



Referee Notes

April 2009

Professional – Always Improving



From my Desk

A new season descends upon us with all its exhilarations and frustrations.

I was heartened by the number of referees who attended the annual Seminar in Campbell Town. We managed to have the largest gathering of referees in the State for many years. A great way to start the season.

The various Summer and Pre-season competitions have come and gone with remarkably few controversies. This was in no small part to the refereeing. I doubt that the regular season will see us so unscathed.

Football Federation Tasmania is pleased to welcome Forestry Tasmania as the naming rights sponsor for the Men's Premier League competitions in both the North and South. They (FT) have shown a real willingness to be involved with our sport and we hope that our Premier League will be a suitable vehicle for them.

Football Federation Australia has recognised the importance of training at the entrance level of the game for players, coaches and referees. Accordingly, they have decided that the so-called 'grass-roots' courses for coaches and the Level 4/5 courses for referees are to be offered to participants free of charge. Materials for these courses are available from FFA at no charge to the State Federations. This helps remove the barriers to having suitably qualified personnel at the formative levels of our sport.

Robert Freke

Incident Reports

The major topic at our coaching meetings this month will be 'Incident Reports'. You should all have a chance to listen to the presentation on this topic when you attend the coaching evening in your area.

The major issues are

- Recognising when to use an Incident Report rather than a Send-off report or the Comments section of the Referee's Report
- What to include in an Incident Report
- The current system for handling Incident Reports

Law Changes 2009

The Law Book for 2009 has a number of formatting and arrangement changes. Some of the International Board Decisions have now been incorporated into Additional Instructions.

There are however, two substantive changes to the Law.

- Match balls used for FIFA matches must be marked as FIFA approved.
- The direct free kick offence of contacting a player before the ball has been replaced by the offence of tackling in a careless, reckless manner or using excessive force.

This second change makes it easier for referees to punish unacceptable play. We no longer have to decide in which order the player and the ball were contacted. We just have to decide whether the tackle was careless or reckless or used excessive force.

Careless tackles are those executed without skill or thought about the tackle itself. This is the tackle that is a little late or high because the tackler has mistimed or misjudged his move.

Reckless tackles are those where the tackler does not appear to concern himself the consequences of the tackle. This is the tackle that takes the



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player out after the ball has been won. Excessive force is more force than necessary to win the ball.

In all cases, the first thought of the referee needs to be – did the action affect the play or the safety of the player? A careless tackle that does not dispossess the player with the ball nor threaten his safety does not need to be punished.

Availability

When I am appointing Referees on a weekly basis, my major tool used in allocations is your availability as recorded on the Electronic system. As I go through your names, the information that you have provided is immediately visible to me.

If it is kept up to date I can avoid appointing you to matches you cannot attend and will try to appoint you when you are available.

If you have days marked as unavailable I will not appoint you to those days.

The system will allow you to enter teams that you play for or your children play for or you just want to watch each week. This too is readily available as I do the appointments.

Please take the time to keep your availability up to date. It reduces the time spent reorganising appointments because you tell me later you are unavailable or disappointing you because you were available, but didn't tell me.

RefSkills – Hobart

RefSkills as either an outdoor or indoor session is held every Tuesday night at KGV, commencing at 6:30 or 6:00. Watch the e-mails for the latest times.

Match Scores – Premier League

Part of the tactics for increasing the awareness of Football in Tasmania is informing the TV stations and press of the results of the Premier League Matches. To do this, the information needs to be collated in a timely fashion on match day. Accordingly, referees of Premier Matches

are asked to SMS the half time and full time scores of their matches to

0488 270 182

by 4:30pm on match days.

Appointments

Specific appointments are made using a range of criteria – competence, availability, development opportunities, potential perceived problems, assessment opportunities, coverage of certain matches.

While the appointments system is not infallible, it should be followed. I am always open to suggestions to improve the appointments to suit personal issues. However, once the appointments have been issued they must not be changed without my permission. There are ramifications throughout FFT's systems if referees do not adhere to the appointments as issued.

If you feel you need to change an appointment – swop matches with another referee or Assistant Referee – you must let me know beforehand so that I can approve the change and record it in the official systems.

A policy document indicating how appointments are is now available from the web-site at

[Appointments Policy](http://footballfedtas.com.au/Referees/Appointments%20Policy.pdf)

(<http://footballfedtas.com.au/Referees/Appointments%20Policy.pdf>)

The panels referred to in that document will be available shortly.

Changes at the Top

In case you're not aware, here is some old news about personnel at the upper levels of Football. At FFA, the top referee administrator is **Mario van der Ende**, National Referee Technical Director. He is ably assisted by **Gary Power** as National Elite Referees Instructor. The position of National Refereeing Development Manager, to work with the State Federations, is yet to be filled.

At FFT, our new CEO is **Michael McIntyre**.



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Our front desk and registrations are now being handled by Tom Clamp.

Congratulations

Jimmy Hortle has been selected to represent Tasmania as a referee at the National Junior Championships to be held at Easter in Canberra.

Injuries

Law 5 is apparently quite clear on a referee's actions to be taken after an injury. If in the opinion of the referee, it is a serious injury, then play should be stopped to have the player removed from the field. For injuries, that are, in the opinion, of the referees, only slight, play should continue until the ball goes out of play and then the player should be assessed.

Players may only be assessed on the field. Any treatment must take place off the field. Once a player has left the field for treatment, he may only return after play has restarted.

Referees should always err on the side of caution. If you have to internally debate whether a player is seriously injured or not, then it is much better to assume he is and then find that it wasn't a serious injury than to have the reverse situation.

When dealing with Youth and Junior players, almost all injuries are going to be treated as serious. This reduces the anxiety of coaches, parents and trainers. Team officials still feel concerned about their charges at the Premier levels, so stopping play for possibly serious injuries helps keeps everyone calm. The game is not so important we have to keep it going regardless of players' safety.

If you need to discipline players after a challenge that has injured a player, then call the trainer onto the field first and then deal with the caution or send-off. While there should be as little delay in play as possible, allow time for the trainer to assess the injury and don't hurry him and his player off the field. Be firm though, and insist that, if the trainer has come onto the field, the

player leaves the field, even if the injury was only slight.

Play should always be stopped if there has been a head injury.

If you have decided not to stop play because the injury is only slight, stick to that decision. Don't just delay stopping play until the ball is in the middle of the field. Either the player is only slightly injured or not. Make a decision and stick to it.

If you have stopped play to have an injury assessed, then the correct way to restart play is with a dropped ball. This is taken from where the ball was when you stopped play. You cannot compel players to either contest or not contest a dropped ball. The most you can do is manage the situation so play can continue safely. The ball is in play as soon as it touches the ground. There are no restrictions on what happens after the ball is in play, other than the normal Laws. A player cannot be in an off-side position at a dropped ball.

Calendar

April 7th Coaching – Hobart 6:30pm KGV

April 16th Coaching - Launceston, PCYC, Newstead

April 30th Coaching – Devonport, Valley Road

May 1st/2nd Entrance Course – Devonport

May 10th/11th Entrance Course – Hobart

May 23rd/24th Entrance course - Launceston

Sunglasses

The major tool that referees have to influence player behaviour is their face. We are all skilled at reading other people's faces and football players are no different. They can read anger, doubt or determination in a referee's face before he blows the whistle or speaks.

If we wear dark glasses that hide our eyes we



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enormously reduce the amount of communication that can take place.

Referees must not wear sunglasses while they are officiating.

If you need to shield your eyes, use a cap.

On the line, as an Assistant Referee, you should avoid wearing sun glasses if at all possible.

Division 1 (South)

Division 1 in the Southern Competition has been expanded to include an U19 sector. This is to parallel the structure of the Premier League.

Division 1 and Division 1 Reserves will play Substitution this year. Div. 1 U19's will play Interchange.

Votes will need to be recorded for Division 1 and Division 1 U19's only, not for the Division 1 Reserves.

Match Balls



The FFT match ball sponsor for 2009 is Uhlspor. FFT receives



valuable support from Uhlspor

and it is a condition of participation in FFT competitions that teams use Uhlspor match balls.

Please check that Uhlspor balls are being used and report it if they are not being used.



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