

District Referee Administrator Report
September 13, 2006

1. Entry Level Referee Clinics

The D7 referee program scheduled 16 entry level referee Clinics from May 2006 through August 2006. 15 were held with 257 certified new USSF referees for 2007. (Based on turnover rates, the numbers of referees in D7 will continue to decrease). (6 of the 15 clinics held had less than 15 referee candidates attend).

2. District 7 Playing Program In-Service Referee Clinics

3 in-service clinics were scheduled for referees who officiate in the D7 PP ((U12-U19B/G). Invitations were mailed to most referees within D7 as well as all 21 youth league referee coordinators. The coordinators were encouraged to have their house league referees attend. A total of 181 referees attended the clinics.

The referee program would like to thank the following leagues and individuals for their support and the courtesy extended to the referees program.

- Lemoore Youth Soccer League---Jon Dias and John Mendez.
- Clovis Junior Soccer League---Erick Walker and Bruce Hoffman
- Mountain Area Youth Soccer League---Kay Emmert and Mike Demeusy

3. D7 Playing Program Referee Program Expectations

The referee program for the D7 playing program has always had standards/expectations for referees. Referees who attended the in-service clinics were REMINDED of the standards. For the coming season, failure by referees to meet these standards in a game will result in the referee(s) for that game not to receive reimbursement. These expectations are applicable whether the referee attended the clinic or chose not to attend.

The standards/expectations are:

- Referees **MUST** be in proper uniform. (Referee team's uniforms must match).
- Games **MUST** begin on time and if they start late, must not be the fault of the referee team.
- Game cards **MUST** be received in the D7 office by the Thursday following the playing of the game.
- Game cards **MUST** be submitted with correct information (this includes correct scores, recording of scores, correct reasons for cautioning or sending off players/coaches, as well as all other pertinent information).
- A referee who is assigned a game, and once at the field, cannot voluntarily remove himself from the game to referee another match. (Exceptions: if assigned to a match, and when you get to the field discover that you are assigned to a game in which there is a personal conflict, or is reassigned by the assignor prior to the match, or the referee upon arriving to his game discovers that the game has been abandoned. That referee is free for that time period only).
- Referees **MUST** use the Diagonal System of Control (DSC). Dual System is not allowed.
- Referees **MUST** follow proper procedures in dealing with send offs (red cards).
- Referees **MUST NOT ALLOW** players to be improperly dressed.

League assignors who assign referees to D7 PP games **MUST** fully understand the rules and make sure that referees assigned games understand the rules as well. Ignorance by either party is

not an excuse. (Only 6 league Referee Coordinators chose to attend the training even though all 21 league coordinators were extended an invitation.)

4. USSF Registration 2007

USSF re-registration is now to be done online if possible. The referee can go to www.cnra.net and follow the instructions for re-registration (click on the renew link). The referee will need to know their referee registration number. The referee coordinator can get that number from the D7 referee listing for 2006. (I don't have numbers for referees last registered in 2005.)

The following registrations must be completed by paper as in the past:

- All entry level referees. (This has been done if they took an entry level class in 2006.)
- Re-registrations that cannot be done online.
- Re-registrations where there has been a two year lapse. (The referee must have taken and passed a re-certification clinic.)
- Re-registrations that include upgrading or maintenance for referee grades 7, 6 and 5. (Upgrades and maintenance for grades 7, 6 and 5 are to be sent to the DRA.)

Referees should make sure they are re-registering for 2007 only.

5. Referees Officiating in House Leagues and Proper Uniforms

I made my 1st visit to a house league to observe whether the leagues were enforcing standards of dress for referees. In this instance, I visited Madera Youth Soccer League and found that there had been a marked improvement in the uniforms of referee since my visit last year. Only 2 referees were observed to not be properly dressed. There was also the issue of some of the referees not being currently registered with USSF.

The Referee Coordinator advised me he was aware of the both situations. He had advised the referees not properly dressed to correct the problem by the next week and was working with the referees to get properly licensed.



To: National Referees
National Instructors
National Assessors
State Referee Administrators
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: Contact with Game Officials

Date: August 9, 2006

In several recent matches, there have been instances where players have indicated their disagreement with decisions by match officials by initiating or continuing unacceptable, unwanted, and aggressive physical contact with the referee, an assistant referee, or the fourth official. It does not matter if this contact occurs during a match or when the official is still in the area of the field before or after a match. Four clips related to this issue are attached.

Obviously, not every occasion when a player physically makes contact with a match official is misconduct. Players may seek to offer sincere congratulations for the work of the official or to greet in friendly fashion an official with whom they have had previous experience. Officials should **not** tolerate physical contact by a player (including a substitute, substituted player, or any other person under the authority of the referee) which:

- involves force or aggression (grabbing, pushing, slapping, bumping, stepping on feet, and so forth)
- the official has sought to avoid by moving away and by making a gesture which clearly indicates any further approach is unwelcome (continued pursuit by a player, if performed in a threatening manner, is included here even if physical contact does not result)
- is initiated from an unexpected direction and unaccompanied by any warning
- is delivered in a context which clearly includes disapproval, lack of friendliness, or anger
- restrains or prevents an official from withdrawing from the contact (e.g., by blocking retreat or holding)

It follows, however, that officials themselves should not initiate contact with players under similar circumstances except to the minimum extent needed to perform the responsibilities required by the Laws of the Game. Where an official observes one or more approaching players who appear intent on making impermissible contact, it is appropriate to take reasonable measures to avoid the confrontation, but this should not require the official to retreat in haste or for an excessive distance. The official should indicate as quickly as possible that the approach is unwelcome, at which point player movement toward the official should cease. If it does not, the action by the player could be dealt with in accordance with this memorandum or, if it involves several players without physical contact, under the guidelines for mass confrontation.

Under no circumstances can aggressive, unwanted physical contact with officials be tolerated and all instances must be dealt with firmly both by the appropriate action under the Law (red card for violent conduct) and by including all details in the match report.



To: Chair, State Referee Committee,
State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment
National Referees, Instructors and Assessors

CC: State Directors of Coaching

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: Advantage and Obvious Goal scoring Opportunities
Chivas USA at New England Revolution
UEFA Champion's Cup, Arsenal versus Barcelona

Date: June 2, 2006

Recent matches have caused considerable debate regarding the practical interpretation and application of advantage in obvious goal scoring opportunity situations. Two clips are attached: one is from a match played on May 13, Chivas at New England Revolution, and the other is from the final of the UEFA Champion's Cup, Arsenal against Barcelona (May 17). The guidance below should not be considered a commentary on the actions of the referees in the respective matches – the clips are included only to provide a practical basis for responding to questions regarding the options available to a referee who has applied advantage to a foul which interferes with a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity.

Some general principles need to be recalled:

- Applying advantage is a decision of the referee, whereas calling out "Play on!" and swinging the arms upward (the verbal and visual signal) is only the announcement of the decision.
- A sequence of plays can occur so quickly in a match involving skilled players that the conditions for an advantage decision may pass before it is possible to signal the decision. Nevertheless, advantage has been applied if that was the referee's decision.
- The referee is expected to stop play within a short time (roughly, 2-3 seconds) after the foul if the advantage does not develop or does not continue.

- Advantage is a **team concept** and thus the advantage gained by a team when the referee decides not to stop play can be enjoyed by the player who was fouled as well as by any teammate of that player.

Given a foul judged to be an interference with a goal or a goal scoring opportunity and given the referee's decision to apply advantage, the following scenarios should be considered carefully:

- If the advantage does not continue, the referee is expected to stop play as soon as this is evident. The defender committing the foul must be sent off and shown the red card, and play must be restarted correctly (based on the foul and its location).
- If the advantage continues and the attacking team is able to score a goal (regardless of whether it was by the attacker who was fouled or by a teammate), the defender who committed the foul **may not be sent off** (since a goal was not prevented and the team's goal scoring opportunity was not interfered with successfully). The misconduct would be more appropriately categorized as unsporting behavior (tactical foul) warranting a caution and the showing of the yellow card. However, if the foul involved violent conduct or serious foul play, a red card must be given.



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From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: The Status of Players Who Are Sent Off

Date: July 6, 2006

In a recent World Cup match, several players who had been sent off were seen to be still within the stadium walls and arguably within the area of the field. This has raised questions as to the practical result of being “sent from the field.”

The Laws of the Game provide that players, substitutes and substituted players who are sent off for misconduct are required to leave the field. There is no further indication of what this means, what someone who has been sent off may or may not do thereafter, or what authority the referee has regarding this person. Except as may be otherwise noted, the term “player” hereafter is intended to include substitutes and substituted players.

Referees must keep in mind the following four basic principles:

- The purpose of “sending off” a player is to ensure that this person no longer takes any further part in the match (sometimes referred to as being “out of sight, out of sound”).
- “Leaving the field” is generally interpreted as meaning “the area of the field” and is therefore not limited to its formal boundaries (touch lines and goal lines). Accordingly, technical areas and team benches are to be considered within the area of the field.
- With the exception of youth players where continued adult supervision might be needed, players sent off are expected to have no further contact or involvement with their team.
- The *rules of competition* may define, for any given facility or match location, where players who are sent off are required to go. To the extent such rules are not inconsistent with these principles, they should be followed.

Based on the above principles, referees should note the following guidelines for specific situations that may arise:

- In the absence of more restrictive *rules of competition*, the referee has the authority to define “the area of the field” and to require players who have been sent off to exit this area. The referee is encouraged to use existing features which clearly demarcate the area of the field (e.g., fences, walls, ropes).
- A player who has left the area of the field but who remains in or returns to the facility (e.g., sits in the stands or spectator area) should not continue to wear the team’s uniform.
- The referee, with the assistance of the fourth official and the assistant referees, is encouraged to enlist the aid of competition authority officials, facility managers, and on-site security staff to enforce these requirements.
- A youth player who is being allowed to remain with the team or any player who is out of the area of the field but still within the general facility cannot continue to commit misconduct since the most serious penalty allowed by the Law (send off) has already occurred.
- Further inappropriate conduct by a player under these circumstances may, depending on the severity of the behavior, result in the referee suspending or terminating the match. Under all circumstances, full details must be included in the match report.



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From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: Fouls, Misconduct, and the Restart of Play

Date: August 18, 2006

A basic principle in the Laws of the Game is that an offense cannot be considered a foul (within the meaning of Law 12) unless the action is committed

- By a player,
- On the field of play, and
- While the ball is in play.

Accordingly, any offense which does not meet at least these three criteria cannot be considered a foul (a substitute or substituted player, for example, cannot commit a foul under any circumstances). The action can, of course, be misconduct.

If play is stopped for an offense which is only misconduct (no foul occurred), play must restart with either

- An indirect free kick if the misconduct was by a player on the field or
- A dropped ball if the misconduct was committed off the field by anyone (player, substitute, or substituted player).

In connection with restarts for misconduct, it is important to remember several things.

- The restart is unchanged if the misconduct is committed by anyone during a stoppage of play.
- When play is stopped for an offense which is both a foul and

misconduct, the restart is determined by the foul, not the misconduct.

- Whether the misconduct results in a caution (yellow card) or a send-off (red card), the restart is not affected.

Example: In a match between the Columbus Crew and Real Salt Lake on August 16, RSL #16 (Forko) actively challenged Crew #7 (Thomas) for the ball just above the RSL goal line in the 21st minute. Their momentum carried them both off the field where Thomas went down (the ball left the field shortly thereafter).

- If the referee's decision was that Forko in fact caused Thomas to fall (trip, charge, push, etc.) while off the field, this would be misconduct only and play should restart with a dropped ball where the ball was at the time (just above the goal line) after showing Forko the appropriate card.
- If the referee's decision was that Forko's actions off the field were not misconduct, then no offense at all was committed and play should restart with a goal kick based on how the ball subsequently left the field.
- If the referee decided that Forko began committing a direct free kick foul while still on the field and merely continued this offense after leaving the field, play should restart with a penalty kick since the foul was committed by a defender inside his penalty area.

It is important to remember that the actual stoppage of play by the referee is marked from when the referee decided to stop play, not when the whistle sounds.



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Chair, State Referee Committee
National Referees, Assessors and Instructors

cc: State Directors of Coaching

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: Law 11 – Offside
Interfering with Play and Interfering with an Opponent

Date: August 24, 2006

The proper interpretation and application of Law 11 have been evolving in recent years. To this end, the International Board has provided detailed definitions of the ways in which a player may become involved in active play (Law 11, International Board Decision 2). On August 17, 2005, a Circular from the FIFA further clarified some of the confusion regarding whether "touching the ball" was a requirement for "interfering with play" (emphasis added):

- A player in an offside position may be penalized before playing or touching the ball if, in the opinion of the referee, no other teammate in an onside position has the opportunity to play the ball.
- If an opponent becomes involved in the play and if, in the opinion of the referee, there is potential for physical contact, the player in the offside position shall be penalized for interfering with an opponent.

To "interfere with play" means that the attacker must touch the ball or make a play for the ball. While "touching the ball" is obvious, an attacker has not made a play for the ball if, in fact, he does not move toward the ball or does not move any part of his body in an attempt to touch a ball played toward him. It is not correct to consider "in the area of active play" to be the same as "involved in active play" -- merely being near the ball is not enough to judge that the attacker is involved in active play. The attacker must act to play the ball, though the "action" does not have to include touching the ball.

To "interfere with an opponent" means that an opponent must actually be prevented from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly blocking the opponent's

line of vision or direction of movement or by "making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent." To be deceived or distracted, however, the opponent must be within some reasonable distance of the play. There is no hard and fast test of "nearness" beyond the opinion of the referee but the interference with an opponent must be clear (not just hypothetical or theoretically possible) before deciding that an offside violation has occurred.

Example: Miami player Romario is in an obvious offside position when the ball is last touched by his teammate, Gil, and Gil then plays the ball forward almost directly toward Romario. However, Romario neither touches nor makes any play for the ball. Furthermore, there is no opponent close enough to be reasonably obstructed or impeded in any way nor does Romario make any gesture or movement which could reasonably be considered deceptive or distracting. Gil proceeds to run forward, takes control of his own pass, moves farther downfield from Romario, and then passes the ball back to Romario who ultimately scores a goal. **The goal was valid and, in particular, there was no offside offense during any part of this sequence of play.**

In a situation such as this, neither the referee nor the lead assistant referee should assume that Romario will play the ball simply because it was sent in his direction. They must wait to see if Romario touches the ball, makes a play toward the ball, or moves in such a way as to obstruct, impede, deceive, or distract an opponent who is close enough that the opponent is prevented from participating in the play.



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Example 1: Twellman (Revolution #20) was fouled by Llamosa (Chivas #11) at the 39th minute. The referee applied advantage. Several seconds later, the referee judged that the advantage had been lost (the foul slowed Twellman sufficiently that an opponent was able to catch up to and challenge him). The referee stopped play for the original foul and, prior to the restart, cautioned Llamosa. If the original foul had been considered an interference with an obvious goalscoring opportunity (all elements for this misconduct – the “4 Ds” – were present), the correct referee action would have been to send off Llamosa for “denied goal by foul” (DGF).

Example 2: The referee stopped play after the Arsenal goalkeeper, Lehmann, fouled Barcelona's Eto'o at the 18th minute at the top of the Arsenal penalty area. Just after the whistle was blown, Barcelona teammate Giuly came streaking in from the right and struck the ball into the net. The goal was canceled and Lehmann was sent off. If the referee had allowed the advantage to develop, the offended team would have scored and, prior to the kick-off, Lehmann should have been cautioned. The goal, regrettably, was not valid because the referee decided the advantage had not continued and stopped play before the ball was struck into the net. Under these circumstances, the referee had no choice but to return to the original decision that a goalscoring opportunity had been denied – Lehmann was sent off and shown the red card.