

Red and yellow cards for team officials in the technical area

Guidelines for an experimental trial

The International Football Association Board

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Introduction

Law 1 states that occupants of the technical area must *'behave in a responsible manner'*.

The Laws of the Game limit the use of the red card (RC) and yellow card (YC) to players and substitutes but their use for members of the technical area who appear on the team list (team officials) would make it much clearer when someone is officially warned (cautioned) or is dismissed from the technical area; their use may also help prevent/reduce confrontation and verbal/physical abuse when a referee dismisses a team official - this may be especially true for young referees in grassroots football.

As part of The IFAB's *'play fair!'* initiative, the use of the RC and YC for team officials guilty of irresponsible behaviour may be trialled in FIFA and confederation-organised competitions.

Procedure

All occupants of the technical area must comply with the requirements of the Laws of the Game; the non-playing occupants who are identified on the team list are team officials.

Where a team official behaves in an irresponsible manner the referee may issue a warning, show a yellow card (YC) to denote a caution, or show a red card (RC) to dismiss the person from the technical area, according to the following procedures:

- The referee may show the RC and YC from entering the field of play at the start of the match until after the end of the match
- The referee (or the 4th official or assistant referee on the instruction of the referee) may give a team official a warning for behaviour which does not warrant a YC or RC
- The referee will show a YC to a team official who commits a cautionable offence
- The referee will show a RC to dismiss a team official from the technical area (*if this is for a second YC offence the referee will show the YC then the RC*)

The referee will report all RCs and YCs shown to team officials to the appropriate authority who will determine any further action.

Categories of offences

Referees will use their judgment when deciding whether behaviour by a team official requires a warning, caution (YC) or dismissal (RC) based on what they have seen/heard and on information from any of the other match officials. If necessary for the control of the situation, the referee may stop play to show the YC or RC and restart according to the Laws of the Game.

Warning offences

The following offences would usually result in a warning from the referee (or 4th official/assistant); repeated or blatant instances will result in a caution (YC) or dismissal (RC):

- *minor/low level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision*
- *failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring a 4th official's instruction/request*
- *entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner (including attempting to assist in a confrontation situation)*

Caution (YC) offences

Caution (YC) offences include (but are not limited to):

- *dissent by word or action including:*
 - *throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects to show dissent*
 - *gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. sarcastic clapping*
- *gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way*
- *gesturing for a RC or YC to be shown*
- *clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area*
- *deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)*
- *delaying the restart of play by their team*
- *showing a lack of respect for the game*
- *persistent/repeated unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)*

Dismissal (RC) offences

Dismissal (RC) offences include (but are not limited to):

- *violent conduct*
- *physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. security or competition official)*
- *using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures*
- *spitting at any person*
- *entering the field of play to:*
 - *confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)*
 - *interfere with play or an opposing player*
- *deliberately leaving the technical area to:*
 - *show dissent towards or remonstrate with a match official*
 - *act in a provocative or inflammatory manner*
 - *enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner*
- *deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play*
- *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*
- *receiving a second YC in the same match*

Participation in the trial

Any confederation wishing to trial the RC and YC for team officials in any of their competitions should apply directly to The IFAB for permission and for details of the feedback that will be required.

For permission to participate or for further information, please contact secretary@thefab.com