



Welcome to this fifty fifth 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!



Anticipate play by reading the game, for example when goalkeeper has possession. As play moves about the field try to move towards the area the ball is likely to go to rather than where it is. If the ball is being passed sideways then there is less need to move. This requirement does not mean you have to follow where the ball is going constantly, but to identify reasonable movements in play and react before that – for instance if the ball is played to a full back who looks to pass forward to a winger making a run, then moving early towards the player looking to receive the ball will allow you to be ready for any challenge that might come in.

Law 12 - Restart of Play After Fouls and Misconduct

- If the ball is out of play, play is restarted according to the previous decision.
- If the ball is in play and a player commits an offence inside the field of play against:
 - an opponent – indirect or direct free kick or penalty kick.
 - a team-mate, substitute, substituted or sent off player, team official or a match official – a direct free kick or penalty kick.
 - any other person – a dropped ball.
- If, when the ball is in play:
 - a player commits an offence against a match official or an opposing player, substitute, substituted or sent off player, or team official outside the field of play or
 - a substitute, substituted or sent off player, or team official commits an offence against, or interferes with, an opposing player or match official outside the field of play;

play is restarted with a free kick on the boundary line nearest to where the offence/interference occurred; a penalty kick is awarded if this is a direct free kick offence within the offender's penalty area.

If a player standing on or off the field of play throws an object (including the ball) at an opposing player, substitute, substituted or sent off player, or team official, match official or the ball, play is restarted with a direct free kick from the position where the object struck or would have struck the person or the ball. If this position is off the field of play, the free kick is taken on the nearest point on the boundary line; a penalty kick is awarded if this is within the offender's penalty area.

If a substitute, substituted or sent off player, player temporarily off the field of play or team official throws or kicks an object onto the field of play and it interferes with play, an opponent or match official, play is restarted with a direct free kick (or penalty kick) where the object interfered with play or struck or would have struck the opponent, match official or the ball.

Australian Edition of the Laws of the Game 2017/2018 – Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct.

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.

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



Important Dates

Friday 1st June 2018 – General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starting at 7.30 pm.

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

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

Positioning

Positioning overwhelmingly continues to be the number one contributory reason affecting decision making. Therefore, in this month's video analysis I would like to examine some examples of excellent positioning during the MLS Playoffs in October 2017 and the MLS Cup in November 2017.

The first example is from the Chicago Fire versus New York Red Bulls match played on the 25th October 2017. From a corner kick, referee Ismail Elfath stands just inside the penalty area to put himself in the best possible position to see all the players who are likely to commit fouls. <https://youtu.be/ZLKPOOleD6Y>

You can never be too prescriptive when taking your position on set pieces. You must be smart, look at the setup of the players and decide where your optimum position is for that particular situation. Then, you cannot afford to remain stationary when the kick is taken. Move so you can see the dropping zone/players movements and obtain a clear view. This is exactly what Elfath does when he moves swiftly to see potential misconduct and then has the presence to diffuse any escalation.

The second example comes from the Toronto FC versus New York Red Bulls match played on the 30th October 2017. Referee Chris Penso changes his position to create the best possible angle for himself, highlighting the importance of sacrificing distance from the play for angle. He keeps moving, and when he awards a defensive free kick he is very close to the action. <https://youtu.be/bkoDWaRa-eo>

Often, moving inside the penalty area can create problems by actually being too close and not getting the whole picture, or getting caught up in play. On this occasion, due to his proximity, arguments from the Toronto players are minimal and it helps 'sell' the decision.

The third example is from the match between New York City and Columbus Crew played on the 5th November 2017. As a long ball is played towards the edge of the penalty area, referee Kevin Stott correctly moves wide towards the far edge of the penalty area. When the ball is played inside, he is in a close position with an unobstructed view. As in the previous play, his proximity results in no argument from the players. <https://youtu.be/H9ysHdh570>

So now we move to our last example, the MLS Cup played on the 9th December 2017 between Toronto FC and Seattle Sounders, where Allen Chapman's movements were akin to perpetual motion. His work rate was phenomenal and his anticipation of play showed great vision and an excellent reading of the game. He was creating angles to obtain optimum positions. https://youtu.be/2Oo_3JrcIGE

All of this ensured that his decision making was of a very high standard, and dissent and misconduct from the players was kept to a minimum. To all aspiring referees who have ambition of making the professional level, watch and learn from Chapman's movements and positioning in this game.

To achieve this standard, referees need the following attributes:

- Fitness
- Work rate
- Reading of the game
- Anticipation
- Instinct

Relative to these specific plays, the IFAB Laws of the Game offer the following advice for referees: “The best position is one from which the referee can make the correct decision” – confirming the fact we can never be too prescriptive. Within the recommendations, it states:

- The referee should be close enough to see play without interfering with play.
- The referee should also pay attention to – possible offences in the area towards which play is moving.

All of these video examples highlight the effective positioning of a top-class modern referee. The positions enable the referees to obtain the optimum viewing perspective relative to where the incidents took place, rather than prescriptive positioning at set pieces or on a diagonal from penalty area to penalty area.

Distinguish Between a Genuine Advantage & Mere Retention of Possession

As the referee you need to always be asking yourself the question – ***“would the team that had possession be better off with a free kick?”*** The answer to this question will vary not only in relation to the position of various players and where on the field the offence has been committed, but also the skill level of the players. More skilful players can make better use of the ball, so in a game where the skill level of the players is low then unless the advantage is blatantly obvious, then the free kick is usually the better option. For players of a good skill level you can afford to make greater use of advantage, as they are more likely to realise the benefit of it from their superior skill with the ball. Use feedback from the players to help guide your use of advantage – in particular players will show frustration if you are stopping play too often in their view, so listen out for the ***“keep the game flowing ref”*** comment and use this to help decide whether to increase the use of advantage, as the players are saying that they can make use of it if you allow them to (subject to this not compromising your match control).

The reason that advantage is being played is that an infringement has been committed, if the nature of the infringement means that the offender warrants a talking to or caution, then at the next break in play hold up proceedings and call the offender over to speak to or caution them. Players really respect the referee when this is done. The key to this is remembering who committed the original infringement, so as the referee try to get a good look at the player and/or their shirt number. Just after allowing advantage, particularly following a reckless challenge, then it helps set expectations of the action to be taken in the next stoppage if a quick word is had with the player who has been fouled to let them know you've recognised the offence, and also a quick word with the offender to let them know you will coming back to them during the next stoppage. In particular this approach helps reduce the likelihood that the offended player will seek revenge for the foul.

April Member of the Month

Wayne Crabb is the member of the month for May. Wayne is always reliable and helpful with his availability when it comes to appointments; he goes at a moment's notice anywhere from Wollongong to the Central Coast. His commitment to the branch is exemplary.



Richard Baker - NSWFLR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

