

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

Competition, match, final score: FIFA U20 WC 2019 Mexico – Italy 1:2

Refereeing team: Referee: Raphael Claus (BRA)

Assistant Referee 1: Danilo Ricardo Simon Manis (BRA)

Assistant Referee 2: Bruno Raphael Pires (BRA)

Fourth Official: Leodán Frankin González Cabrera (URU)

Video Assistant Referee: Wilton Pereira Sampaio (BRA)

Assistant Video Assistant Referee: Andrés José Rojas Noguera (COL)

Blog Observer: Gus Stark

Presentation of the match:

The game was one of the first to kick off FIFA U20 World Cup in Poland. Good condition of the pitch in Gdynia and cool, but nice weather allowed both teams to concentrate on their game in front of nearly 8000 spectators. Having finished third in the 2017 edition of the competition, Italy started the game strongly and took an early lead with a superb strike. Mexico equalized following a poorly-defended corner before half time, but Italy found a winner in the second half and took three points. Both teams played in a rather courteous manner and this allowed the refereeing team to keep a low profile. However, the good work by Raphael Claus should not go unnoticed.

Referee performance (Personality, LotG application, disciplinary control, physical condition, cooperation, VAR management) :

Raphael Claus obviously came to this competition well-prepared. That includes both physical and tactical preparation. His movement was very good with constant adaptation to changing position of the ball whilst maintaining a good

distance. Anticipation was also at a good level as he seemed to have his body prepared for fast breaks and not caught off-guard. Foul detection and interpretation was also very good with a consistent line throughout the game. What impressed the most is how Raphael Claus exerted his authority on the game. There was hardly any dissent throughout the 90 minutes as the referee employed a combination of body language, verbal warnings, and sprints to make sure the players knew exactly how he felt about a given foul or potential confrontation. Three yellow cards were shown and were managed really well. It is always a pleasure when there are few talking points involving referees and this game was a good example.

All in all, this refereeing team can be very satisfied with their performance and expect further appointments without any doubt.

Assistant Referee 1 performance (Please mention the minutes of important / crucial situations):

There were no controversial situations for AR1 and he completed the match at a good level. Seemed alert and used good body language when needed to make sure the decisions are not questioned.

Assistant Referee 2 performance (Please mention the minutes of important / crucial situations):

AR2 completes a good performance by the Brazilian trio with no questions to be raised about his performance.

Fourth Official performance:

No incidents, completed his tasks as expected.

VAR had a few moments under review, but they did not interfere with the flow of the game and merely confirmed what were correct decisions by the refereeing team.