

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

2019 FIFA UNDER 20 WORLD CUP – GROUP STAGE – MD2

MEXICO – JAPAN 0-3

26/05/2019 15:30 CET

Referee: Daniel Siebert (GER)

Assistant Referee 1: Jan Seidel (GER)

Assistant Referee 2: Rafael Foltyn (GER)

Fourth Official: Ilgiz Tantashev (UZB)

Video Assistant Referee: Alan Kelly (IRL)

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

Blog Observer: Chiagozie

Presentation of the match:

Right from the offing you could feel the atmosphere charged as this was a must win game for the two teams having dropped points in their opening game; Mexico losing to Italy(2-1) while Japan drew with the Ecuadorians a score line of a goal apiece. With this there was a very positive feeling buzzing round the stadium which was very good and encouraging for an under 20 game. Now with these atmosphere you will have to feel for the referee because a loss of concentration could prove fatal but Siebert is well experienced to handle such.

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

Daniel Siebert started the game in a passive manner, wasn't proactive enough to detect and prevent confrontation for example in the 15th and 16th minute he allowed way to much, because the game was physical and he Siebert played a part in allowing the physical nature of the game. He reminded me of Craig Pawson in the English premier league with regards to his sprinting, body language and lack of a commanding personality but he did have good areas in this match. His foul detection was spot on and read the game very well to know when a player was looking for contact.

The first real incident occurred in the 13th minute when Japan's number 13 went down under little contact from Mexico's number 2. First thing I will say is that there was contact but never a foul in a million years and Daniel Siebert took up a brilliant position to access what went on there and he did access it correctly, not simulation and not a foul so play on was the best decision. A goal was scored in the 22nd minute with little or no fuss. A second penalty appeal by the Japanese took place in the 28th minute and worth mentioning that Siebert was in a very good position and accessed that the Japanese player number 16 was disposed of the ball and kicked into the Mexico defenders leg.

In the 43rd minute there was a case of serious foul play versus a reckless challenge from Mexico's number 20 on Japan's number 13. I will say Mexico's number 20 was quite lucky because the challenge wasn't intentional but was headed to make contact with a little above the ankle but for the slippery surface it came down to a stamp on the boot of the player. I say he was lucky because if he had made contact with the leg and not the boot that will be a straight red card for serious foul play. Special mention to the 4th official as he was the one who accessed and made known to Daniel Siebert.

At the 45th +4 minute, a yellow card was awarded to Japan's captain and number 10 for over the top tackle irrespective of the fact that he won the ball but it was excessive and persistent fouling so a deserved yellow card.

At the 52nd minute there was an appeal from Japan for a push and in my opinion if the referee had given it VAR would not intervene because this is the grey area we speak of in football, because yes his hands were on him and there was a slight push and the referee will be within the law if he gives a penalty but sometimes it does not work always by the law and therefore the referee could be supported for playing on.

The resulting corner after the appeal lead to a goal also in the 52nd minute. No problem or fuss about the goal.

In the 60th minute there was a yellow card given for a stamp.

In the 62nd minute in my opinion there was a missed yellow card for a high boot that made contact with the defending player although one could make a case that the defending player stooped so low and not necessarily a high boot.

Assistant Referee 1 and 2 performances:

There was a disallowed goal for Japan in the 35th minute and special mention must be made about the AR2 for this call, some may call it a routine call but I will say live play as the player was in motion this in itself is difficult but the AR2 was on hand to make a very good call.

In the 76th minute Japan scored and boy would you not say the AR1 was clearly in position and made an excellent call for onside. Superb from both assistants today.

A routine call for AR2 to disallow a goal in the 85th minute, the player was way offside hence an easy decision for AR2.

Most of the time what makes a great referee are his team and assistants and today was no exception as they made various top class decisions as mentioned and outlined above. With the introduction of VAR, Assistant referees are inclined to have a lackadaisical attitude towards matches as the technology will be bail them out but not the case with these two.

Fourth Official performance:

Nothing much to be said here but helped Daniel Siebert in making some various decisions.

General Conclusion: Although Siebert evaluated all crucial incident correctly which I really commend him for, I must state that Siebert should be proactive enough to prevent clashes and confrontation, it helps to prevent a very aggressive style of play and potential serious injuries.