



Don't Use Advantage to Your Own Disadvantage

DARELL CRAIGHEAD, Section 4 Referee Administrator



It was the last few minutes of the last game of the season. It was a fantastic game between two rival teams who were one and one in head to head competition, and the score was tied.

A striker was on a breakaway and was heading deep into his opponent's territory. There was only one defender and the goalkeeper to beat. Just outside the penalty area the striker avoided the defender's attempted tackle. The defender then tried to stop the attack by committing an obvious tripping foul.

The striker stumbled and was about to fall – or so I thought as I blew my whistle to award the free kick. To my dismay, as the player

stumbled he recovered and made a beautiful shot on goal. Of course, the shot was good and just out of reach of the diving goalkeeper. And, as if this was not bad enough, the ball not only entered the goal, but it got stuck in the back of the net and hung there, suspended in the air as if to remind me just how bad my quick whistle really was. With no other viable option, I disallowed the goal and called for the free kick. Of course Murphy's Law took over. The free kick was not converted, and the game ended tied – both teams one, one, and one against each other. Incidentally, this was not an obvious goal scoring opportunity as the attacker was heading toward the corner, not the goal.

The moral to this story is to remember the advantage clause and apply it appropriately. For fouls against defenders in their own defensive third of the field (in front of their own goal), advantage should be used conservatively. For infractions committed in midfield against either team, advantage can be use more liberally. For infractions committed against attackers in their attacking third of the field (in front of the opponents goal), referees should adopt a wait and see attitude to ensure a goal or an eminent goal scoring opportunity is not taken away – put your whistle in your pocket and see what plays out – give the players the opportunity to continue the attack for 2-3 seconds and if the advantage doesn't materialize – then blow the whistle and award the free kick.

Learn from my mistake, and don't use Advantage to your own disadvantage. Play On!

INPLAY

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management

I want you to meet Rico Martinez!



Friday, May 11, was the first day of the 1/10/11 Section Conference. I was assigned to teach the Advanced Management Instructor Course along with Sue Biedle from Section One. As I looked around the room I noticed that there was a young man

who looked to be about 16 – 17 years of age. When I looked at the name tags I could see that this young man was sitting next to his father, and I assumed that he was there to sit in on the course and keep his father company. As we began our introductions I was surprised (maybe shocked is the word) to see that Erich (Rico) Martinez introduced himself. **He was a candidate to be an Advanced Management Instructor!** In my twenty something years as an Advanced Management Instructor teaching this course I have never had anyone in our courses this young. Again, imagine my surprise to see that although he was slightly nervous he handled his introduction with maturity far beyond his years.

Erich is from region 820 in Menifee California, where he's refereed for the last three years. Eric is a youth referee and a youth referee mentor. When he is not refereeing in the fall, Erich and other youths

from his region go to local tournaments and referee there. Erich is also actively involved with all of the region's events. This year Erich and other youths from the Menifee region will be going to the Ken Aston camp to improve their skills. Erich is well liked and is known in surrounding regions.

We always think about Advanced Management Instructors as being our veteran volunteers who have been around a long time and have years of experience in various AYSO positions. Rico's participation in this course reminded me that we need to be looking "outside the box". Rico stood before our group and gave an impromptu two minute speech and at the conclusion of the course gave a 20 minute presentation on a module from Introductory Management. In both instances, he was poised and comfortable in front of the group. I told Rico that he should continue to teach as many management courses as he can in his own region and area, because that will give him the experience and confidence to speak in front of a large group at a section conference and have a working knowledge of the content of various lesson plans.

I hope that Rico will be an example for other regions to begin recruiting from the young end of our volunteer base. I told Rico that I look forward to having him as my co-instructor at a section conference some time in the near future. He smiled when I said that. I wondered afterwards if he was thinking: "Maybe Rosanne can be my co-instructor." With the confidence and maturity he displayed during our course I wouldn't doubt that he will do just that.



referees

National Games 2008 Update

The National Games 2008 is fast approaching! In only ten months, over 3,000 AYSO players from across the nation will take the fields at Waipio Soccer Complex in Honolulu, Hawaii, to celebrate all that is AYSO – making friends through cultural exchange, a mix-em-up soccerfest, tremendous volunteerism, positive coaching and good sportsmanship from all.

The initial 24 regions who were awarded slots in the U-12 through U-19 girls and boys divisions must acknowledge their acceptance by mid-September. Failure to accept a slot will trigger invitations to other regions that are in the Master Lottery Draw conducted at the National Annual General Meeting.

Twenty fields operating several games per hour mean LOTS of referees are needed! The National

Games 2008 cannot succeed without the generous efforts of good referees. A high level of competition is anticipated and an equal level of quality referees must be provided.

The National Games 2008 Referee Registration Form is available at www.soccer.org for any referee who is interested in participating in the Games. The information provided and other information subsequently requested will determine game and standby assignments. The diagonal system of control will be utilized at all games, therefore all referees should be competent as assistant referee as well as center referee. If you have an interest in refereeing at the National Games 2008, please access the form and follow the directions for submission. Mahalo. We hope to see you there!



Three Simple Words

MANAGEMENT REFLECTIONS BY MARK LINSKY, Chair, National Management Commission

I would like to mention three words: Money, Fun, and Heart. Yes, that's it, just three simple words but ones that have significance to all volunteers in AYSO.

MONEY

What significance do the following numbers have: \$50,000, \$34,000, \$70,000, \$32,000? Well, these are just some of the known resolved cases involving the misuse of regional funds. Unfortunately, some of our regions still face this problem.

So what can we do about this? Although there are many things we need to do, there is one key action that all of you know. Training. All our regional treasurers should be trained in AYSO's policies and procedures.

Several months ago, the Section Management Administrators were asked to drive an initiative to train 10, 20, 30 or more treasurers by the end of the membership year, taking advantage of AYSO's new online training course. I would like to report some good news and some opportunities. The good news is that about 2/3 of our treasurers are trained. The opportunity is that we have 1/3 more to train.

Regional commissioners, please choose to have all your treasurers trained, as well as yourselves. In fact, why not have all of the signatories for your financial accounts all trained?

FUN

When you hear the word - fun, I want you to create a picture in your mind. So what do you see? I see every child playing AYSO soccer in a safe, fair environment supported by an abundance of trained volunteers. Everyone is having fun.

The National Management Commission wants your AYSO volunteer position to become more rewarding and easier so that you will have more time to enjoy AYSO as a parent and fan.

So what actions will the NMC take? We want to focus on program leaders and leadership. As today's leaders, we can be role models. When you think about the leaders that you would like to work with and for, who do you want and who do you think our volunteers want?

- Individuals who seem to mostly talk or leaders who ask, listen, and strive to understand?

- Individuals who only seem to complain or leaders who collaborate on finding and implementing solutions?

- Individuals who wait to respond or leaders who communicate frequently and honestly.

- Individuals who refer to what others can do or leaders who make commitments and deliver to them?

Let us be role models as leaders who ask, listen, strive to understand, collaborate, communicate, commit to, and take action. If you do, you and everyone on your team will have more fun.

If we believe in AYSO; if we want to spread the fun and grow the program, we need to be able to quickly state the five philosophies and articulate their meaning.

HEART

My third and final word is heart. So what is the heart of AYSO? To me it is ten very important words. What are these ten words? They are the words of AYSO's five philosophies. Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching and Good Sportsmanship. These words are the heart of AYSO.

At one section conference we asked 40 attendees in the Introduction to Instruction Workshop to write down the five AYSO philosophies. These were volunteers who wanted to be instructors. Out of 40, only six could name the philosophies correctly. That just does not seem right. We have a long way to go.

If we believe in AYSO; if we want to spread the fun and grow the program, we need to be able to quickly state the five philosophies and articulate their meaning. To borrow a phrase from the Positive Coaching Alliance, we need to honor the name. If we are to help lead the growth of AYSO, then the leaders of AYSO, that is us, and the rest of its volunteers, must be able to tell everyone what we are all about.

Do not be surprised in a workshop next year by a quiz on the philosophies of AYSO. For those of you who are not yet proficient at stating the five philosophies, every time you see the AYSO logo, I want you to state them to yourself.

Every one of us should honor the name and commit to knowing the heart of AYSO: .

So what are the three words from the NMC this year?

Money - Help safeguard our kids' funds by ensuring that our treasurers are trained, as well as the RCs and other signatories on AYSO accounts. Commit to do this.

Fun - Be role model leaders and everyone will have more fun.

Heart - honor the name of AYSO by knowing, understanding, and communicating the five philosophies of AYSO, which are its heart.



Tactical Development

BY JOHN QUELLETTE, AYSO National Coach

Most coaches at the younger levels focus on the technical development of their players. Younger players need to develop the technical skills of dribbling, passing and controlling. Good coaches then devise drills and activities that allow the coach to observe the five elements of technical competency the player must demonstrate for each of these skills. Using dribbling as an example, the coach should evaluate each player's vision, touch, ability to shield a defender, ability to turn on a defender and ability to beat a defender one on one and adjust the team's practice activities accordingly. In the end, a team with technically superior players will definitely have an advantage over a team whose players are not as technically skilled.

However, as players grow older, and become technically proficient, the coach needs to switch focus to developing the team's tactical abilities. Unfortunately, this is where many coaches struggle.

So what are team tactics? Team tactics involve purposeful, planned efforts to execute the attacking and defending principles of play. The key to tactical superiority involves the control of time, space and numbers.

When introducing Attacking tactics to the team the coach must understand and stress the following:

- *That team organization is critical*
- *That their team must alternate tempo and rhythm throughout the game*
- *That the team must manipulate space*
- *That the team must be prepared to change tactics during a match*
- *That good teams use time tactically*

- *Understand counterattacking and frontal attacking*
- *Allow players to develop natural abilities.*

When introducing Defending tactics to the team the coach must understand and stress the following:

- *Where and when to defend*
- *Use high or low pressure defense when appropriate*
- *Place strength against weakness (look to exploit)*
- *Support weakness against strengths*
- *Allow players to develop their natural abilities.*

With respect to Positional Play, coaches must convey to the players their positional responsibilities, both attacking AND defending

- *Sweeper*
- *Keeper*
- *Central Back*
- *Tandem Back*
- *Flat Backs*

Two-thirds of all goals are scored on restarts or from set pieces so developing tactics for set pieces is critical. Tactically speaking, a coach must ensure that all restarts and set pieces are:

- *Simple*
- *well organized*
- *have an element of deception*
- *test the keeper*
- *takes advantage of their team's strengths*
- *exploits their opponent's weakness*

This is the tip of the iceberg. As you move up the coaching ladder, do yourself and your players a great service. Learn more about team tactics and strategies to achieve tactical superiority by attending an AYSO Intermediate, Advanced or National Coaching Course. Call 800-872-2976 and ask for the Programs Department to learn where and when the next course will be held in your area.

AYSO Hall of Fame Inductions

AYSO has inducted its two latest honorees into its National Hall of Fame.

On August 4, Jack Sullivan and Brian Hall were officially inducted in a joint ceremony with the 2007 nominees from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) and the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials of America (NISOA). These three organizations make up the Big 3.

The National Soccer Hall of Fame rotunda in Oneonta, New York, was the setting for the induction. AYSO dignitaries and family friends joined the celebration for these two extraordinary men at a pre-induction dinner in the museum where AYSO has its own wing dedicated to honoring all that is AYSO.

Jack Sullivan, often referred to as "Mr. Soccer", was a soccer pioneer in the state of Hawaii and has been promoting the sport since 1974. His involvement is not limited to AYSO, but includes every level of Hawaiian soccer. He has volunteered his time over the years as coach, administrator, area director, league organizer, soccer columnist and radio announcer.

Peter and Jackie Chaffey began organizing soccer through AYSO and Jack contacted them to help coach and find fields for practices and games. Through those combined efforts AYSO in Hawaii was born. The first year of AYSO fielded about 225 boys and over the years has

grown to 20,000 boys and girls! Through AYSO's growing programs, there are over 100 varsity soccer programs in Hawaii today.

Jack co-founded University of Hawaii's Women's team and was general manager of the Hawaii Pacific University Men's program. He purposely joined the Honolulu Quarterback Club to promote soccer, served as President and maintains life membership. He was inducted into the Hawaii Sports Hall of Fame and into the United States Adult Soccer Association Region 4 Hall of Fame in 2006.

Brian Hall played his first soccer games in the nets as a goalkeeper in AYSO and at 14, became a member of the first AYSO PRO program (Player Referee Organization). Thus began his soccer officiating career, which has taken him around the world.

Brian was the youngest referee, at age 24, to officiate an NCAA Division 1 men's final, and he also officiated the longest NCAA men's final ever, which went eight overtime periods! He has been an MLS Referee since the league's inception in 1996 and was honored as MLS Referee of the Year in 2003, 2005 and 2006. Brian reached the height of the officiating world in 1992 when, at age 31, he became a FIFA referee. As a FIFA referee, he has officiated in 27 different countries

Brian has the distinction of being the first United States-born official appointed by FIFA to referee in a World Cup – one of only 36 referees selected for 2002. He was one of 16 referees selected for a final round – a first for a U.S. referee. Brian retired from FIFA's International Panel of Referees in 2007, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 45. He has been a frequent guest presenter at AYSO's events and AYSO counts him as among their most distinguished alumni.



How Many Instructors?

BY PAT MULLANE, National Director of Referee Instruction

In conversations with Directors of Instruction (and sometimes with Section Directors) I often hear the remark, "We don't have enough Referee Instructors." I have heard this statement frequently enough that I began to wonder whether there was an ideal number, or, if not an ideal number, at least a recommended number of Referee Instructors a given Section should have to facilitate the training and development of its referees.

AYSO Sections vary significantly in many ways. Some are densely populated in relatively contained areas while others are sparsely inhabited over vast distances. Some Sections have many players and many active referees while other Sections have considerably fewer of both. Some Sections are able to play all year while others are limited to shorter seasons. Given these differences and currently available data, could we develop some measure of the number of recommended instructors needed per section throughout AYSO?

For each section, the table below shows the number of players, the number of active referees, the number of referee instructors, the number of players per instructor and the number of referees per instructor. The table includes Referee Instructors and Advanced Referee Instructors, but not National Referee Instructors.

The table provides us with a point of reference from which we can work. We see from the table that the number of players, referees and instructors in each section varies considerably. The average number of instructors per referees for all of AYSO is one instructor for every 41 referees.

Each year every referee should attend some kind of referee continuing education and considering that we should recruit and train new referees every year (approximately one third of the existing number of referees) this means that our current instructors have to train a lot more than 41 referees. Basically, we can't really come up with an ideal number of referees needed in each section because there is such a tremendous variation in conditions. The ratio of referees to referee instructors will depend upon the local conditions and the size of the geographic area to cover. It's safe to assume that in most places we don't have enough referee Instructors! Let's see if we all can't work to recruit and train more instructors to improve these numbers and to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for referees to continue their training.

Section	# of Players	# of Referees	# of Referee Instructors	Players per Instructor	Refs per Instructor
1	102769	12664	285	361	44
2	53510	6918	201	266	34
3	37825	2330	52	727	45
4	15881	1189	43	369	28
5	26397	4155	133	198	31
6	50567	4490	115	440	39
7	20042	4491	79	254	57
8	54480	4590	111	491	41
9	24169	1383	39	620	35
10	67804	11041	222	305	50
11	82025	12283	204	402	60
12	32189	4696	212	152	22
13	28446	3002	84	339	36
14	12214	851	27	452	31
TOTALS	608318	74083	1807	337	41



National Assessor Questionnaire Results

BY DAVID KELLER, National Director of Referee Assessment

Recently a survey was conducted via email of randomly selected Referee Assessors and National Referee Assessors representing approximately 10 percent of total assessors. Additionally, assessors at each Section Conference were also asked to complete a questionnaire. The following highlights the preliminary analysis of the responses:

Assessment Requirements

- No changes are needed in our assessment requirements for National or Advanced Referees

eAYSO Data

- Many assessor e-mail addresses in eayso are incorrect
 - 15% of National Assessors are not registered for the current year
 - 26% of Referee Assessors are not registered for the current year
- Availability of Assessors and Games for assessments
- Most National Assessors assess six or less National candidates in an 18 month period
 - Most Assessors assessed 5 or less Advanced candidates in an 18 month period
 - 94% of games assessed for upgrade to National Referee were in U-19

Typical AYSO Games

- 61% of National Assessors listed "game not challenging" as one of the reasons that caused them to issue an unsuccessful National assessment

- 50% of Assessors listed "game not challenging" as one of the reasons that caused them to issue an unsuccessful Advanced assessment

- These same National Assessors and Assessors indicated that 75% of the AYSO games they personally refereed they classified as typical AYSO games

About Assessments

- Approximately 33% of National Referees pass assessments at least 80% of the time
- Approximately 90% of Advanced Referees pass their assessments
- The primary reasons for an unsuccessful National Referee assessment were:
 - *Poor referee positioning*
 - *Poor foul recognition*
 - *Game not challenging*
 - *Lack of match control*
 - *General lack of experience*
- The primary reasons for an unsuccessful Advanced Assessment were:
 - *Poor referee positioning*
 - *Poor foul recognition*
 - *Lack of general law knowledge*
 - *Nearly all National and Advanced Assistant Referee assessments are passed on the first attempt.*

JOE KNOWS AYSO

JOE ELDRIDGE, AYSO National Referee Administrator



AYSO frequently receives questions regarding rules, regulations, policies, interpretation of FIFA Law and AYSO modifications. In my position as National Referee Administrator, I am often asked to respond. The following are some of the interesting questions I recently received. If you have questions, please contact me, Joe Eldridge, at (888) 686-2976 or by e-mail at joeeldridge@ayso.org.

Question from Michael:

Joe,

Is there an official AYSO policy regarding players wearing headgear during a match (or practice)? It is very likely that our region is about to receive some headgears via a donation, and we're thinking about trying them out in one division (U-14) this fall. Please confirm that it is OK for players to use headgear during AYSO play.

Sincerely, Michael

Answer:

Hi Michael,

Thank you for your question regarding player equipment. It is the responsibility of each referee to examine the specific piece of equipment in question and then make a decision regarding whether or not it presents any danger to the player or to other players. The referee has the obligation and right to allow or disallow players wearing the item depending upon the referee's best judgment. AYSO neither endorses nor refutes the claims of companies which produce products intended to increase player safety.

The following excerpts regarding player's equipment are from the United States Soccer Federation (USSF), the national governing body of soccer in this country. The position of AYSO is consistent with the position of USSF.

- Look to the applicable rules of the competition authority.
- Inspect the equipment.
- Focus on the equipment itself – not how it might be improperly used, or whether it actually protects the player.
- Remember that the referee is the final word on whether equipment is dangerous.

Modern protective equipment such as headgear, facemasks, knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight, padded material are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted.

Thanks, Joe

Question from Stuart:

Joe,

We had a situation last night involving a throw in. A player performed a "legal" throw in with both feet on the ground at the time of release, both feet on or behind the touch line and the ball was thrown with both hands directly overhead. However, the ball landed outside the touch line and, because the field was not level, bounced into the field of play. What should happen in this situation?

Answer:

Hi Stewart,

Thank you for your question. A throw-in which never breaks the plane of the touchline before touching the ground is not correctly performed regardless of whether or not the ball subsequently ends up inside the field of play. The throw-in should be retaken by the same team.

Thanks, Joe

Question from Barb:

Joe,

I heard that sometimes a referee can allow a throw-in for the team that would have otherwise taken an indirect kick after a non-penal foul. Is that true?

Answer:

Hi Barb,

Thank you for your question. There is nothing in the Laws of the Game that permits a referee to change an indirect free kick to a throw-in. The referee may however change his/her decision if play has not yet been restarted when the referee realizes he/she has made a mistake. Upon occasion, you may witness a courageous referee admitting to an error and correcting it before play had been restarted.

Thanks, Joe



Aston Mason Lifetime Achievement Award

BY PAT MULLANE, National Director of Referee Instruction

At the 2007 AYSO National Annual General Meeting in New Orleans, Bill Mason was surprised when he was recognized and honored for his 38 years of service to AYSO and for his contributions and continuous service to the National Referee Commission since its inception. Bill was presented with a one time Ken Aston Lifetime Achievement Award which, for the future, shall be known as the Aston Mason Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of the contributions made to the AYSO National Referee Program by Ken Aston and Bill Mason.

Bill Mason has been continuously and actively involved as a volunteer in AYSO since 1969. Bill was asked to become a member of the first National Referee Committee, and served as the Director of Instruction and Interpreter of the Laws for AYSO. In 1978 Bill became the director of a training camp for referees, held at the University of California in Irvine, California that became the model for subsequent referee training camps across the country.

In 1980, Bill brought Ken Aston, internationally renowned FIFA referee and referee instructor, from England as the principal instructor for his camp. Ken returned each year to the camp from 1981 through 2002. For over 20 years, Bill was the director or co-director of the camp which became known as the Ken Aston Camp.

In addition, Bill serves as the AYSO representative on the USSF National Referee Committee and provides AYSO and, upon occasion, USSF with advice consistent with our obligation to adhere to the Laws

of the Game. Bill has consistently worked to bring us as close as possible into accord with the FIFA Laws.

Bill has been at the forefront of many changes to the Laws of the Game, in some cases even before FIFA adopted them. AYSO was first to establish a 'technical area' as a place reserved for coaching. Bill championed the Rules & Regulations change that required the use of shinguards two years before FIFA made them mandatory. Out of a concern that the proper atmosphere prevail at our games, AYSO introduced, at Bill Mason's insistence, a rule prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco products by coaches and referees at a time when no other sport would even consider doing it.

Bill influenced FIFA to make additional revisions. Until 1997 a goalkeeper holding the ball could be fairly charged. At Bill's suggestion to FIFA in 1996, the practice of knocking the goalkeeper across his goal line into the goal for a valid goal was outlawed. Bill's keen eye for detail helped FIFA redefine the corner area to be consistent with the rest of the field markings and modifying the drawing illustrating placement of the ball for a corner kick. "Attempt to trip" was added as a direct free kick foul at Bill's suggestion.

I know you will all join me in extending our warmest regards and greatest appreciation for Bill's devotion and significant contributions to AYSO and to the AYSO National Referee Program. Bill is a wonderful person and we are privileged to have him in our AYSO family.

The "Aston Mason Lifetime Achievement Award" is a perpetual plaque which will be displayed at the AYSO National Support & Training Center. The award is open to any AYSO referee who has performed prolonged, exemplary and significant volunteer service to AYSO. Contact any member of the National Referee Council for details regarding making nominations.

What's the Short Answer?

"To whistle or not to whistle?" that is the question. Referees must make quick decisions or give the "short answer" to the question. The luxury of time to think it over, look it up, or discuss it with someone is not an option for the referee during the game.

Be a referee for two or three seconds and give the "short answer" to the following situations. Be honest and don't take more than the two or three seconds the referee has to make a decision. If you have questions contact me, Joe Eldridge, National Referee Administrator, at 888 686 2976 or email me at joeeldridge@ayso.org.

1. The red team is playing with one less player while one of their players is receiving treatment for an injury off the field. While off the field, this injured red team player sticks his leg across the touch line and deliberately trips a blue team player who is dribbling near the side of the field. The referee does not consider this to be unsporting behavior or serious foul play. What, if anything, should the referee do and, if play is stopped, how is play restarted?

Tic Toc..... Tic Toc..... Tic Toc.....

2. The red team is playing with one less player while one of their players is receiving treatment for an injury off the field. Without receiving a signal from the referee that he may reenter the field, this red team player runs onto the field and deliberately handles the ball in what is considered by the referee to be unsporting conduct. What, if anything, should the referee do and, if play is stopped, how is play restarted?

Tic Toc..... Tic Toc..... Tic Toc.....

3. The red team's goalkeeper inside his own penalty area has saved a shot on goal and while holding the ball advances to the top of the penalty area where he places the ball on the ground and dribbles it outside the penalty area with his feet. A blue team opponent pressures the red team's goalkeeper causing him to dribble the ball with his feet back just inside his own penalty area where he picks up the ball with his hands. What, if anything, should the referee do and, if play is stopped, how is play restarted?

Tic Toc..... Tic Toc..... Tic Toc.....

4. A red team player passes the ball to a teammate and then begins to make a run to receive a pass back from her teammate. A blue team opponent carelessly charges (shoulder to shoulder) the red team player making the run. What, if anything, should the referee do and, if play is stopped, how is play restarted?

Tic Toc..... Tic Toc..... Tic Toc.....

Short Answers:

1. Stop play and caution (yellow card) the red team player for entering the field without permission and restart with a direct free kick.

2. Stop play and caution (yellow card) the player for entering the field without permission and give a second caution for unsporting behavior which results in sending off (red card) for the receiving a second caution in the same match. The restart is a direct free kick or penalty kick depending upon where the infraction occurred.

3. Stop play and award an indirect free kick to the blue team where the goalkeeper picked up the ball.

4. Stop play and award a direct free kick or penalty kick to the red team depending upon the location of the infraction.


referees

National Assessor Questionnaire Results

continued from page 5

Training Changes

- Most desired improvements to the National Referee Course were:
- Increase understanding U-16/U-19 games
- Increase communications with coaches and players
- Continued emphasis on fouls and misconduct
- Increased discussion of referee positioning

- Increased information on preparation for assessment
- Less emphasis on coaching and tactics.
- The Advanced Referee modules should be reviewed to make certain that Advanced Referees receive the appropriate training to prepare them for subsequent upgrade to National Referee.
- Increased foul recognition
- Increased discussion of referee positioning
- Increased information on preparation for assessment

- Assessor Training Course and forms ratings:

- Training - Good to Excellent
- Forms - Good to Excellent

Preliminary Conclusions

- Assessor availability should not be a reason for delayed assessments
- There appears to be no significant problem finding games for assessments
- Girl's games are not used often enough for National Assessments
- Using "Game not challenging enough" or "Not a Typical Game"

is too often an excuse for not passing a candidate

- 75% to 80% of National candidates should pass the first time

- Assessor eAYSO e-mail addresses should be updated
- The Advanced Referee modules should be revised to better prepare candidates for assessment

Please send any comments to David Keller, National Director of Referee Assessment at dlkeller@comcast.net.


instructors

VIP (Very Important Player) Volunteer Training

Many AYSO regions have made a great decision to add the VIP program for players with disabilities this season. With addition of this division, there is a need for training – for your coaches, your referees and for your buddies. Even the parents of the players can benefit from knowing a little more about AYSO's wonderful program!

VIP Volunteer Training is a course designed to benefit all VIP participants. This course can be given locally by a trained AYSO instructor under the conditions set forth in AYSO's Training Matrix, available on www.aysohelp.org. There is also a VIP Instructor course available for instructors who would like to be authorized to teach VIP volunteers.

If you need assistance setting up this training for the fall season, please contact the National Support & Training Center Programs Department. And thank you for giving even more players the opportunity to have the AYSO experience!

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