



Radio Communication

Part 2

September, 2018

Guidelines for Communication Device Use

Game Specific Situations:

Offside

Counter Attack

Dynamic Play

Set Piece

Other Situations



Offside

In general, there are two words that should be used by the referee in offside situations:

- **“Defender, defender, defender”** – The ball was deliberately played by a defender, therefore there can be no offside offense.
- **“Touch, touch, touch”** – The ball either came from an attacker or the last touch, which would have been hard to see by the AR, came off an attacking player, such as a glance off an attacker’s head. In these situations, the referee saying “touch, touch, touch” cues the AR to reset his snapshot of the defenders in the attacking sequence.
- In the event the ball has deflected off a defender, there is nothing the referee needs to say as this event does not change anything in the decision making of the AR. If the AR is unsure and asks the referee about the nature of the play, the referee can simply say that it was a deflection and not a deliberate play.

Offside

“Position, position, position, #19” should be used when an AR wants to inform the referee a player is in an offside position but has not yet committed an offense. This could be prior to a set piece situation or during dynamic play. See image below.



Offside

““Line of vision, line of vision” should be used when the AR has a player in an offside position in front the goalkeeper but is unsure if the player is in the line of vision of the GK. It is up to the referee to say “goal”, “offside”, or “keep playing”, whichever is appropriate. See image below.



Counter Attack

The trail assistant referee and alternate official (when available) should be cued to areas not in the line of vision of the lead assistant referee or the referee.

As a means to keep them cued to this, the referee can use terms such as “Watch off my left” or “Behind my back” as play transitions.

These phrases should always cue the trail AR and alternate official to watch for fouls and misconduct out view of the referee, either as part of the attacking play, or in the defensive third as players come up field after the change in possession. As a reminder, AR’s should confirm “heard” back to the referee.

Dynamic Play in Midfield

Referees can also use the previous phrases in dynamic play situations to aid in keeping the crew focused on areas where offenses could easily go unseen.

For example, if play is close to the lead AR and the referee pinches closer, he could call out “Behind my back” to cue the trail AR.

This phrase should cue the trail AR to keep focused on the large area of space behind the referee’s back where players could be making runs and jostling for position.

Set Piece Situations

Vokkero offers a great avenue by which referees can delegate responsibilities to the officiating crew during set pieces.

Corner Kick:

Referees can ask the trail AR and/or alternate official to watch front post, back post, or top of the penalty area, depending on the side from which the kick is being taken and positioning of the players.

Set Piece Situations

Free kicks:

Depending on the location of the free kick, referees can ask another member of the crew to watch for handling in the wall, could ask for someone to watch the back post, or could ask for an AR to manage the location of the free kick.

In the event that the wall is set up inside the penalty area and handling in the wall could result in a penalty kick, this responsibility should always lie with the referee.

For all set pieces in the attacking third and times when the goalkeeper has collected the ball and may distribute quickly, the trail AR should always call out to the referee the numbers up top, as in “Nobody up, relax” or “2 v 1,” so that the referee may be more efficient and proactive in his/her positioning and movement rather than being surprised.

Other Situations

In the event of a foul near an AR in which the referee also has a credible position and angle, the referee can offer input over the Vokkero such as “No, no, no” to indicate to the AR that the referee does not want a foul called and avoid the possibility of a crossed signal or waving down a flag, or “Give it, give it, give it” to indicate that the referee has seen a foul.

This gives the AR an opportunity to raise the flag and signal for the offense as the referee is simultaneously blowing the whistle, showcasing to all involved that the referee crew is on the same page.

Other Situations

In a heated game, match officials should utilize the communication devices to raise awareness of possible conflict between players. In the event that two players go to ground and the referee has to turn and go with play, the referee can cue the trail AR by simply stating “Keep an eye on 3 white and 7 blue.”

The trail assistant referee, based on the referee’s pregame, should always alert the referee when the ball has been put back in play in the defensive third, as the referee is often times up field finding optimal position for a drop zone. Vice versa, referees should always inform ARs, to avoid cases of confusion where the restart could have potentially been offside or a goal kick, what the restart is so that an AR does not indicate an offside offense stemming from a goal kick. “The restart is a goal kick.”

Summary

Everything outlined in this presentation is to be used as a guide for your success as a crew of officials on the field. At the end of the day, the entire crew must be comfortable with the amount of communication shared over the radios and more importantly, never forget the basics of refereeing. Radios are merely an aid and does not replace tried and true refereeing practices.