



Welcome to this sixty 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!





Take up the most advantageous position at corner kicks in order to detect offences, varying this as the play dictates. A central position outside the “D” is not recommended as this does not give a good angled view and leaves you liable to being swamped by players should the defenders win the ball. A position at or near (within a few metres) where the “D” meets the penalty area (on the far side from the assistant referee) gives a good position and an escape route. Variance in position should be used based on where the ball is likely to be played, for example the near post or far post. The length of the corner taker’s run up may help anticipating the distance the ball is going to be played.

Video Instruction – Stopping a Promising Attack

It is strongly recommended that you refer to the FIFA Considerations for Analysis of Match Situations on Interfere with or Stop a Promising Attack in your Law Book when giving your decision on the following video clip - <https://youtu.be/8pMi-yiZ8To>. The answer below is based on referring to the FIFA the considerations and will help you better understand the decision-making process.

Decision – Direct Free Kick and Caution to Blue Defender. See below with reason compared against the considerations:

- What is the distance between the offence and the goal? ***The next phase of play would be a pass to the attacker. Potentially can take one or two extra touches and a shot on goal. The distance is about 40-45 metres from goal.***
- Does the player have control the ball? ***Yes.***
- Can the player gain control of the ball? ***Yes.***
- What is the direction of the play? ***Towards goal.***
- How many defenders are involved in the situation? ***Three defenders (2 in front, 1 behind the attacker with ball).***
- Where are the defenders located? ***Not including the defender who committed the foul, the two other defenders are five and ten metres away.***
- How many attackers are involved in the situation? ***Three attackers.***
- Where are the attackers located? ***The attackers are located about eight and twelve metres away making forward runs.***
- How many options to pass the ball did the player have when he was fouled? ***Two options.***
- Does the challenge interfere with or stop a promising attack? ***Yes.***

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.

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

Important Dates

Sunday 3rd February 2019 - NSWSLFR Annual Seminar at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200. Conducted from 08:30 to 13:00 (Registrations from 08:00).

Wednesday 13th February 2019 – 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 24th February 2019 - 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 27th February 2019 – 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 3rd March 2019 - 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.

Foul Recognition - Insignificant or Not?

Referees have the power to decide if an “interaction” has no effect on the flow of the play and then neither say “Play-On” nor whistle play stopped allowing the match to continue.

Examples of such insignificant minor situations that could go unpunished typically involve free kicks and throw-ins. Not restarting on the exact blade of grass from where the free kick was supposed to be can be overlooked when the sole purpose is to unthreateningly put the ball back into play with no advantage gained. Players on either team may not care about these few misplaced metres. Insignificant becomes more difficult to discriminate when contact between opponents is involved. What impact does a “slight shove in the back”; “short tug on the shirt”; “soft click on the ankle” have on game control?

One clue contact is insignificant is when the offended player and his/her teammates neither stop nor dissent, but continue playing without looking to the referee to intervene with a decision; none was needed. Another is after intervening, the offended player shouts, “Hey, Ref, let us play!”

Declaring too many situations as insignificant is risky business. Doing so must be balanced against player safety and game control. The possibility of having insignificant offences transitioning into major ones and then misconduct outweighs any benefit of allowing play to continue.

Great refereeing is somewhere between calling nothing and calling everything. Good luck.



Using Your Presence

The closeness of the referee to an incident helps convince players that the referee’s decision is correct. This is an example of the impact of “presence” on match. A decision made 50 metres from the incident is not seen as being convincing. Smart referees move quickly towards the players involved in an incident, particularly if a body contact foul has occurred. The referee’s physical presence can prevent an escalation of problems. However, charging in on every foul can add to the pressure rather than help it. There are also times when referees can prevent problems simply by moving away. When the referee wishes to warn or formally caution a player the following procedure is recommended:

- Get eye contact with the player
- Use your hands/full palms “stop” signal
- Create space from the player
- Say when warning a player; “Any more and you will be cautioned. Your actions are your responsibility” (or sent off” depending on the circumstances)
- Walk away with purpose and determination

Moving away indicates that the decision is final and that debate is not possible. It can also minimise protests and reduces the possibility of a second caution and a subsequent send off.

Please note the words used above – they should convey to the player that if there is any more of this type of behaviour it is the player’s own actions that will result in further punishment. Not might...but will! By avoiding the use of “I” the referee has placed responsibility squarely on the player. However, a referee who does not carry through with announced actions will severely undermine any authority and control that may have been established.



Attitude and Bearing

You should always try to appear cool, calm and confident. Even when your stomach is churning and an inner voice is screaming “This is going to explode! They are going to kill each other!” You need to be outwardly calm and unpressured. Be aware that perception can become reality. You should monitor and control body language and the words that you use so that players see and hear a referee in personal control. Stand tall – look the part.



Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

