

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

2019 FIFA U20 World Cup Matchday 3

Bydgoszcz

31 May 2019 , 18:00

Saudi-Arabia – Panama 1:2 (0:1)

Referee : Ngambo Ndala (COD)

AR1 : Safari Olivier (COD)

AR2 : Amaldine Soulaïmane (COM)

Fourth Official : Schaerer Sandro (SUI)

Video Assistant Referee : Alan Kelly (IRE)

Assistant Video Assistant Referee : Raczkowski Pawel (POL)

Law 5 Blog Observer : C. Jans

Presentation of the match:

Matchday 3 of Group E of this year's U20 World Cup. The match was played at Bydgoszcz Stadium in Bydgoszcz. It was a sunny day in Bydgoszcz but with the start of the game it started to rain, the game was played under good pitch conditions. Panama were the better side during the first half while Saudi-Arabia started being better during the second half. The second half was the more entertaining. Both teams made a lot of mistakes and this makes life not easy for the referee. We can assign a "Normal" difficulty. Ndala Ngambo was the appointed referee. It was his second game at the tournament after he officiated in Norway-New Zealand.

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

It was the referees second game in the tournament. During the first half the referee decided to play-on a lot. In the 24th min the referee missed a clear yellow card for Panama, the Panama player put his elbow in the face of his opponent. In that situation the referee whistled very late, he may didn't see what happened and got an advice from AR2, he gave a last warning to PAN N. 16. Only 3 minutes later PAN n. 16 got the YC for reckless foul play. In the 40min N.2 of Saudi-Arabia abandoned an attack which was another clear yellow card, in that case we can back the referee because it has only been the second foul of S-A. The referee's performance during the first half was not satisfactory, he wasn't much demanded but the situations where he had to be present he missed the corresponding sanctions. His performance during the second half was much better. The game went up and down and it was a certain strain into the game because PAN still had the opportunity to qualify for the next round and S-A absolutely wanted to take their first victory in the tournament before going back home. His foul detection was good, especially during the second half where he also gave the correct cautions, which was in my opinion not the case during the first half.

The referee gave four yellow cards, 1 for Saudi-Arabia and 3 for Panama, they've had all been correct.

I agree with last report about Ngambo's performance that he needs more experience at international level. This time he presented weaknesses in his disciplinary control. There is some space for improvement and I am not sure, if see Ngambo in another match at this World Cup.

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

AR 1 didn't had much to do during the first half but that wasn't the case for the second half. In the 53rd minute, it was a very tight situation where a PAN could have been in an offside position, unfortunately there was no camera view to check the situation so I back the assistant referee for onside. In the

65th minute the assistant missed an PAN offside position, it was a cross coming in an two PAN, standing next to each other stood in an offside position, maybe the AR was irritated and taught one player were onside and the other one offside but both players were offside. Only three minutes later the assistant made a good onside call. In the 84th minute the AR correctly raised his flag to signal a PAN freekick. Except a missed offside from where PAN almost scored a goal his performance was good.

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

AR 2 correctly raised his flag for offside in the 2nd minute of the game. In the 28th minute he maybe intervened to tell the referee that there was an elbow in the face of a S-A player. I am not sure but the referees whistle was in delay, maybe because he communicated with AR2. There are no other situations to mention. Expected level.

Fourth Official performance:

The fourth official didn't had much to do. In the 24th he correctly intervened when a S-A bleed, he told the player to come off the pitch. For the rest he correctly complied his job to fulfill the substitutions and to show the additional times. 2min add. time after the first half and 4min of add. time after the second half. Expected level.