

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Referees Development Programme 2005

2nd Course for European Futsal Referees
28 - 30 November 2005

UEFA Headquarters – House of European Football, Nyon

General CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Attention is drawn to a number of agreements made at the recent 2nd UEFA course for European International Futsal Referees, for the benefit of futsal in Europe, adopting a standard approach in terms of interpretation and application of the Futsal Laws of the Game. The agreements refine those conclusions and recommendations concluded at the 1st UEFA course for European Futsal Referees in November 2003, which form the basis of this document. Major new points added for 2005 are highlighted in ***bold italics*** below.

It was felt that the conclusions and recommendations made by the participants after following the theme of the course (“Uniformity in interpreting and applying the Laws throughout Europe”) should be shared with futsal referees throughout national associations in Europe and will also be useful for Futsal clubs.

CONTROL AND APPLICATION OF THE LAWS

1. Letting play flow

A basic principle in futsal is to allow play to flow as freely as possible. The nature of futsal is a fast game.

2. Consistency in applying the Laws

It was agreed that referees must maintain a consistent level of punishment both before and after the fifth accumulated foul.

3. Sliding tackles

Referees were reminded that for a sliding tackle to be considered an offence, the tackler's opponent must have possession of the ball. Referees must not give a foul for a sliding tackle if the opponent does not have possession of the ball.

4. Blocking an opponent

Referees were reminded that if a player impedes the progress of an opponent with his body, and in doing so commits an offence usually punished by a direct free kick in Law 12, they should award a direct free kick. Conversely, if the action of impeding does not cause an offence usually punished by a direct free kick in Law 12, an indirect free kick should be awarded.

5. Advantage

It was confirmed that playing advantage should benefit the team it is given to. Consequently, it was agreed that after the fifth accumulated foul, if a foul is committed, the best advantage for a team is to be awarded a free-kick. ***Following the new amendments to the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, valid from 1 September 2005, referees are reminded that even when they apply advantage, the foul must be accumulated. Referees should therefore take into consideration the accumulated fouls of both teams so that if a 6th foul occurs, after previously applying advantage, the free kick must be taken according to the Laws of the Game applicable after a 5th accumulated foul.*** Having possession of the ball should not always be considered as an advantage in futsal, unless it is clearly an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

It is also considered reasonable practice for a referee to delay giving a foul by one or two seconds in order to see if a possible advantage actually develops. If after this time has lapsed the referee considers there to be no advantage, play can be brought back to where the infringement occurred and a free kick given (***'wait and see' principle***).

6. Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity

Referees were reminded that a player (***including the goalkeeper***) who denies his opponents a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling a ball or by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick **must be sent off**.

In deciding if an offence committed denies a player an obvious goal-scoring opportunity, referees were made aware that the following criteria should be considered when taking the decision:

- Type and intention of the challenge

- Possibility to control the ball
- Speed and direction of the attacker
- Distance to the goal
- Position of the defenders (including goalkeeper)

7. Encroachment

If a player on the defending team encroaches within 5m at a free kick and subsequently touches the ball when the free kick is taken, he should be cautioned with a yellow card. If the player encroaches, but does not make contact with the ball, no caution should be given.

8. Simulation

Referees agreed that all simulating acts, which are intended to deceive the referee, should be penalised by a caution regardless of the position of the offence. A player's action in trying to deceive the referee may take the following forms:

- where no contact has been made at all,
- from an attacker deliberately using a slight contact with an opponent,
- by a player anticipating a possible contact from an opponent,
- following a player initiating a contact with an opponent
- overreacting and pretending the manner of the offence deserves higher level of punishment.

9. Handball Situations

Referees are reminded that deliberate handball is punished with a direct free kick or penalty kick if the offence is inside the penalty area. However, deliberate handball should not be automatically punished by a caution or dismissal, unless:

- ***An obvious goalscoring opportunity is denied;***
- ***It is blatantly to prevent an opponent gaining possession;***
- ***It is an attempt to score goal by deliberately handling ball.***

In the latter two examples above, the caution is not for deliberate handball, but for unsporting behaviour.

10. Showing of red and yellow cards

Referees received confirmation that only players can be shown the red or yellow card (regardless of whether they are on the field of play or the bench). Cards should not be shown to any other team officials.

It was also confirmed that if any player is sent off during the half-time interval, regardless of whether he was on the field of play or the bench at the time the half-time whistle was blown, his team will resume the second half with five players. The player who received the red card may not, of course, take any further part in the match.

11. Control of benches

Referees reported difficulties in deciding who should control the bench and agreed that this should be the responsibility of the third referee. Only the coaches of both teams should be allowed to stand and give instruction to the players. This should be in a responsible manner and directly in front of his own bench.

12. *Dealing with injured players*

It was agreed that the procedure for treating injured outfield players should be that the injured player should leave the field of play for treatment (if possible). Even if the treatment takes place on the field of play, the player must leave the field of play once the treatment has finished and not re-enter the pitch until play has been re-started in accordance with the normal substitution procedure.

Exceptions are made only for injury to a goalkeeper; cases of collisions between goalkeeper and an outfield player when they need immediate attention; or for severe cases e.g. concussion, swallowed tongue etc. Play should not be re-started until the treatment has been successfully completed.

13. Substitutions

Participants were reminded that it is not allowed to make substitutions during time-outs. ***Substitutions are allowed, as soon as the time-out is finished (even before the ball is in play again).***

SIGNALS

14. Signals

Attention was drawn to the **nine** referee signals illustrated in the Futsal Laws of the Game and referees were reminded that only these signals can be used. In addition, it was recommended that signals should be made only when the referee is stationary, as signalling whilst moving may be confusing and, in some cases, physically dangerous to players.

15. Indirect free kick

It was confirmed that when an indirect free kick is given, it should be signalled by both referees.

16. The four-second count

Referees were reminded that this is mandatory in the following situations:

- Kick-in
- Corner kick
- Goal clearance

Referees should commence the four-second count as soon as the player has the possibility to re-start play.

In addition, it was recommended that referees should clearly and visibly count the four seconds with their fingers.

17. Subsequent responsibilities of referee who whistles for a foul.

It was recommended that the same referee who whistles for a foul should be the one who enters the pitch to administer cautions, sendings off and to ensure the five metre distance if required. ***However, in situations where several players are involved, it is recommended that the other referee assists by ensuring the five metre distance in order to allow the free-kick to be taken as soon as possible.*** To measure the distance the referee should clearly pace out the five metres by walking backwards from the ball. He should also make it clear to the team taking the free kick that they must wait for him to whistle before taking the free kick. To communicate this it is recommended that the referee show his whistle to the players preparing to take the free kick before he begins to measure the five-metre distance.

18. Confirmation of goal scored

The course participants agreed that referees should confirm that a goal is valid by giving one or two medium length blasts on their whistle (no more).

POSITIONING

19. Basic principle

The basic principle of positioning should be that the two main referees maintain a position that keeps the ball between them at all times.

20. Control of play

During play one referee should control the action area and the other the influence area, with the aim of not having both referees looking at the ball at the same time.

21. Control of the goal line

It was noted that it is important to have a good control of the goal line. Consequently, at least one referee should always be paying attention to this.

22. Physical condition

Having a good physical condition will help referees stay in control for the entire duration of a match and be in the best possible position for making correct decisions. ***This also gives referee credibility.***

REFEREE PROCEDURE AT UEFA MATCHES

23. The referees concluded that they should warm up on the field of play forty minutes before kick-off. One minute before kick-off the first and second referees should check the goals, whilst the third referee checks the number of people on the benches, which according to the UEFA Futsal Regulations should be no more than six officials and seven substitutes. The first and second referees should also check the goals before commencing the second half of the match.

After receiving technical instruction, studying incidents on video and taking part in group and fieldwork, it was agreed that the aims of the course had been achieved and that colleagues would benefit from the circulation of these notes by UEFA.