

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Referees Development Programme 2006

14th UEFA Advanced Course for Elite and Premier Referees
and
15th Introductory Course for International Referees
30 January – 2 February, 2006

Barcelona - Spain

General SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

These conclusions form part of the update to the summary of previous course conclusions published in the booklet entitled "Practical Information for Match Officials" and which was sent to all National Associations and UEFA Referee Observers in August 2005. An updated version will be published in Summer 2006.

The UEFA Referee Courses in Barcelona served not only as an opportunity to reinforce the practical information in the booklet but also to identify further recent trends (and offer solutions) and to remind referees of their responsibilities on the field and also as role models for less experienced officials throughout Europe.

Illegal challenges with hands/arms

Attention was drawn to an increasing number of incidents in which players used hands/arms unfairly. Participants were urged to be more perceptive in recognising such acts. By being greater aware of their possible occurrence, through improved concentration, enhanced scrutiny, and alertness and by focussing not only on feet/legs in challenges, referees will be able to identify those strong, unfair physical contacts with elbows and arms which must be punished appropriately and consistently.

Referees were reminded of their responsibility to protect players from unfair play by ensuring that **any challenge involving excessive force (and therefore endangering the safety of an opponent) must be considered as serious foul play and result in a dismissal (red card).**

Elbows used deliberately as a weapon against an opponent are, of course, included in this category.

Also in the context of the illegal use of hands/arms, referees were reminded that for incidents in the penalty area at a corner kick (or a free kick near goal), involving holding and pushing, they must act strictly in accordance with the procedures agreed in previous courses.

Wearing of Jewellery

The Laws of the Game make it clear that no jewellery may be worn by players. **Mere taping to cover jewellery is not allowed.** Referees were expected to set an example and also remove any items of their own jewellery. Checks on players' equipment, both pre-match and pre-substitution should be undertaken with care.

A player later seen to be wearing jewellery on the field must be required to remove it immediately and should be cautioned (yellow card) for unsporting behaviour.

Time wasting and Dissent actions

Note was made of an increasing number of examples of players kicking the ball away after the whistle had been blown to stop play.

Referees were reminded to consider the manner of any such acts and if considered to show dissent from the referee's decision, or designed to waste time, should result in a caution (yellow card)

Mass Confrontation / 'Mobbing'

Members on both courses were reminded of the actions expected of them in response to mass confrontations and being surrounded by groups of players challenging their authority or decisions. (See booklet for earlier agreements)

Incorrect application of Advantage

The participants recognised that although a regular use of Advantage was often welcomed by spectators and some technicians in the game, there was sometimes a greater benefit to the non-offending team by stopping play and awarding a free kick. Many teams now practice the taking of free kicks near goal and see the advantage from such kicks.

Referees were asked to **consider the use of Advantage only in clearly appropriate circumstances** and not take undue 'risks'.

Free Kicks taken before the whistle signal

Referees were reminded that when they have clearly indicated to the attacking team that they should wait for a whistle signal and then one of the team takes the kick; the free kick must be retaken in all cases, **regardless of the outcome of the premature kick.**

The offending kicker will then be cautioned (yellow card).

Injury to Referee

In the event of a referee being injured through the intervention of a source outside the field of play (e.g. coins etc being thrown), it was reiterated that in UEFA Competitions the referee should first consult with the match delegate before taking a decision to suspend or terminate the match.

Working in Unison

The importance of the referee being the leader of his team of officials and his role not only during the match, but also in pre-match analysis and post-match evaluation, was highlighted. Referees were reminded that eye contact between the referee and assistant referees is the number one priority. In addition, the recommendation for assistant referees to use the 'wait and see' technique was further reinforced, as it is better to be slightly late and correct than incorrect.

Learning from Each Other

UEFA Technical Director, Andy Roxburgh and a group of football technicians and national team coaches were involved in plenary and group sessions with the Advanced Course for Referees. These discussions followed those at the last two Advanced Courses and once more served to bring the two groups closer together and increase mutual respect.

It is hoped that this general summary and recommendations, taken with the booklet "Practical Information for Match Officials", will be of help and assistance not only to international referees, assistant referees and referee observers, but also to match officials within all UEFA member associations.

UEFA / Referees' Committee / February 2006