi-skilled and complex task. It demands total concentration throughout the match. Whether the ball is in or out of play, close to the assistant or distant, the assistant must concentrate fully. Assistants are not spectators at a match, they have important roles to fulfil.



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