



AFC REFEREEING GUIDELINES

MATCH ANALYSIS & REPORT

2020/21

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the refereeing fraternity with a standard match analysis system based on universal principles for decision-making and match report writing.

In line with the topics covered in the Laws of the Game, the guidelines enumerate the factors to be considered when assessing a match incident, as well as formulas to accurately describing the particular action in the match report.

The reasons for cautionable and sending-off offences must be stated in the match report as per the Laws of the Game. Likewise, a complete report shall cover the “who, what, where, when, how and why”.

The content of the AFC Refereeing Guidelines is based on the IFAB Laws of the Game 2020/2021.





Fouls & Misconduct: Careless, Reckless, Using Excessive Force and Violent Conduct

- 1 Does the player show a lack of attention or consideration when making the challenge?
- 2 Does the player act without precaution when making the challenge?
- 3 Does the player make fair or unfair contact with the opponent after touching the ball?
- 4 Does the player act with disregard to the danger for the opponent?
- 5 Does the player act with disregard to consequences for the opponent?
- 6 Does the player have a chance of playing the ball in a fair manner?
- 7 Does the challenge put the opponent in a dangerous situation?
- 8 Does the player touch the ball after making contact with the opponent?
- 9 Does the player use excessive force and endanger the safety of the opponent?
- 10 Does the player use brutality against the opponent when challenging for the ball?
- 11 Does the challenge endanger the safety of the opponent?
- 12 What degree of speed and/or intensity is the player using when making the challenge?
- 13 Does the player show clear malice when making the challenge?
- 14 Does the player lunge on the opponent from the front, from the side or from behind?
- 15 Which part of the body has the player used to make contact?
- 16 Does the player use studs when making a tackle?
- 17 On which part of the opponent's body is contact made?
- 18 In which direction are the tackler's feet pointing?
- 19 Does the player challenge for the ball at the moment the contact is made?
- 20 Does the player charge the opponent in a fair manner?
- 21 Do you consider the foul an act of violent conduct or a serious foul play?
- 22 Has the challenge been committed in a fair manner or a careless manner?
- 23 Does the player use the arm as a 'tool' or a 'weapon'?
- 24 Does the player challenge for the ball in a fair manner?
- 25 Does the player attempt to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball?
- 26 Is the force used to strike the player's head/face negligible?
- 27 Does the player throw an object at the ball, opponent or match official?
- 28 Does the player commit an offence outside the field of play against someone from his/her own team?
- 29 Does the player bite or spit at someone?
- 30 Does the player's action threaten to cause injury to someone including the player himself?

Interfering with or Stopping a Promising Attack

- 31 What is the distance between the offence and the goal?
- 32 Does the player have control of the ball?
- 33 Can the player gain control of the ball?
- 34 What is the direction of play?
- 35 How many defenders are involved in the situation?
- 36 Where are the defenders located?
- 37 How many attackers are involved in the situation?
- 38 Where are the attackers located?
- 39 How many options to pass the ball did the player have when he was fouled?
- 40 Does the foul interfere with or stop a promising attack?
- 41 Does the handball offence interfere with or stop a promising attack?
- 42 Does the player commit an offence inside his/her own penalty area (whilst attempting to play the ball) to interfere with or stop a promising attack?
- 43 Did the referee apply advantage after an offence for interfering with or stopping a promising attack?
- 44 Did the referee allow quick free kick for non offending team after an offense interfere with or stop promising attack?

Denying a Goal or a Goal-Scoring Opportunity

- 50 What is the distance between the offence and the goal?
- 51 Is there a likelihood of the player keeping control of the ball?
- 52 Is there a likelihood of the player gaining control of the ball?
- 53 What is the general direction of play?
- 54 How many defenders are involved in the situation?
- 55 Where are the defenders located?
- 56 Is the offence a direct free kick or an indirect free kick?
- 57 If there is no offence, does the player have an obvious opportunity to score a goal?
- 58 Does the player commit a handball offence to deny the opposing team a goal?
- 59 Does the player hold, pull or push an opponent to deny an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
- 60 Does the player commit an offence inside his/her own penalty area (whilst attempting to play the ball) to deny an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?

- 61 Did the referee apply advantage in a goal-scoring opportunity and caution the player when the ball was next out of play?
- 62 Did the referee allow a quick free kick for non offending team after an offence which denied an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?

Handling the Ball

- 71 Does the player deliberately touch the ball with their hand/arm, including moving their hand/arm towards the ball?
- 72 Does the player use the hand/arm to make their body unnaturally bigger to stop the ball from passing?
- 73 Does the player attempt to score a goal by a handball offence?
- 74 Does the player prevent a goal by a handball offence?
- 75 Does the player prevent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence?
- 76 Does the player use their hand/arm to make their body unnaturally bigger to stop a direct shot on goal?
- 77 Does the player unsuccessfully attempt to prevent a goal by a handball offence?
- 78 Does the player gain possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then immediately scored in the opponents' goal?
- 79 Does the player gain possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then immediately creates a goal-scoring opportunity?
- 80 Does the player score in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental?
- 81 Does the ball touch the hand/arm when the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger?
- 82 Does the ball touch the hand/arm when the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level?
- 83 Does the ball touch the player's hand/arm directly from their own head or body (including the foot) after deliberately laying the ball?
- 84 Does the ball touch the player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close when the position of the hand/arm make the body unnaturally bigger?
- 85 Does the ball touch the player's hand/arm when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body?
- 86 Does the ball hit the players arm from above or below the bottom of the armpit?

Simulation

- 91 Is there contact between the players involved?
- 92 Does the attacker use the slight contact to deceive the referee?
- 93 Has the attacker initiated the contact between the opponent and themselves?
- 94 Is there fair/normal contact between the players, resulting in no offence being committed?
- 95 Has the attacker anticipated the contact between the opponent and themselves?
- 96 Does the attacker initiate the contact?
- 97 Has the player over-exaggerated the seriousness of the foul committed?
- 98 Does the player simulate a foul to win a free kick?
- 99 Does the player attempt to deceive the referee?
- 100 Does the player create a wrong/false impression to gain an unfair advantage?

Confrontation

- 101 Have the original or initial offenders been punished appropriately?
- 102 Were the actions of the players involved excessive with regard to physical contact?
- 103 Did the player(s) become involved unnecessarily by running from some distance?
- 104 Are the ARs effective in helping to prevent further confrontation between players?
- 105 Does the referee get "too close" to the incident and become caught up in the confrontation?
- 106 Does the referee remain calm when dealing with the confrontation?
- 107 Does the referee touch or push the players?
- 108 Does the referee try to separate the first players at the beginning of the confrontation?
- 109 Does the fourth official act appropriately?
- 110 Should any of the match officials make physical contact with players or members in the technical area?
- 111 Was at least one player from each team involved in the confrontation identified and punished appropriately?

Management of the Restart

- 121 Do the match officials manage the restart of play effectively?
- 122 Does the referee indicate to the kicker to wait for a signal to restart play?
- 123 Does the referee succeed in ensuring that the defensive wall retreats 9.15m and remains so?
- 124 How far away are the defensive players when the free kick is taken?
- 125 Does the referee take up the most advantageous position for the restart?
- 126 Is the ball placement acceptable?
- 127 Does the player prevent a quick restart?
- 128 Does the player provoke a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee had stopped play?
- 129 Does the player appear to take a restart but suddenly leave it to one of the teammates to take it?
- 130 Does the referee indicate or acknowledge the restart of the match after it has been stopped?
- 131 Were disciplinary sanctions correctly applied?
- 132 Should the referee allow a 'quick' free kick in this situation?
- 133 Is the ball intercepted by an opponent who is less than 9.15m (10 yards) from the ball?
- 134 Does the player distract or impede the thrower by moving closer than 2m (2 yards) where the throw-in is to be taken?
- 135 Is the use of vanishing spray effective in controlling 9.15m (10 yards) distance?
- 136 Does the player enter the field of play without the referee's permission and interfere with play?
- 137 Where three or more defending team's players form a "wall", do the attacking team's players remain at least 1 m from the "wall"?
- 138 At a goal kick, is an opponent inside the penalty area challenging for the ball before it is in play?
- 139 Does the referee ensure that all other players are at least 4m away before restarting with a dropped ball?



Advantage

- 141 Is there a team benefit if the referee applies the advantage?
- 142 Did the fouled player still have possession of the ball after the foul was committed?
- 143 Is there more of a benefit in applying advantage or awarding a free kick?
- 144 Does the foul committed deserve a yellow card?
- 145 Did the referee allow a quick free kick in a goal-scoring opportunity situation and caution the player when the ball was next out of play?
- 146 Did the referee allow a quick free kick in a goal-scoring opportunity situation and caution the player when the ball was next out of play?
- 147 Is the foul committed near the penalty area?
- 148 Does the fouled player have space to progress?
- 149 Are there teammates in a good position to pass the ball to?
- 150 After advantage has been applied, should the referee return to administer a disciplinary sanction?
- 151 After application of the advantage, does the offending player play the ball or challenge/interfere with an opponent?
- 152 Where on the field of play did the offence occur?
- 153 Should the tempo/temperature of the match be considered?
- 154 If the player who committed the first offence had previously been cautioned, would it have been advisable to allow play to continue?
- 155 Is there a chance of an immediate attack?
- 156 Could the referee adopt a "wait and see" approach by delaying the whistle?
- 157 Does the referee give a clear signal to allow play to continue when the offence occurred?

Dissent

- 161 Does the player show dissent by protesting verbally (by words)?
- 162 Does the player show dissent by protesting non-verbally (by action)?
- 163 Does the player act in a manner that shows a lack of respect for the game?
- 164 Could dissent have been avoided if the referee or AR had intervened quicker?
- 165 Does the referee support his/her colleague following a reaction by a player to a decision made by an AR?
- 166 Is the correct disciplinary sanction (yellow or red card) applied?
- 167 Does the referee correctly differentiate between frustration and dissent?
- 168 Does the captain of the team show dissent by protesting?
- 169 Does the player influence the referee to get an opposing player cautioned by waving an "imaginary card"?
- 170 Does the player spit on the ground to display anger at and disagreement with the decisions of the match officials, etc.?

Body Language

- 171 Does the referee show signs of uncertainty?
- 172 Does the referee's body language show confidence or alertness?
- 173 Is the referee's reaction slow after the incident?
- 174 Have the referee's actions inflamed the situation?
- 175 Does the referee remain calm and in control?
- 176 Has the referee been influenced into taking disciplinary action?
- 177 Does the referee use the whistle appropriately?
- 178 Does the referee use the cards appropriately?
- 179 Does the referee make the signals according to the guidelines for referees?
- 180 Does the referee make the message clear to the player(s) involved?
- 181 Does the referee raise his/her profile appropriately in more demanding situations?
- 182 Should the referee remain "neutral" and not make movements as though he is going to issue a disciplinary sanction?

Concentration / Awareness

- 191 Is the referee aware of a possible conflict in allowing the game to continue?
- 192 Is there immediate communication between the match officials to avoid unnecessary protests or appeals?
- 193 Does the referee keep his/her focus and concentration throughout the incident?
- 194 Is the referee in a good position to make the correct decision?
- 195 Is the communication process appropriate in deciding who the offending player is?
- 196 Why is the disciplinary sanction shown to the wrong player?
- 197 Is the referee aware of what the Law allows in certain situations?
- 198 Is the player guilty of persistently infringing the Laws of the Game?
- 199 Is the referee aware of the tactical play of a team that breaks up play or targets individual opponents?
- 200 Does the referee protect (a) player(s) from potential serious injury?



Teamwork

- 211 Is the AR or AAR closer to the action than the referee?
- 212 Does the AR or AAR have a better view of the incident than the referee?
- 213 Does the referee have a better view of the incident than the AR or AAR?
- 214 Is the signal from the AR to the referee clear?
- 215 Did the referee make a decision before the signal by the AR?
- 216 Does the incident happen out of the view of the referee?
- 217 Does the AR or AAR inform the referee about any misconduct?
- 218 Should one of the match officials have seen the incident?
- 219 Should the fourth official intervene, if none of the other officials had seen the incident?
- 220 Has teamwork broken down because of a lack of concentration?
- 221 Should the AAR intervene if none of the other officials had seen the incident?
- 222 Should the referee be aware of "upper body" or contact with the hands/arms when the AR is focused on the ball being in or out of play?
- 223 Is the decision given by the referee or AR credible given the distance they are from the incident?

Offside

- 231 Is the AR in a good position to judge offside?
- 232 Is the player in an offside position? If so, which part of the body?
- 233 Is the player in an offside position interfering with play by touching the ball?
- 234 Is the player in an offside position interfering with the goalkeeper? If so, how?
- 235 Is the player in an offside position interfering with an opponent? If so, how?
- 236 Does the player in an offside position gain an advantage by playing the ball?
- 237 Does the player in an offside position gain an advantage by interfering with an opponent?
- 238 Will the ball go to a player who was previously in an offside position after a rebound/deflect from an opponent?
- 239 Does the player in an offside position receive the ball after a deliberate save?
- 240 Does the player in an offside position receive the ball after a deliberate pass?
- 241 Does the assistant referee adopt the “wait and see” technique?
- 242 Is any other teammate who has a chance to play the ball in an onside position?
- 243 Does the player in an offside position challenge the opponent for the ball?
- 244 Does the AR give the benefit to the attacking player when the defender and attacker are in line?
- 245 Could the field markings help the AR to make a correct decision?
- 246 Does the referee identify the player who last touches the ball?
- 247 Is the offence (by the attacker/defender) committed before or after the attacker commits an offside offence?
- 248 Does the player in an offside position receive the ball after deliberate handball by defender?



Miscellaneous

- 251** Is the foul committed inside or outside the penalty area?
- 252** Is the foul committed inside or outside the field of play?
- 253** Was the ball in play when the offence was committed?
- 254** Does the player enter or re-enter the field of play without the referee's permission?
- 255** Does the ball enter the goal?
- 256** Does the player kick the ball deliberately to his/her own goalkeeper?
- 257** Does the goalkeeper handle the ball after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate?
- 258** Did the referee need to stop play in this situation?
- 259** Does the player prevent the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands?
- 260** Did the player(s) deliberately delay the re-start unnecessarily?
- 261** Is this violent conduct or merely unsporting behaviour?
- 262** Should the referee consider suspending or abandoning the match?
- 263** Does the player impede the progress of an opponent without any contact being made?
- 264** Does the player kick or attempt to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing the ball?
- 265** Did a dropped ball enter the goal without touching at least two players?
- 266** Is the ball kicked and clearly moves?
- 267** Does the player use a deliberate trick to pass the ball to his/her own goalkeeper in order to circumvent the Law?
- 268** Does the player commit two cautionable offences even in a close proximity?
- 269** Does the player commit a cautionable offence and a sending-off offence in a close proximity?
- 270** Does the goalkeeper handle the ball inside his/her penalty area when not permitted to do so and stopping a promising attack or denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
- 271** Does the goalkeeper handle the ball when he/she has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate?
- 272** Does the holding start from outside the penalty area and continue inside?
- 273** Does the player impede the progress of an opponent with contact?
- 274** Does the player impede the progress of an opponent with the hands?
- 275** Does the goalkeeper play the ball a second time (with or without the hand/arm) after a restart before it touches another player?
- 276** Does the goalkeeper stop a promising attack or denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious after playing the ball a second time after restart?
- 277** Does the holding impede the opponent's movement?

Management of the Penalty Kicks

- 281 Was the goalkeeper of the kicker in the correct position during kicks from the penalty mark?
- 282 Do(es) the attacking player(s) fail to remain 9.15m before the penalty kick is being taken?
- 283 Do(es) the defending player(s) fail to remain 9.15m before the penalty kick is being taken?
- 284 Does the referee need to order the penalty kick to be retaken?
- 285 Does the goalkeeper movement forward before the kick is being taken clearly impacts the kicker?
- 286 Does the kicker play the ball a second time before another player touches the ball?
- 287 Does the goalkeeper deliberately attempt to delay the taking of the penalty kick by acting in an unsporting manner?
- 288 Did the referee ensure the re-taken penalty kick was carried out in accordance with the Law?
- 289 Was the penalty kick taken correctly and in accordance with the Law?
- 290 Was the kick from the penalty mark completed?
- 291 Was the penalty kick taken by a teammate of the identified kicker?
- 292 Does the kicker feint to kick the ball after completing the run-up?
- 293 Does the kicker feint in the run-up?
- 294 Is the defending goalkeeper touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net before the ball has been kicked?
- 295 Does the defending goalkeeper have at least part of one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line?
- 296 Does the referee warn the goalkeeper after first offence before the penalty kick is taken?
- 297 If the kicker and the goalkeeper both infringe at exactly the same time, is the kicker penalized?

Injuries

- 301 Should the referee need to stop the game earlier?
- 302 Was the Law correctly applied to the injured players before play was re-started?
- 303 Does the referee need to give an early signal for the stretcher?
- 304 Did the treatment of the injured player(s) take too long?
- 305 Does the player exaggerate the injury to get an opponent cautioned or to deceive the referee?
- 306 Does the fourth official check the player before allowing him/her to re-enter?
- 307 Does the referee play the correct amount of “additional time”?

- 308 Was the injury assessed before calling for the stretcher?
- 309 Did the player avoid possible contact to prevent injury to themselves?
- 310 Are the playing conditions dangerous and a threat to players' safety?
- 311 Was the treatment on the field of play completed quickly?
(in case an exception to leave the field of play)

The Other Match Officials

- 321 Does the AR raise the flag in the correct hand?
- 322 Does the AR's flag technique confuse the referee?
- 323 Does the AR change hands before the flag is raised?
- 324 Is the AR's signal correct given the infringement that has been committed?
- 325 What else could the AR have done to get the attention of the referee?
- 326 Does the AR's intervention change the original decision of the referee?
- 327 Does the AR make eye contact with the referee before signalling?
- 328 Does the AAR make the correct judgement?
- 329 Is the AR or AAR positioned adequately to decide whether the ball has crossed over the goal line?
- 330 Is the AAR correctly positioned during the incident?

Players' Equipment

- 331 Is it permissible to wear undershorts of a different colour to the main shorts?
- 332 Are players allowed to play without shin guards?
- 333 Should a goalkeeper wear colours that distinguish him/her from the other players and match officials?
- 334 Did the player wait until there is a stoppage in play before returning to the field of play?
- 335 Is a player allowed to continue playing with blood on the shirt?
- 336 Do the colours of the basic compulsory equipment distinguish the player from the opponents?
- 337 Do the colours of the basic equipment distinguish the player from the opponents?
- 338 Do the stockings entirely cover the shin guards?
- 339 Do the shin guards provide a reasonable degree of protection?
- 340 Is a player permitted to wear jewellery?
- 341 Is a player allowed to wear tape to cover jewellery?
- 342 Can a player play the ball without a boot on?
- 343 Does play need to be stopped for a player to adjust his/her equipment?



Positioning & Movement

- 351 Is the referee too close to the incident?
- 352 Is the referee too far away to make a credible decision?
- 353 Is the referee's view obscured by (a) player(s)?
- 354 Does the referee create a good viewing angle in order to get the correct decision?
- 355 Is the AR better placed than the referee?
- 356 Are both the referee and the AR in good viewing positions?
- 357 Does the referee's position give him/her a good viewing angle?
- 358 Does the AR's position give him/her a good viewing angle?
- 359 Does the referee anticipate play and show good acceleration and speed?
- 360 Does the referee ensure to keep play between him/her and his or her assistant?
- 361 Is the referee's position close enough for controlling the further development of the situation?
- 362 Is the lead AR within the referee's field of vision?
- 363 Does the referee have a good angle of vision?
- 364 Was the referee in a good position to make the correct decision?
- 365 Does the referee's position interfere with play?
- 366 Does the referee anticipate play and adjust his/her position?

Celebration of a Goal

- 371 Did the celebration result in excessive time wasting?
- 372 Did the player make a gesture which was provocative?
- 373 Did the goal scorer climb onto the perimeter fencing to celebrate?
- 374 Did the player remove his/her shirt whilst celebrating?
- 375 Did the player cover his/her head with the shirt when celebrating?
- 376 Did the player use a mask to cover the head or face?
- 377 Did the player leave the field of play to celebrate?
- 378 Did the referee act in a preventative manner and exercise common sense?
- 379 Did the player jump into or go amongst the spectators to celebrate?
- 380 Did the goalscorer display a message on a under shirt or any other part of the equipment?
- 381 Were the goalscorer's actions excessive and creating safety concerns for the spectators?
- 382 Does the player approach the spectators in a manner which may cause safety and/or security issues?
- 383 Should the player be cautioned for the excessive celebration of a goal and the goal has been cancelled?

Delaying the Restart of Play

- 391 Does the player delay the goalkeeper from distributing the ball into play?
- 392 Does the player provoke the referee into deliberately receiving a caution?
- 393 Should the referee consider if the player heard the whistle and clearly tried to delay the restart of play?
- 394 Did the player delay the restart of play by deliberately kicking the ball away?
- 395 Does the goalkeeper delay the re-start of play, if so, how?
- 396 Does the injured player use/extend the delay unfairly for a tactical reason?

Video Assistant Referee

Line of Intervention

- 397 Was the referee assisted by VAR in the event of a 'clear and obvious error' or 'serious missed incident'?
- 398 Was the incident related to a goal/no goal situation?
- 399 Was the incident related to a penalty/no penalty situation?
- 400 Was the incident related to a direct red card (not second caution) situation?
- 401 Was the incident related to a case of mistaken identity in which the referee cautions or sends off the wrong player of the offending team?

Communication

- 402 Did the referee give the VAR clear/detailed information when the initial decision was made?
- 403 Did the VAR/AVAR communicate clearly and accurately?
- 404 Did the VAR communicate information or only state the decision?
- 405 For an 'on-field review', did the VAR explain to the referee what was going to be shown on the referee review area's screen?
- 406 Did the referee make it clear which other angles/speeds were needed?

Review Process

- 407 Was the first/original decision (including disciplinary action) made by the referee or assistant referee?
- 408 Was it necessary for the VAR to confirm with the referee that no 'clear and obvious error' or 'serious missed incident' occurred?
 - a. Did the referee accept the recommendation of the VAR for a 'review'?
- 409 Did the referee have to stop play for the 'review'?
- 410 Did the referee delay the restart of play when it was required?
- 411 Did the players try to restart the game to avoid a 'check' or 'review'?
- 412 Did the referee change his/her original decision after the 'review'?
- 413 Was the final decision made by the referee based solely on the information from the VAR (without an 'on-field review')?
- 414 Was the final decision made by the referee after an 'on-field review'?
- 415 Did the referee use the 'on-field review' for a factual decision to help manage the players/match or to enhance the credibility of his/her decision?
- 416 Was the referee asked by the players or team officials to review an incident?

- 417** Did the VAR/referee use slow motion replays for the fact:
- position of the offence?
 - position of the player(s) in an offside/denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity situation?
 - point of contact for a physical offence/handball situation?
 - ball out of play (including goal/no goal)?
- 418** Did the VAR/referee use normal speed for the intensity of an offence or to decide if a handball offence occurred?
- 419** Did the referee leave the referee review area and then return for another look?
- 420** Did the referee/VAR 'check/review' the attacking possession phase before the goal/penalty/denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity incident?
- 421** Did the referee undertake a 'review' for a case of mistaken identity when play has stopped and restarted?
- 422** Did the referee undertake a 'review' for a potential sending-off offence when play has stopped and restarted?
- 423** Was the referee surrounded by players or team officials before, during or after an on-field review?
- 424** Was the referee surrounded by players when he indicated a penalty kick after an on-field review?
- 425** Did the referee remain 'visible' during the review process to ensure transparency?
- 426** Did the VAR inform the referee how to restart the game in case of the penalty kick being cancelled?
- 427** Was it necessary to cancel the sanction after cancelling the penalty kick?
- 428** Should the sanction remain after cancelling the penalty kick?



Procedures

- 429 Did the assistant referee delay the flag signal for a tight offside situation?
- 430 Did the assistant referee delay the flag signal for a tight 'ball in/out' situation?
- 431 Did the referee delay the whistle when it was required (e.g. when there was a chance of a goal being scored)?
- 432 Did the referee delay the whistle when the assistant referee raised flag for tight offside or 'ball in/out' situation?
- 433 Did the referee signal a 'check' by clearly holding a finger to the earpiece/headset and extending the other hand/arm?
- 434 Was a 'check' signal maintained until the 'check' was completed?
- 435 Did the referee stop play when the ball was in a neutral zone/situation?
- 436 Did the referee stop play quickly enough?
- 437 Did the referee indicate that a 'review' will be taking place by clearly showing the 'TV signal'?
- 438 Did the referee indicate that the 'review' was completed by clearly showing the 'TV signal'?
- 439 Did the referee show the 'TV signal' after the 'review' away from the technical areas?
- 440 For VAR-only review, did the referee show only one "TV signal"?
- 441 Did the referee confirm the final decision immediately after the 'TV signal' that followed the 'review'?
- 442 Did the referee restart the game correctly (especially if the original decision was changed)?
- 443 Did the players remain on the field of play during the 'review' process?
- 444 Did the substitutes and team officials remain off the field of play during the 'review' process?
- 445 Was a player/substitute/substituted player who excessively showed the 'TV signal' or entered the referee review area cautioned?
- 446 Was a team official who excessively showed the 'TV signal' or entered the referee review area publicly cautioned?
- 447 Did a player/substitute/substituted player or team official try to enter the video operation room?
- 448 Did the referee clearly communicate on the field when a disciplinary sanction was changed?
- 449 Did the fourth official inform both technical areas about changes of a disciplinary sanction?

Role of the On-Field / Video Match Officials

- 450 Did the AVAR continue watching the live TV footage while the VAR was busy with a 'check' or a 'review'?
- 451 Did the AVAR describe to the VAR what was happening and what the referee was doing while the VAR was busy with a 'check' or a 'review'?
- 452 Did the AVAR assist the VAR's communication with the referee, telling referee to stop play or delay the restart?
- 453 Did the AVAR record the time 'lost' when play was delayed for a 'check' or a 'review'?
- 454 Did the AVAR keep a record of the game's goals, substitutions, cautions and sending-offs?
- 455 Did the AVAR keep a record of VAR-related incidents and any communication or technology problems?
- 456 Was the location of the offence (inside or outside the penalty area) checked by the VAR?
- 457 Were the best angles/replay speeds selected by the VAR for the referee?
- 458 Were the slow motion replays used for a factual decision?
- 459 How many screens were used in the particular situation?
- 460 Did the VAR select the best (freeze) picture of the moment the ball was kicked for offside decision?
- 461 Did the VAR select the best (freeze) picture for the point of contact?
- 462 Did the VAR recommend 'on-field review' for offside decision (interfere with an opponent or gaining an advantage)?
- 463 Was normal speed used for the 'intensity' of an offence or to decide if a handball was 'deliberate'?
- 464 Did the VAR/AVAR confirm the number of a player who was cautioned/sent-off?
- 465 Did the assistant referees and fourth official control the players and technical areas when the referee was busy with a 'review'?

Attacking Possession Phase

- 466 Was a possible offence by the attacking team in the APP checked?
- 467 Did the VAR check the APP for decisions/incidents relating to goals, penalty/no penalty and red cards for denying a goal of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
- 468 Did the VAR/AVAR correctly identify the start of the APP?
- 469 Did the VAR/AVAR correctly identify the end of the APP ('reset')?



A. Cautionable Offences - Reasons to Show a Yellow Card

A1 Unsporting Behaviour

- 501 Charges an opponent in a reckless manner
- 502 Jumps at an opponent in a reckless manner
- 503 Kicks an opponent in a reckless manner
- 504 Pushes an opponent in a reckless manner
- 505 Strikes an opponent in a reckless manner
- 506 Tackles or challenges an opponent in a reckless manner
- 507 Trips an opponent in a reckless manner
- 508 Commits a handball offence which is moving in the direction of the goal
- 509 Handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal
- 510 Handles the ball in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal
- 511 Attempts to deceive the referee
- 512 Attempts to deceive the referee by feigning injury
- 513 Attempts to deceive the referee by pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- 514 Commits a foul to interfere with a promising attack

- 515** Commits a foul to stop a promising attack
- 516** Handles the ball to interfere with a promising attack
- 517** Handles the ball to stop a promising attack
- 518** Despite receiving a warning, continuously holding an opponent before the ball is in play
- 519** Despite receiving a warning, continuously holding an opponent after the ball is in play
- 520** Plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
- 521** Verbally distracts an opponent during play
- 522** Verbally distracts an opponent at a restart
- 523** Unfairly distracts or impedes the thrower by moving closer than 2m (2 yards) where the throw-in is to be taken
- 524** Makes unauthorised marks on the field of play
- 525** Uses a deliberate trick to pass the ball to the own goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law
- 526** Uses a deliberate trick to pass the ball from a free kick to the own goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law
- 527** Gesturing in a provocative, derisive or inflammatory way
- 528** Feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up
- 529** Does not comply to leave the field of play on a stretcher or on foot after the referee has authorised the doctors and /or stretcher-bearers to enter the field of play
- 530** Gains an unfair advantage by re-entering the field of play, after having left the field of play for a tactical reason
- 531** Distracts an opponent, after having left the field of play for a tactical reason
- 532** Changes place with the goalkeeper without the referee's permission
- 533** Throws an object at an opponent or other person in a reckless manner
- 534** Throws the ball at an opponent or any other person in a reckless manner
- 535** Shows a lack of respect for the game
- 536** Unsporting behaviour against a match official
- 537** Unsporting behaviour against a team-mate
- 538** Unsporting behaviour against any other person
- 539** Takes a penalty kick without being identified to take the kick
- 540** Plays in a dangerous manner with obvious risk of injury to an opponent
- 541** During a penalty kick, despite receiving a warning previously, the goalkeeper again infringes the Laws of the Game, and because of that infringement, the kick will be retaken
- 542** Kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again in reckless manner
- 543** Throws the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again in reckless manner
- 544** Unsporting behaviour not previously mentioned
- 545** Does the referee allow a quick free kick or applies advantage involving DOGSO situation?

A2 Celebration of a Goal

- 546 Climbing onto a perimeter fence
- 547 Gesturing in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way
- 548 Covering the head or face with a mask or other similar item
- 549 Removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt

A3 Dissent by Word or Action

- 550 Shows dissent by protesting verbally against a referee's decision
- 551 Shows dissent by protesting non-verbally (gesture) against a referee's decision
- 552 Shows dissent by protesting verbally against an assistant referee's decision
- 553 Shows dissent by protesting non-verbally (gesture) against an assistant referee's decision
- 554 Shows dissent by hitting the ball on the ground
- 555 Shows dissent by clapping hands after a referee's decision

A4 Persistent Offences

A5 Delaying the Restart of Play

- 556 Appearing to take a throw-in but suddenly leaving it to a teammate to take
- 557 Delaying leaving the field of play when being substituted
- 558 Excessively delaying a restart
- 559 Kicking the ball away after the referee has stopped play
- 560 Carrying the ball away after the referee has stopped play
- 561 Provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play
- 562 Taking a free kick from the wrong position to force a retake
- 563 Deliberately preventing a free kick being taken quickly
- 564 Excessively celebrating a goal resulting in excessive time-wasting

A6 Failure to Respect the Required Distance when Play is Restarted with a Corner Kick, Free Kick or Throw-In

- 565** Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick
- 566** Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a free kick
- 567** Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a throw-in
- 568** Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a Dropped ball

A7 Entering or Re-Entering the Field of Play without the Referee's Permission

- 569** Entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- 570** Re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission

A8 Deliberately Leaving the Field of Play without the Referee's Permission

- 571** Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- 572** Deliberately leaving the field of play to put an opponent in an offside position unfairly

A9 Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity within Own Penalty Area and Referee Awards a Penalty Kick

- 573** Attempts to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
- 574** There is a possibility to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity



B. Sending-off Offences - Reasons to Show a Red Card

B1 Denying the Opposing Team a Goal or an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity

- 575 Denying the opposing team a goal by a handball offence
- 576 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by holding an opponent
- 577 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by pulling an opponent
- 578 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by pushing an opponent
- 579 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence
- 580 Player commits an offence (outside own penalty area), which is punishable by a free kick, against an opponent who is moving towards the player's goal, denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
- 581 Does not attempt to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
- 582 There is no possibility to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity

B2 Serious Foul Play

- 583 Charges an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball
- 584 Jumps at an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball
- 585 Kicks an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball
- 586 Pushes an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball
- 587 Strikes an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball
- 588 Tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent
- 589 Tackle or challenge that uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent
- 590 Trips an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball
- 591 Lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball with excessive force or endangering the safety of an opponent

B3 Bites or Spits at Someone

B4 Violent Conduct

- 592 Uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball
- 593 Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball
- 594 Uses excessive force or brutality against a team-mate
- 595 Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a team-mate
- 596 Uses excessive force or brutality against a team official
- 597 Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a team official
- 598 Uses excessive force or brutality against a match official
- 599 Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a match official
- 600 Uses excessive force or brutality against a spectator
- 601 Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a spectator
- 602 Uses excessive force or brutality against any other person
- 603 Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against any other person
- 604 Throws an object at an opponent or other person using excessive force
- 605 Throws the ball at an opponent or any other person using excessive force
- 606 Deliberately strikes an opponent on head or face with a hand or arms when not challenging for the ball
- 607 Deliberately strikes any other person on head or face with a hand or arms when not challenging for the ball
- 608 Kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again using excessive force
- 609 Throws the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again using excessive force

B5 Using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures

B6 Receiving a Second Caution in the Same Match

- 610** Does the player receive his first caution during the match and the second caution during kicks from the penalty marks?

B7 Sending-Off for an Offence not Previously Mentioned in Law 12



C. Reasons to Warn, Caution or Send off a Team Official

C1 Reasons to Warn a Team Official

- 615 Entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- 616 Failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. Ignoring an instruction/request from the assistant referee or the fourth official
- 617 Minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
- 618 Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

C2 Reasons to Caution –but not limited to– a Team Official

- 621 Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- 622 Delaying the restart of play by their team
- 623 Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- 624 Dissent by word or action including throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. Sarcastic clapping
- 625 Entering the referee review area (RRA)

- 626 Excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card
- 627 Excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR 'review'
- 628 Gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- 629 Persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)
- 630 Showing a lack of respect for the game

C3 Reasons to Send off –but not limited to– a Team Official

- 641 Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. Holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player, etc.
- 642 Deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- 643 Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- 644 Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- 645 Entering the field of play to confront a match official (including at the half-time and fulltime), interfering with play, an opposing player or match official
- 646 Entering the video operation room (VOR)
- 647 Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. Ball boy/girl, security or competition official, etc.)
- 648 Receiving a second caution in the same match
- 649 Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- 650 Using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment
- 651 Violent conduct



REPORT WRITING GUIDELINES

Law 5

“The referee:

- [...] 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’s report will be consulted by the appropriate authorities for any disciplinary action / sanction to be taken against players, substitutes, team officials, etc.

The report will be used as reference for further disciplinary sanctions, where necessary, based on:

- The Laws of the Game
- AFC Disciplinary & Ethics Code

Disciplinary offences committed must be reported according to the Laws of the Game.

- Player’s name, number, team, etc.;
- Description of the incident; and
- Accurate details as per Law 12 (refer to sections A & B: Reasons to show a yellow / red card)

When required, the supplementary report section must be filled in.

Remember the “AFC Rule”:

- A** - Accurate
F - Factual
C - Concise & brief

The supplementary report must be submitted without delay.

In the event of any sending-off offences, the report must be submitted immediately after the match.



Law 5

“Disciplinary action

- Takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. A medical team official who commits a sending-off offence may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention.”

Further sanction subject to the AFC Disciplinary & Ethics Code (Article 48):

A team official is sent off if he/she commits any of the following three offences:

- **Throwing of tantrums, water bottles on or off the field, kicking of property, uttering vulgarities and profanities to the match officials, opponents etc.**
- **Attacking match officials, opponents on or off the field of play, kicking, holding and pushing etc. in an aggressive manner.**
- **Biting or spitting at the match officials, opponents etc., or on the ground to display anger at and disagreement with decisions by the match officials etc.**

The AFC Disciplinary & Ethics Code consider the following as offences (Section 2: Offences):

- Any party whose conduct brings the game into disrepute;
- Involvement in a brawl;
- Causing damage to property before, during, or after a match;
- Team misconduct: any team of which at least five (5) individuals have been sanctioned (caution or expulsion) by the referee during a match or any team where several individuals threaten or harass match officials or other persons during a match;
- Anyone who publicly incites others to hatred or violence;
- Anyone who provokes the general public during a match;
- A player who was fielded in a match despite being ineligible;
- A team that refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which has begun;
- Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions;
- Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats or uses violence or threats to pressure a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely; and
- Improper conduct undertaken by spectators: violence towards persons or objects, Letting off incendiary devices or fire, flashing lasers, throwing objects, displaying insulting, religious, or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, pitch invasion, flying drones, and any other type of misconduct.

Further details to include in the referee's report:

- Any delay kick-off offences due to failure of the necessary number of ambulances or medical staff being in place at the appropriate times, floodlight or security failures, etc;
- The reasons and circumstances of the delay must be mentioned in the report, despite taking place before or after the match, or during half-time;
- The time of incident and the length of the delay must be stated in the report.

Details to include in the supplementary report:

- ONLY sending-off offences (players, substitutes and team officials)
- The reasons and circumstances of the delay must be mentioned in the report, despite taking place before or after the match, or during half-time;
- The time of the incident, player's name, jersey number and team must be included in the report.

Elements of a well-written match report

A good match report will ensure questions relevant to who, what, when, where, how and why are completed for each incident. The emphasis placed on each of these questions will vary based on the type and complexity of the incident.

Who	Who is reporting the incident?
	Who was affected?
What	What happened? (Include incident type and identify details)
	What are the characteristics of the incident?
	What initial actions did you take?
	What is the incident severity rating (ISR) at the time of the incident report?
When	When did the incident occur?
Where	Where did the incident occur?
How and Why	Why and how did the incident occur?
	What factors contributed?

- State the **FACTS** - avoid opinions and inferences
- **CONCISE** - give enough information clearly and in a few words
- **COMPLETE** - Who, What, When, Where, Why and How
- **UNDERSTANDABLE** - Present thoughts in an organised, chronological manner; good grammar and spelling, and avoid abbreviations
- **PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE** - Document the chain of custody of all equipment and supplies affiliated with the incident

It may seem contradictory to say that a report should be both complete and concise. However, concise means ensuring all the important details are included. Omit words that do not add value and that interfere with readability.

Well-written reports are factual, fair and impartial. A fact is something real that can be either proved or disproved. Opinions and inferences should be avoided.



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