



Welcome to this seventy fourth 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!



**Merry Christmas to All
NSWSLFR Members and
Referees Worldwide**



Carry out mandatory cautions for blatant holding, delaying a restart or not respecting the distance. Aside from holding (such as shirt pulling) these are mainly technical offences, such as kicking the ball away, standing in front of the ball when a player wishes to take a free kick or standing one pace from a thrower and jumping when they take a throw – these are the types of cautions players dislike, but they are required by law and are often for shows of dissent by action (kicking the ball away) or for unsporting reasons to break down the momentum of the opposition, so a caution is important from a match control perspective.

Example of Video Review in the MLS

Click on the link below to take a closer look at the use of Video Review in the MLS (Week 31) USA. It shows how they use VAR in the USA and the examples given are helpful for decision making for referees worldwide. Good for education and identifying Key Match Incidents/Decisions.

https://youtu.be/WsUX8_IVx6k

Laws of the Game Changes 2019/2020

Herewith is a simple outline of the main changes/clarifications.

Law 3

- A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee.

Law 4

- Undershirts can be multi-coloured/patterned if exactly the same as the sleeve of the main shirt.

Law 5

- Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident.
- If the referee leaves the field for a VAR review or to call players back to the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed.
- Team officials guilty of misconduct can be shown a YC/RC; if an offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC.
- If a penalty kick is awarded, the team's penalty taker can receive assessment or treatment and then stay on the field and take the kick.

Law 7

- Clarification of the difference between 'cooling' and 'drinks' breaks.

Law 8

- The team that wins the toss may choose to take the kick-off.
- Dropped ball – ball dropped for goalkeeper (if play stopped in penalty area) or for one player of team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch; all other players (of both teams) must be at least 4m away.

Law 9

- Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee (or other match official) and goes into the goal, possession changes or an attacking move starts.

Law 10

- Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal.

Law 12

- Handball text re-written for greater clarity/consistency with clear guidelines for when 'non-deliberate' handball should (and should not) be penalised.

- Confirmation that an 'illegal' handball offence by a goalkeeper in their own penalty area is not sanctioned with a YC/RC.
- If, after a throw-in or deliberate pass from a team-mate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball.
- Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a goal-scoring opportunity.
- The YC for an 'illegal' goal celebration remains even if the goal is disallowed.
- List of the warning/YC/RC offences for team officials.
- All verbal offences are punished with an IDFK.
- Kicking an object is punished in the same way as throwing an object.

Law 13

- Once an IDFK has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IDFK signal if it is clear that goal cannot be scored directly (e.g. from most offside IDFKs).
- For defending team free kicks in their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.
- When there is a defensive 'wall' of at least 3 players, all attacking team players must be at least 1m from the 'wall'; IDFK if they encroach.

Law 14

- Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty is taken and the goalkeeper must not be touching them.
- Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line.
- If an offence occurs after the referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken but the kick is not taken, it must then be taken after any YC/RC is issued.

Law 15

- Opponents must be at least 2m from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line.

Law 16

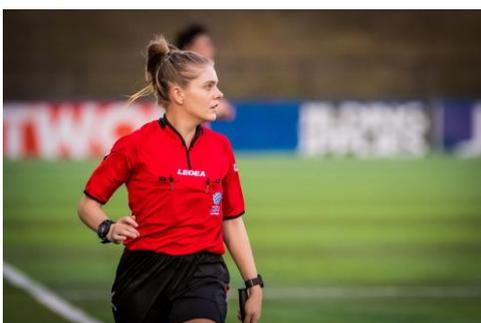
- At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.

[Summary of the main law changes 2019/2020](#)

[Changes to the Laws and Clarifications 2019/2020](#)

[Presentation of all changes to the Laws and Clarifications, including video examples](#)

[Presentation of all changes to the Laws and Clarifications, including video examples \(pdf version\)](#)



2019 PGMOL Exchange

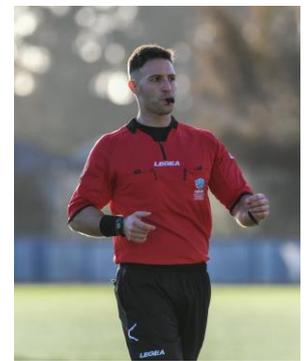
Formerly known as the Professional Game Match Officials Board (PGMOB), it was formed when English referees became professional in 2001 to improve refereeing standards. The group officiates across all Premier League, English Football League (EFL) and Football Association (FA) Competitions. All three organisations fund it.

The PGMOL is responsible for the training, development and mentoring of 110 referees and 175 assistant referees, run by Managing Director Mike Riley (a former PGMOL referee) and a team of managers and coaches. The most high-profile officials are the 17 full-time professional Select Group One referees. Currently the PGMOL have 65 in the Select Group who are full-time professional match officials. These are broken down between Select Group 1 Referees, Select Group 1 Assistant Referees and Select Group 2 Referees.

How is being a Select Group referee different? Premier League matches are officiated by Select Group referees and assistant referees. They meet for a training meeting fortnightly, where they perform physical and technical training sessions, and analyse match videos. There is a robust system for measuring Select Group performance over the season. Each Premier League match is evaluated by a former senior referee who scrutinises every decision using the match footage and event data to measure the officials' technical performance. Former players and managers (Match Delegates) assess the accuracy and consistency of decision-making and their management of the match.



PROFESSIONAL GAME
MATCH OFFICIALS



Well known NSWFLR member, Tim Danaskos, was selected for the 2019 PGMOL/FFA Exchange program. Tim joined Eugene Brazzale (FFA Elite Coach) and Adam Bavcar (Victorian Referee) to take part in this year's program. Both Tim and Adam are 4th Officials on the 2019/2020 A league panel. The FFA team left Sydney on 8 October 2019. They arrived in London where they spent 2 nights then the rest of the time they were based in Coventry. Tim and Adam refereed the U23s competition. Tim officiate in the middle for Queens Park Rangers vs Charlton Athletic, Feyenoord Rotterdam vs AS Monaco and Derby County vs Everton FC. Adam refereed Hull City vs Sheffield Wednesday, Valencia CF vs Wolfsburg AC and Liverpool FC vs Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Tim and Adam attended a Select Group 2 training seminar at Loughborough University for 2 days where they underwent physical and mental education sessions. They also met with Mike Riley, the PGMOL General Manager, the team out for lunch in London along the river Thames. They were in an extremely professional environment and lived the life of professional athletes. This included all meals being prepared for them, facilities made available to allow them to train and remain conditioned, and a first-class chauffeur service which took them to and from games. They also attended a Premier League match - Aston Villa vs Brighton and Hove Albion as well as a National League, known as the Vanarama National League, game between Notts County and Torquay United. The National League is the 5th tier of the overall English football league system. While all of the clubs in the top four divisions of English football are professional, the National League has a mixture of professional and semi-professional clubs.

Overall both Tim and Adam refereed extremely well and they noticed that the biggest different was the higher level of skill (when compared to Australia), as well as the players expectation of foul threshold. In Europe they expect upper body contact challenges to go unpunished and rather worry about technical/lower limb challenges. This was a challenge for both Tim and Adam but they adapted well and this was seen through the positive feedback received from the PGMOL assessors. Tim did us proud and I am sure he enjoyed the experience.

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.

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

Important Dates

Friday 6th December 2019 – Annual General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Sunday 19th January 2020 – Assessor's Seminar at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 9.00 am. Name confirmation from 8.30 am. **Note:** Pre-registration through the Registration JotForm is essential. The seminar is compulsory and all assessors are required to attend. Failure to attend will impact on appointments.

Sunday 2nd February 2020 – Annual Seminar at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 9.00 am. Conducted from 08:30 to 13:00 (Registrations from 08:00).

Wednesday 5th February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 6.00 to 8.30 pm – be there at 5.30 pm for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.

Sunday 16th February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 8.00 to 11.00 am – be there at 7.30 am for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.

Sunday 23rd February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 8.00 to 11.00 am – be there at 7.30 am for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.

Wednesday 26th February 2020 - Fitness Tests at Barden Ridge Athletics Track, Recreation Drive, Barden Ridge NSW 2234. Conducted from 6.00 to 8.30 pm – be there at 5.30 pm for warm up and name confirmation. **Note:** Fitness Test Pre-registration must be completed before the designated date as places are limited.



Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

