

North Orange County Referee Association

January 2009 – Newsletter



President's Place

George Williams

No Article This Month



Vice-President's Corner

Armen Keuilian



Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas... (Can we **still** say that?)...to you all. And a Happy New Year. NOCRA wishes to extend best wishes to all its members and readers. God has been good to us all, except for a little food poisoning.... We hope our chief has recovered by now. He was MIA for a while.

On a bittersweet note, we are sad to announce that one of our own, Richard Drake, has decided to hang up his boots, citing old age and bad knees---I believe, in that order. All kidding aside, I have known Mr. Drake for twenty years or so, and I don't know a better referee or a gentleman who is committed to his work, whether it is soccer or business. I recall he stepped in at a very crucial time, some years back, when our NOCRA president, Lee Lacy, passed away. He did an admirable job, for years. He was always

on the BOARD, in some capacity. I've done many games with him and I recall that at every game, he was well prepared. He is a no-nonsense official, caring, just, fair and disciplined. We'll miss you, Mr. Drake. I hope your retirement is like Michael Tyson's or De La Hoya's. You'll be back, we hope. If you stay away, GOOD LUCK and may God bless you for all you've done for the youth of the community.

Ladies and gentlemen, look outside, it's raining and it's cold. Take good care out there, especially at the high school games. Stay warm--gloves, undershirts, warm clothing.... The game must go on, sometimes even in heavy rain. Please, do not return games because you don't like the distance or the level of the game. It all works out. You want better games? UPGRADE!!! We'll pay for the assessment.

In closing, Have a merry, merry holiday...and be true to the GAME. GO MAN U !!!

Armen ❤️



ASSIGNOR's Alley

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No Article This Month



FROM THE INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR

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Two Items from USSF: (a). Offside Positioning and (b). Continuation of a Foul

Harvey P. Grody , NOCRA Instructor

Noted below are two messages I received from USSF sources. In addition to the text of the messages, both include reference to video clips which may be found on-line.

Offside: Disallowing a Goal

With every decision being scrutinized during this time of year (playoff time), accuracy becomes even more paramount. Consequently, AR attentiveness to ensure proper positioning and an ARs ability to utilize the “wait and see” technique becomes increasingly critical and a vital part of the ARs repertoire.

In order to get critical decisions correct, ARs must work hard to ensure that they have a clear view of the ball, at the time it is played/passed, as well as the second-to-last defender and furthest most attacker. The best way to accomplish this is by being square to the field and by utilizing side stepping (side-to-side movement) as much as possible. With shoulders square to the field, ARs are able to have a broader perspective and wider angle of vision. In other words, ARs can simultaneously observe the pass of the ball by the attacker as well as the movement of the defensive offside line in relation to the furthestmost attacker who is in the offside or onside position.**

Video Clip 1: <http://www.ussoccer-data.com/docfile/08LessonsLearnedWk32_clips/Clip%201%20Wk32OSNoGoal.wmv> Chicago at New England (75:50)

If a decision is made to disallow a goal for offside, it must be spot on especially given the direction (give the benefit of doubt to the attack) ARs have been provided throughout the season. ARs have been and are encouraged to keep the flag down in cases where it is *not* clear that the attacker is in an offside position.

In this clip, the attacking team serves a ball from the left flank (approximately 35 yards from the attacker in the penalty area). This distance makes the ARs task more difficult because it requires a wide angle of vision (greater peripheral vision) to cover the distance/space between where the ball is passed and the intended attacking target. Adding to the complicated decision is the fact that there are three defenders staggered in a line across the field with five to ten yards of space between each of them. This “open space” makes the judgment difficult yet makes the importance of the ARs alignment with the second-to-last defender that much more important. Any slight movement by one of the defenders or misalignment on the part of the AR will skew or negatively influence the offside decision. Hence, the importance of ensuring the correct position. The attacker who heads the ball into the goal, is a body’s length past the second-to-last defender and, thus, in an offside position. Now, the AR must determine if the attacking player becomes involved in “active play” as defined in Law 11 – Offside.

As the slow motion, offside line and freeze frame indicate, the AR makes a correct decision by disallowing the goal. In accordance with Law 11, the goal scorer is in an offside position at the “moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team” because he was involved in “active play” by “interfering with play” by playing or touching the

ball played/touched by his teammate.

Despite the fact that a seemingly critical goal was disallowed, the AR made the right determination.

Continuation of a Foul (outside PA to inside PA)

Video Clip 12: <<http://www.ussoccer->

[data.com/docfile/08LessonsLearnedWk3_clips/WEEK%203%20CLIP%2012.WMV](http://www.ussoccer-data.com/docfile/08LessonsLearnedWk3_clips/WEEK%203%20CLIP%2012.WMV)>

Chivas at Columbus (23:55). This involves a penalty that is awarded against a defender who **initiates the foul** (shirt pull) **outside the penalty area** but **continues the foul inside** the area. Pursuant to the direction at National Camp and the April 30, 2007 memorandum (“When Fouls Continue”) this is a correct and courageous decision. Although the majority of the foul occurs outside the penalty area, the referee must award the decision that is most advantageous to the attacker, in this case, a penalty kick. Note the referee had to have excellent position to see this. ARs should be prepared to provide the inside or outside the area signal to assist the referee.

Comment by NOCRA instructor: be careful in this area. This does **not** mean when a penal **foul ends outside** the PA but the offended player falls into the PA, a PK will be awarded. Rather regardless of where the offended player land, a direct free will be the restart.



Editor's Essay

Connor Duckworth

CHSA Assignor

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NOCRA Awards and Pizza Party

Our January NOCRA Meeting will feature our annual Awards and Pizza Party. The awards that will be given out include Referee of the Year, Youth Referee of the Year, Most Improved, and Iron Man. CHSA Awards will also be given out to those referees that participated in their games this season.

Please come and join us for friends, food, and fun!

February Meeting Live-Scan

In the February meeting, Penny Rehm from the State Referee Committee will be joining us to oversee the Live-Scan portion of the new referee requirements. All referees in 2009 will be required to be fingerprinted to referee all youth matches. You ***must*** attend in order to be cleared to referee in the coming year.

More details will come when I find out more information.

Assessment Reimbursement

There is a new form regarding a re-imbusement on an assessment from NOCRA. We encourage all of you to upgrade from a Grade 8 to a 7 or a Grade 7 to a 6. The higher level that you are, the better games you will get! Higher level games = More \$\$\$ and more of a chance to get games over referees that are at a lower level.

To access the form, please go to www.nocra.com and click on the FORMS link. It will be in the middle of the page.

If you have any questions regarding it, please contact any of the Board Members.

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Upcoming NOCRA Meetings

January 6, 2009 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

Pizza Party and Awards

February 3, 2009 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

Live Scan Requirement

www.nocra.com