



Welcome to this fifty seventh 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



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.

The Assistant Referee - Tips

Whoever said that being an AR is easy, has either never done the job or has at least, never done it well! At some point we were all clueless on the touchline and quickly found that we had more to learn than we thought. Being an AR can be quite difficult and requires real concentration and application to do well. So here are some ideas that may help you do a better job on the line:

- 1.** Don't arrive late - If you arrive first, rather than just sitting around waiting for the referee to show up, go out and check the nets and the field condition and begin any other pre-game process that you can. For example, is the half way flag one metre away from the sideline or right on it? If the referee is there before you, go to him/her and report in.
- 2.** Pay attention to any pre-game instruction from the referee. If you have a question, ask; if you're confused about something, say so. If the referee leaves something out that you want direction on, bring it up.
- 3.** When running, stay square to the field, always stay level with the second last defender – remember the prime responsibility of the AR is to judge the offside position.
- 4.** When standing at the halfway line, and when play is in the other half of the field of play, Assistant Referees should always hold their flag in the hand that is nearest to the halfway line. This ensures that when play breaks back into their half, the Assistant Referee (when he turns to run down towards the corner flag) will already have the flag in the correct hand facing inwards towards the centre Referee.
- 5.** Keep a match record and have a watch running so you can back up the referee. Keep the flag down, unfurled and where the referee can see it when you not are signalling. Keep the flag as motionless as possible whilst running.
- 6.** Position yourself correctly for a throw in goal kick or corner kick. Be on the goal line at corner kicks (back out of the way of the kicker if necessary), indicate when the ball is correctly placed for a goal kick (stand level with the 5.5 m goal area line till it's placed, then run to a position level to the 16.5 m penalty area line).
- 7.** When signalling for a goal kick (or a corner kick), hold the flag in the hand that is nearest to the goal line. This will prevent you obscuring the centre Referee from your vision and will open up your body position so that you are correctly facing towards the field of play. This will also give a greater eye contact line with the centre Referee. Be sharp with the flag when you are raising it. When you bring it down, do it gracefully!
- 8.** When signalling for a throw-in, use the correct hand. If the throw-in is to the right, use the right hand. If the throw-in is to the left, use the left hand. DO NOT use the right hand to indicate a throw-into the left, and do not use the left hand to indicate a throw-in to the right. In other words, do not cross your flag arm across your chest or turn your body unnecessarily when making signals. Always hold the flag in the hand that is nearest to the field of play. This will enable the centre Referee to view it easier. Whilst switching hands, keep your hands low.
- 9.** Assist on substitutions (if you are AR1 and there is no 4th official) - Move up to check players in before they enter the field if possible. Count the players coming on to the field and off of the field, make sure that a player is OFF the field before a sub goes on. When making the 'substitution' flag signal, do not hold it in front of your face. If you do, you may miss an incident. Hold it slightly to one side of the face to allow you visibility.
- 10.** Control encroachment in your area - don't allow players to encroach on corner kicks and free kicks that are near you. Talk this over in the pre-game and find out how the referee wants you to handle different wall setting situations.
- 11.** Scan the field - Make a habit of scanning the field periodically and finding out what is happening, but don't become a spectator. Remember your job first job is the line and offside. Watching play on the far end of the field is being a spectator and is not scanning to check things out behind play.

12. Keep good eye contact in with the referee. Give him/her a thumbs-up every now and then that says “all is well” or maybe “that was a good call ref”! Even when they are the old pro, and you are the new kid on the block, they will appreciate the added support.
13. Use your mouth - talk to the players in your area when you need to. If a word can stop unfair play or misconduct, don't just leave it to the referee to handle everything. Make this part of the pre-game discussion.
14. Mirror the other AR's signals where necessary – this especially applies to subs or when the other AR is trying to catch the referee's attention to report an incident.
15. Match the referee's call when appropriate. Be a team. If you don't agree with the direction keep your flag down. Work out a signal in the pre-game for how to deal with differences of opinion where you clearly had a better view than the referee. If the centre Referee acknowledges the flag, drop it immediately and continue to move with the ensuing game.

Remember why you are there – The assistant referee is there for one reason - **to assist and not to insist**. Don't be a distraction. If the referee gives you specific instructions in the pre-game, obey them. Assistant referees are important. Effective assistant referees are essential. Do your part as an AR to make our team the winning team in every match!

Refer Law 6 – The Other Match Officials in the Australian Edition of the Laws of the Game 2017/2018.

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.

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

Important Dates

Friday 3rd August 2018 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Friday 7th September 2017 - General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Saturday 29th September 2018 – NSWSLFR Networking and Awards Night at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm – Finger Food and Drinks will be available.

July Member of the Month

John Bowdler is the member of the month for July. John's tireless work on the FNSW appointments for referees is much appreciated by our branch. As well as this thankless job John works hard as a member of both the TSC and Management committees of our branch putting in many hours of dedicated work to help our members.

Special Guest Speaker at our July General Meeting

Brian Stuart Johnston (born 13 November 1958 in Dunedoo, New South Wales) is a former Australian rugby league player and administrator. He played with the Saint George Dragons and represented Australia in the national rugby league team on one occasion. Johnston's position of choice was centre but his speed also saw him play on the wing, especially in representative teams. Brian spoke about his career path and the sacrifices and challenges he made on the journey from his family's property near Dunedoo to his Rugby League career, his current administrative position as a Business Consultant with IAG and as Chairman of Saint George Rugby League Club. He emphasised that you have to work hard to make it in any sport, including refereeing, if you wish to be at the top level as well as making sure that you spend time with family at the same time. Brian also strongly believes in the value of teamwork, a belief that grew out of his successful career in Rugby League; representing Australia in 1987, NSW in State of Origin (8 matches) and St George (184 matches), where he learnt very early on that a group of excellent individual players do not necessarily make a good team and it takes a good team to win. Our President, Robert Columbo, thanked Brian for a very interesting presentation which generated many questions on the night.



Advantage

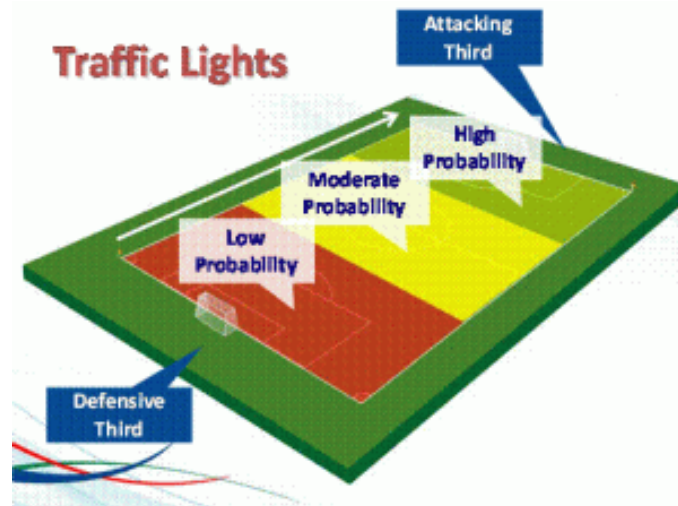
In this month's video analysis, I would like to examine advantage discussing when or not to play advantage and examining three advantage situations from the game between Philadelphia Union and DC United played on 28th April 2018. Before we look at the three situations shown on the video clips let us remember that in the LOTG under Law 5 – The Referee under Power and Duties it states the following: The Referee allows play to continue when an offence occurs and the non-offending team will benefit from the advantage and penalises the offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time or within a few seconds.

If a team has possession of the ball, it does not always constitute an advantage!

Factors to consider when applying advantage: Severity of the offence; location on the field; chances of an immediate promising attack; atmosphere or temperature of the match; skill level; condition of the field; state of the match; control of the ball; referee's control; injury management.

All these factors play an important part when considering playing an advantage. Ultimately, it is down to the referee's control on whether the referee applies the advantage clause or not.

"The referee allows play to continue when a team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time"



If we compare the “Traffic Lights” to the likelihood of advantage with the green light in the attacking third being a high probability, the yellow light being moderate and the red light having a low probability. We can also consider the 4 Ps:

Possession

- active and credible control by the player fouled or by a team-mate
- without possession, none of the other Ps matter

Potential

- probability of a continuing and immediate attack or an attempt on goal

Players

- number and skill of attackers versus the number and skill of defenders

Proximity

- distance from goal (traffic lights)

First video situation: <https://youtu.be/OKntUrpzI08> - In this situation United’s Frederic Brillant is pulled down by Union’s David Accam, but manages to pass the ball to his team-mate, Zoltan Stieber. At this point referee Armando Villarreal plays advantage.

- Possession – *Yes, he has possession*
- Potential – *There is little or no opportunity for an immediate attack or an attempt on goal*
- Players – *He has an opponent closing him down*
- Proximity – *He is in the Low Probability zone (Traffic Lights)*

Therefore, when a foul is committed, we must always ask the question - is it more advantageous to the team to have the free-kick rather than play an advantage? In this situation the only criterion that was beneficial to an advantage was possession, and possession does not mean advantage. So, Stieber, being under pressure from opponent Raymon Gaddis, has little option but to punt the ball aimlessly up field. This allows Philadelphia to gain possession launch an attacking move which ends up with CJ Sapong having a shot on goal!

Second video situation: <https://youtu.be/tVKkouDsnPw> - In this second situation Villarreal plays advantage near the half way line when the ball moves down the channel pursued by DC’s Yamil Asad. Again, let us consider the 4 Ps:

- Possession – *Yes, he has possession*
- Potential – *There is little or no opportunity for an immediate attack or an attempt on goal*
- Players – *He has an opponent closing him down*
- Proximity – *He is in the High Probability zone (Traffic Lights)*

Again, when a foul is committed, we must ask the question - is it more advantageous to the team to have the free-kick in a central position rather than play an advantage? In this play he has possession and is in the high probability zone but he is being closed down by opponent Jack Elliot and there is little or no opportunity for an immediate attack or an attempt on goal. So Akam has very few options and eventually loses possession.

Third video situation: <https://youtu.be/xgok06VUAyU> - In the third and final situation Union's Borek Dockal is pushed in the back by United's Chris Durkin just outside his penalty area. However, the ball breaks to his team mate Ilson Pereira ends up having a promising attack and Villarreal plays advantage. Considering the 4 Ps:

- Possession – *Yes, he has possession*
- Potential – *There is an opportunity for an immediate attack or an attempt on goal*
- Players – *He is moving into clear space and has the option of a team-mate to pass the ball to on his left*
- Proximity – *This is the exception that broke the rule. The advantage starts in the Low Probability zone (Traffic Lights)*

This was a very good advantage by Villarreal which turned defence into attack.

In summary: The four Ps are a good guide when considering advantage but not set in stone. In video clip two we saw a situation in the High Probability zone which was not a good advantage. Then in video clip 3 we saw a situation in the Low Probability zone that was a good advantage. However, the other three Ps must apply. He has to have **POSSESSION**, the **POTENTIAL** for an immediate attack or an attempt on goal and **PLAYERS**. He cannot be closed down by defender(s) with no option of help from a team-mate.



Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

