



Welcome to this fifty third 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!



An advantage in the defensive third of the field gives the team in possession significantly more to do to get the ball into the attacking third of the field, compared to awarding a free kick. In the midfield area an opportunity to play advantage still leaves the team in possession with a lot of work to do, but clear cut opportunities may exist – for instance if the ball runs to a midfielder in space and they have a clear passing opportunity to an unmarked winger. In the attacking third of the field there is less distance to goal, so less effort is required to turn an advantage into a goal scoring opportunity. The only scenario where a referee may decide against advantage in the attacking third of the field is where a team has a free kick specialist and therefore a free kick outside the area is as good a goal scoring as allowing play to continue.

Practical Tips For Assistant Referees

An assistant referee's role is to add value to the team decision-making by assisting not insisting.

Concentration and awareness

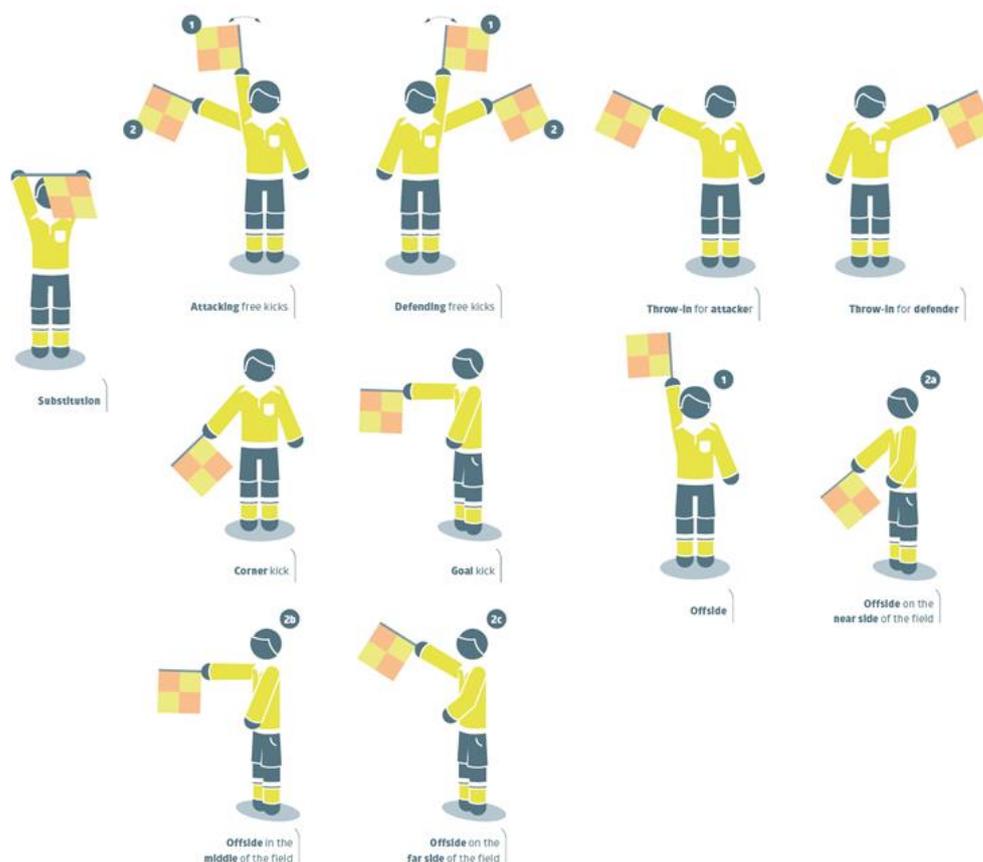
- Maintain your focus on the field of play.
- Be aware of where the referee is and what the referee is doing.
- Establish eye-contact with the referee when it will mean you won't shift your focus from players who may become involved in a confrontation.

Position and movement

- Remember that assistant refereeing requires both physical fitness and mental alertness.
- You should remain in line with the second last opponent or the ball.
- You should always follow the phase of play through to the goal line – a good assistant referee will never assume an outcome.
- You should always face the field of play when giving a decision.

Effective communication skills

- Always keep your flag in view of the referee, by holding in the hand nearest to the field of play.
- When indicating offside raise your flag in the hand nearest to the goal line to ensure that your view of the field of play is not obstructed.
- Your flag should be an extension of your arm, ideally at an angle as shown. If you align your index finger with the shaft of the flag this should help keep your arm and flag in line.
- Signal clearly with your flag, change hands low before you raise your flag to signal and never signal across your body.



The art of being a very good assistant referee requires an understanding of the need to **'add value'** to the refereeing team's decision making by **assisting** not **insisting**. Before committing to any public indication with their flag, the very best assistants are always aware of both the **position** and **body language** of the referee. By being able to read the referee, the assistant referee will know best how to **'add value'**, recognising when a flag indication will have positive impact.

Decision-making in and around the penalty area brings additional focus as the consequence may well result in the award of a penalty kick by the referee. Teamwork and co-operation may be required to arrive at the correct outcome, and on rare occasions the assistant referee may well need to lead the decision-making process and indicate with their flag that in their opinion a penalty kick should be awarded by the referee. Use the electronic beep signal and/or communication system if available.

Before indicating with a flag signal that a foul challenge has occurred, assistant referees should always adopt a simple traffic light process:

LOOK, READ, RESPOND

- **Look** – make **Eye Contact** with the referee.
- **Read** the referee – establish **the Position and Actions** of the referee.
- **Respond** – take the appropriate action to **'add value'** to the decision-making process and outcome.

Remember that you are not only on the line. You should add value and think consequences in all that you do to assist the referee in delivering a match to a successful conclusion. Finally relax, concentrate and enjoy, focusing for the full match as the critical decision may arrive in the first or the final minute.

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.](#)

February LOTG Quiz Answers: 1 - D; 2 - D; 3 - B; 4 - B; 5 - C; 6 - C; 7 - B; 8 - C; 9 - B; 10 - A. The answer for question 9 was originally incorrect in the quiz. Please accept your Newsletter Editor's humble apologies for any confusion caused by this error. The source of the question (AFC Quiz) has changed its answer in the quiz to what several members rightly selected as the correct answer; i.e. **(b) The referee sends off the offending player and awards a throw-in to the opposing team.** The information I provided members who contacted me was what they had published on their quiz website as to why answer (a) was correct. Consultation with the authorities asking for clarification resulted in amendments to reflect the correct solution.

The thing to remember is that the ball is not in play technically when the offence occurred – so send-off the offending player, who threw the ball with excessive force, and restart with a throw-in to the opposition. In the 2017/18 LOTG check out page 55 Law 12 Restart for play after fouls and misconduct (If the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision) and page 81 Law 12 Disciplinary action - Offences where an object (or ball) is thrown.

Important Dates

Sunday 18th March 2018 – Additional Fitness Tests – Blacktown Sports Park Athletics Track, Eastern Road, Rooty Hill, 2766 from 8:00 to 11:00 am

Friday 6th April 2018 - General Meeting at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm

Ball In and Out of Play

In this month's video analysis, we are discussing Goal Line Decisions and the difficulties officials have when having to decide whether or not the ball has crossed the goal line. We are looking at an incident from the LA Galaxy versus Minnesota United game played on 15th October 2017. https://youtu.be/3udw4FIH6_I. The ball is crossed by Galaxy's Romain Alessandrini to team mate Jonathan dos Santos, whose tremendous header from the edge of the penalty area loops over United's keeper, Bobby Shuttleworth, and strikes the underneath of the crossbar.

When it hits the ground the AR, Jeremy Kieso, is some 10 metres away from the goal line through no fault of his own. This is where the second rearmost defender is located and therefore where the offside line is. Kieso has to retain this position until the ball is headed towards goal by dos Santos. It's impossible for anyone to keep up with the speed of the ball from the header. Referee Alex Chilowicz is where you would expect him to be – just outside the penalty area – so neither official can make a call with certainty. The officials only have one chance to see the situation. From their positions on the pitch at ground level, if either of them made a call here they would almost certainly need to guess, and this is something that they are absolutely discouraged to do. It would be extremely difficult for them to be sure if a goal should be awarded in these circumstances. If it is impossible to see something through no fault of your own, then you cannot be blamed for not acting on it. However if you guess and you are completely wrong, then there is no justification or excuse. Even if you fortunately make the correct call, everyone would know it was a guess.

Law 9 states: "The ball is out of play when it has wholly passed over the goal line or touchline on the ground or in the air". Law 6 states "Assistant Referees indicate when the whole of the ball leaves the field of play and which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in".

Fortunately, the MLS has Video Review to assist us in this situation. The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) is able to use slow motion and freeze frame facilities in order to check all reviewable plays, which includes whether a goal has been scored. All available broadcast feeds can be used. By using elevated camera angles and analysing the situation with the technology available, VAR Juan Guzman was able to conclude that a goal had actually been scored. As such he recommended to Chilowicz that this play should be subject of a review and a goal awarded. Chilowicz accepted the review and decided not to go over to the Referee Review Area (RRA) as the ball crossing the line is a factual matter. The final decision was fully accepted by everyone when viewing the replays.

In this incident, Video Review most certainly helped the officials in arriving at the correct decision based on the evidence provided and moved them from a totally hopeless situation to an accepted one. It proved to be a good use of the system to rectify the situation. However, it is fully understandable why the on-field officials were unable to make this call in real time without the need to guess, which they should never do.

March Member of the Month

Matthew Howarth is the Member of the Month for March. Matthew was nominated due to dedicated high effort and work at training. He receives \$25.00 in points credit to use at the Bankstown Sports Club.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

Richard Baker - NSWSLFR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor