



Welcome to this sixty second 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**

**LEGEAL**



Dealing with dissent comes in several forms, and is not just limited to cautioning. A player who has a short burst of dissent through frustration which is not heard by many other players can be dealt with via a quiet word, e.g. when running past them. A player who wilfully disputes a decision might be worthy of taking aside for a public word, as a means of showing the other players that such behaviour is unacceptable. A player who repeatedly shows dissent, continues for an extended length of time or shouts dissent loudly from distance (a big threat to match control if not dealt with. due to most of the other players hearing it) should be cautioned.

## ***Mass Confrontation***

A mass confrontation is defined as the concerted actions of three or more players from the same team who are disputing a decision while surrounding the referee or hindering or forcing movement by the referee. Such situations bring the game into disrepute, are inherently intimidating, and create a strongly negative public image.

The Laws of the Game provide adequate tools to deal with dissent on an individual level, but mass confrontations add a dangerous element calling for special measures involving all members of the officiating team. Instances of mass confrontation are significant events that transcend the sum of the individual acts of misconduct which the referee must handle.

### ***Referee***

- Attempt to assess the likelihood of a mass confrontation and move out of the area where it would probably occur.
- Distinguish between those players who are actively and aggressively increasing the tension and those who, though physically nearby, are clearly trying to reduce tension.
- Pay particular attention to those who instigate the confrontation, those who join it from the immediate area, and those who move a considerable distance in order to participate in the confrontation.
- Consult with the assistant referees and the fourth official before taking disciplinary action. Assess the appropriate punitive measures individually and, if a player is to be sent off, ensure that this occurs before moving on to other players who are to be disciplined.
- Ensure that all cards for misconduct are displayed and recorded before play is restarted.

### ***Assistant Referees***

- Both assistants should move along the touchline to a point as near as possible to the confrontation and, if necessary, prepare to enter the field for a better viewing position.
- The nearer assistant should concentrate fully on the confrontation and attempt to identify the instigator(s) while the farther assistant concentrates on players who join the confrontation from a distance.
- The senior assistant (AR1 on the bench side of the field) should additionally monitor persons coming from the bench into the field to participate in the confrontation, but this assistant's primary objective remains monitoring the confrontation itself.
- After the confrontation has ended, both assistants should be ready to provide information to the referee regarding the identities of persons they observed and the role each such person played in the confrontation.

### ***Fourth Official***

- The fourth official assists the referee at all times.
- The fourth official's primary task in a mass confrontation situation is to observe and record the behaviour of persons (substitutes and team officials) in the technical areas.
- After the confrontation has ended, the fourth official should be ready to provide information to the referee regarding the behaviour of persons whom he has observed. If any relevant behaviour involved violence and was not observed by either the referee or the assistant referees, the fourth official must be ready to include such observations in his report.

The referee's game report must list and describe separately any instances of mass confrontation in addition to the actions the referee took to handle individual misconduct that may have been part of the confrontation. Individual misconduct is clearly the responsibility of the referee and must be handled during the match in accordance with standard procedures.

Competition authorities reserve the right to administer supplementary discipline to players involved in mass confrontations who may have escaped the attention of the officiating team. Officials should not rely on the right of any competition authority in this regard but instead make every effort to properly administer justice for misconduct at the time it occurs.

## 2017-2018 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 2017/2018 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 - A; 3 - C; 4 - B; 5 - D; 6 - D; 7 - C; 8 - C; 9 - D; 10 - B.

## Important Dates

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – Assessor’s seminar at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).**

## Laws of the Game Changes 2018/2019

The Laws of the Game changes 2018-2019 are published by IFAB. Below you’ll find an outline of the main changes:

### Modifications

- There is no limit on the number of substitutes that can be used in youth football
- Permission is needed from The IFAB for any modifications not already permitted
- Temporary dismissals – System B: a player who receives two temporary dismissals and a non-temporary dismissal caution (YC) may not be substituted/replaced

### Law 1

- Clarification of measurements on the field of play
- Reference to substituted players being permitted to be in the technical area
- Commercial advertising is not permitted on the ground in the Referee Review Area (RRA)
- Reference to the Video Operation Room (VOR) and Referee Review Area (RRA)

### Law 3

- Competition rules may permit the use of an additional substitute in extra time (even if not all permitted substitutes have been used)
- A maximum of 12 substitutes can be named for international ‘A’ friendly matches

#### **Law 4**

- Small, hand-held electronic or communication devices are permitted in the technical area if used for coaching/ tactics or player welfare
- Introduction of a FIFA quality mark for EPTS, and data from EPTS may be received in the technical area during the match
- Detailed guidelines for what can and cannot appear on players' equipment
- Player who has left the field because of an equipment issue and returns without permission and interferes is penalised with a direct free kick (or penalty kick)

#### **Law 5**

- Reference to video assistant referees (VARs) and assistant VARs (AVARs) and the ability of a referee to use video replays for decision making as part of VAR system
- Some sending-off offences can be reviewed even if play has restarted
- Distinction between 'on-field' match officials and 'video' match officials
- Match officials are not permitted to wear cameras
- Inclusion of the referee 'check' and 'review' signals used in the VAR process

#### **Law 6**

- Duties of the video assistant referee (VAR) and assistant VAR (AVAR)

#### **Law 7**

- Drinks breaks should not exceed one minute
- Allowance must be made for time 'lost' for drinks breaks and VAR checks/ reviews

#### **Law 10**

- Kicks from the penalty mark – a replacement for a goalkeeper cannot take a kick in that 'round' if the goalkeeper has already taken a kick

#### **Law 11**

- The first point of contact when the ball is played/touched is the moment when an offside position is judged

#### **Law 12**

- Biting is included as a direct free kick and sending-off offense
- Throwing an object at the ball or hitting the ball with a held object are separate direct free kick offenses (not a form of handball)
- If the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper this does not prevent the goalkeeper handling the ball a second time even if the first attempt to catch/holds the ball was deliberate
- If the referee plays advantage for a DOGSO the offender is cautioned (YC) whether or not a goal is scored
- Entering the RRA or excessively showing the TV signal are cautions (YCs)
- Where 2 separate cautionable (YC) offenses are committed in close proximity, both cautions (YCs) must be issued; same principle if one is a sending off offence
- Entering the VOR is a sending-off (RC) offence
- If a player commits an offence outside the field of play (ball in play) against someone from their own team (including a team official) it is an indirect free kick on the boundary line

## Law 13

- Clarification that free kicks can also be awarded for offenses by a substitute, substituted or sent off a player, or a team official

## Law 15

- A player must stand to take a throw-in (kneeling, sitting etc. not permitted)

## Deleted text in Law 2

In addition, the following wording was deleted as it is no longer relevant in Law 2:

- Reference to previous ball quality marks: Balls carrying previous quality marks such as “FIFA Approved”, “FIFA Inspected” or “International Matchball Standard” may be used in aforementioned competitions until 31 July 2017

## Laws of the Game Downloads

- [Laws of the Game changes 2018/19 \(601.19 KB\)](#)

## Consistency

Consistency is applying **all** of the Laws, for **all** of the match, over **all** the field. You are not being consistent if you penalise an offence outside the penalty area but ignore it inside the area – handball is a classic example of this.

You are not being consistent if:

- You caution or penalise a player for an offence late in the match when you have ignored these offences up until now;
- At a free kick you allow opponents to stand over the ball in the middle third, but insist on them retreating 9.15 metres when the free kick is near the penalty area;
- You allow defenders in their own half to throw the ball in 5 metres forward of where it went out, but do not allow attackers to do the same thing near their opponent’s goal. Similarly, the Laws do not say that defenders get additional distance when a foul is committed against them.
- Consistency is about fairness. It is about ensuring that the Laws are applied the same way for all players regardless of their position or ability.



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

