



Welcome to this sixty first 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.

Referees Should be Confident and not Arrogant

Referees at all levels are expected to enforce the laws of the game accurately and demonstrate by their actions that they are in control of the proceedings by using their authority in an appropriate manner. It is easy for referees to fall into the trap of being regarded as arrogant. Unfortunately, a few referees think that the game is about them and not the players. Frankly, if they act like this they are doing the game a disservice.

The good referees go about their task showing through their facial expression, positive body language and communication skills that they are sympathetic to players and the game. My advice to referee is to be confident and not arrogant. The foundation of any performance out in the middle is to apply a good work rate and apply top levels of fitness, that ensures that you are in close proximity to play achieving good viewing angles to make accurate judgements. The best referees demonstrate that they are confident and in control by communicating well with the players. ***Being confident and not arrogant earns respect.***

Positive and firm hand signals held for a few seconds longer than the norm allow players and spectators the opportunity to see the decision you have made. Referees at all levels of the game at times are too quick to show a yellow card rather than consider what has taken place, then isolating the player and informing him/her that you want an improvement in their behaviour before showing the card. Some players knowing that a card is going to be issued will go down, tying their boot laces or calling for treatment. Assess what is happening then delay the card until the player has risen to his feet. If the player you are going to sanction is losing some self-control, then request that his Captain joins both of you before you have that word of advice and the showing of the yellow card.

Top referees like Howard Webb and Mark Clattenburg both reached number one status as the best referees in the world by showing authority and gaining respect.

SHOW THE PLAYERS RESPECT AND THIS PUTS YOU ON THE PATH OF EARNING RESPECT.

Adapted and Modified from "Soccer Today" – The Voice of American Soccer - Keith Hackett Article 29th September 2018. Keith Stuart Hackett is an English former football referee, who began refereeing in local leagues in the Sheffield, West Riding of Yorkshire area (UK) in 1960. He is counted amongst the top 100 referees of all time in a list maintained by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics.

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.

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

Important Dates

Friday 30th November 2018 – Annual General Meeting at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW 2200, starts at 7.30 pm.

Offside - Interfering With An Opponent

In this month's video analysis, we are discussing one of the three offside offences, namely "interfering with an opponent". Firstly, let's examine what the law says specifically about interfering with an opponent: "A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a team-mate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by:

Interfering with an opponent by:

- Preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision
- Challenging an opponent for the ball
- Clearly attempting to play a ball which is close to him when this action impacts on an opponent or making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball"

This month's analysis is from the game between Houston Dynamo and Portland Timbers played on 29th September 2017. Click on the following link to view the match offside situation: <https://youtu.be/JLbfasuv9z8> As the ball is played forward, Timbers' Darlington Nagbe heads the ball forward towards his two advancing team-mates – Fanendo Adi who is in an offside position, and Diego Chara who is in an onside position. Assistant referee Nick Uranga correctly does not raise his flag. He utilises the wait and see technique, keeping his flag down and analysing the movements of the two players. If the ball is played by Chara, no offence would be committed as he would be onside, but if it is played by Adi, Uranga would penalise him for "interfering with play".

Here is a reminder of that aspect of law: "A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a team-mate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by: – Interfering with play by playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate"

Uranga can see that it is Chara who pursues the ball so he keeps his flag down and continues to focus on the play. When Chara wins the ball, he passes to Adi who is in an onside position, slightly behind the ball. Adi then puts the ball in the net.

The AR is perfectly in line and does not initially signal Adi offside, but it is at this point that Uranga feels uneasy about Adi's involvement in the play, and from his peripheral vision feels as though he interfered with Dynamo defender, Leonardo. He therefore stands still and asks referee Jose Carlos Rivero to come to him to discuss. As players naturally come over to try and influence the officials, Rivero uses his spray, an effective player management tool which he is known for to prevent players getting too close.

Uranga explains that Adi was in an offside position and asks Rivero if, in his opinion, he interfered with the defender. Rivero confirms that Adi impeded the progress of Leonardo and prevented any opportunity he may have had in catching up and defending this play. The aspect of law that covers this is "making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball".

If you look at the replay, Rivero has a great view of this action by Adi but would be unaware of him being in an offside position. This is called the "Jigsaw Effect" where the AR has one part of the puzzle (offside position) and the referee has the other part (interfering with an opponent). By putting the two pieces together, the officials have all the information they need to make the correct call.

This is great teamwork and confirms that dialogue and working together is essential in the modern game, particularly when it comes to offside and interfering with an opponent.



Law 5 - The Referee - Authority, Decisions, Powers and Duties.

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match. Decisions will be made to the best of the referee's ability according to the Laws of the Game and the spirit of the game and will be based on the opinion of the referee who has the discretion to take appropriate action within the framework of the Laws of the Game.

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored and the result of the match, are final. The decisions of the referee, and all other match officials, must always be respected. The referee may only change a decision on realising that it is incorrect or on the advice of another match official, provided play has not restarted or the referee has signalled the end of the first or second half (including extra time) and left the field of play or terminated the match. If a referee is incapacitated, play may continue under the supervision of the other match officials until the ball is next out of play.

The referee enforces the Laws of the Game and controls the match in cooperation with the other match officials. He/she acts as timekeeper, keeps a record of the match and provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, including information on disciplinary action and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match. The referee supervises and/or indicates the restart of play.



Richard Baker - NSWFLR TSC Member and Newsletter Editor

