

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



UEFA Referees Development Programme 2008

6th Summer Gathering for UEFA Elite Referees
8th Seminar for Assistant Referees

2nd to 4th September 2008
UEFA Headquarters – House of European Football, Nyon

General COURSE CONCLUSIONS

This document was prepared in collaboration with the European FIFA Referee Assistance Programme Instructors. The following conclusions were agreed upon with all participants at the seminar and are intended for application in all UEFA competitions forthwith.

Protect the Players

Participants were reminded of their responsibility towards the safety of the players on the field of play.

- Identify and punish challenges where a player gives no consideration to the safety of an opponent
- When judging the element of intent or malice, be especially alert to the position of the player's feet/studs
- Be aware of the illegal use of the arms/elbows (when challenging for the ball or not) and punish these actions consistently
- Continue to take strict action against holding, pulling and pushing within the penalty area. Referees must be proactive prior to the kick being taken and players identified should be isolated and given a clear public warning. Where possible referees should use their assistants to ensure the ball does not enter the field of play until the referee gives a signal for the game to be restarted.
- Apply the Laws of the Game and take appropriate action if obvious goal-scoring opportunities or promising attacking moves are unfairly denied

Advantage

Only apply the advantage clause when it is a benefit for the non-offending team. Possession is not necessarily a team benefit. Referees are recommended to consider delaying the whistle in order to see if a clear advantage develops.

Maintain “Respect”

The UEFA President has endorsed the UEFA Respect campaign, encouraging all people involved in the game to respect the roles of each other. With this in mind, participants were reminded of the following:

- Do not accept **dissent by word or action**
- Punish behaviour which is designed to undermine the referee or assistant referee’s authority
- Do not rely on the reaction of players to determine whether or not an offence has been committed

Protect the Image of the Game

In association with the theme of respect, participants were also reminded to protect the image of the game.

- In instances of mass confrontation punish the main aggressors. It is recommended that at least one player from each team receives appropriate disciplinary sanction and also any player(s) who run(s) from a distance to become involved
- Do not allow time-wasting
- Ensure the match restarts as quickly as possible

Free kick Management

The course discussed the management of free kicks and referees were reminded to:

- Ensure the 9.15 m distance by following the recommended procedure
- After issuing an initial warning, any further misbehaviour by players in the wall should be punished by disciplinary sanction

Technical Area

Match officials should allow the occupants of the technical area to fulfil their duties.

- A coach who behaves in a responsible manner should be left to do his job without unnecessary interference
- In cases of irresponsible behaviour by anyone in the technical area, the fourth official should inform the referee who will give a public verbal warning to the offender
- Should such unsporting behaviour persist, the fourth official should inform the referee who will have the person removed from the technical area
- The referee retains the authority to remove a person from the technical area for misconduct who has not previously received a public warning.

Roles of officials at half-time and full-time in UEFA competitions

The UEFA Referee Committee recommends the following procedure for match officials at the end of each half:

- The assistant referee closest to the players' tunnel goes into the tunnel immediately at half-time and full-time to supervise that area.
- The fourth official remains in his working position to monitor the occupants of the technical areas and to supervise the players' exit from the field of play.
- The referee and other assistant referee should remain in the centre circle until all the players have departed the field of play.

Team Work / Co-operation

The seminar included assistant referees and following discussion groups with the referees it was agreed that:

- Pre-match instructions should clearly assign responsibilities to ALL match officials
- Assistant referees, when in a good position, should give all relevant information to the referee (including serious foul play, violent conduct or offences in the penalty area)
- The communication system should be used only to supplement the flag signal and/or to give additional information

Offside

Assistant referees discussed various offside situations in their own group. Their conclusions were then shared with the whole course and included:

- Assistant referees should only signal for offside when absolutely sure about an offside offence
- In case of doubt the flag should not be raised
- Apply the "wait and see" technique sensibly
- Referees must be courageous and not act upon the signal of an assistant referee in cases of obvious error

UEFA Referees' Committee / September 2008