

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

2019 FIFA U20 World Cup Matchday 2

Match 18 (Łódź)

27 May 2019, 20:30 CET

Norway - New Zealand 0-2 (0-0)

Referee: Ndala Ngambo (COD)

Assistant Referee 1: Olivier Safari (COD)

Assistant Referee 2: Soulaïmane Amaldine (COM)

Fourth Official: Joel Alonso Alarcón Limo (PER)

Video Assistant Referee: Pol van Boekel (NED)

Assistant Video Assistant Referee: Ammar Al-Jeneibi (UAE)

Law 5 Blog Observer: Edward

Presentation of the match:

Matchday 2 for Group C of this year's U20 World Cup. The match was played at Stadion Widzewa and presented an attendance of 2.165 spectators. Weather and stadium conditions were very good. New Zealand was better at some parts of the match and had a few efforts on goal. Norway tried mostly to defense. The match was mostly fair but presented a few interesting scenes for the referee. As a result, we can assign a "Normal" difficulty. 32 y.o. Ndala Ngambo was the appointed referee. It was his first appearance on a FIFA Tournament.

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

The referee has a good amount of matches on his Confederation but he lacks experience on International level. He started with a couple of smaller mistakes showing his lack of experience. A late whistle (min. 08') and an incorrect corner-kick at min 12' which was corrected by AR are two good examples. His

foul detection was mostly good but not totally consistent. His criterion especially for holding offences was not the same for both teams (26', 27', 31', 33'). At min. 40' he awarded a foul for NZL right outside NOR's penalty area. The foul is not consistent with his previous line and creates tension to some NOR players.

The match presented 3 penalty area incidents. The first one happened at 43'. N3 from NOR tries to make a long pass by the left side of the pitch and inside the penalty area. The ball hits the N2 NZL's hand (on the upper part). The hand is stuck to his body making it on a natural position. The referee is well positioned and waives play-on. VAR supported the decision. Good.

The second scene happened at 63'. N13 NZL gets inside the penalty area and has the ball on his possession. N2 from NOR also challenges for the ball. The NOR defender seems to play the ball and at the same moment holds his opponent (who does the same). Both players fall on the ground. Referee waives play-on. VAR supported the decision.

The last one happened at 90+3'. N13 from NZL gets inside the penalty area from AR2 side. N3 NOR challenges him and N13 falls. The referee is well positioned and waives play-on. VAR supported the decision. TV footage is inconclusive and as a result we back the referee.

Finally, a few words about disciplinary control and management. The referee issued only 2 cautions (35' N13 NZL -> SPA, 52' N3 NOR -> SPA). At the second scene he created a small confusion since at the moment he started the caution procedure, a NZL attacker executed the free-kick creating a chance on goal. The referee allowed play to continue and cautioned the offender after the ball went out for a throw-in. The referee, since he had already the YC at his hand, shouldn't allow the free-kick to be executed and caution the offender. Moreover the referee should have cautioned 2 more players. N7 from NZL at min. 48' for a reckless and late challenge and N8 from NZL at min. 57' for a SPA offence. Additional time was 1' and 3'. The referee whistled the end of the first half at 1:18' even though the ball was out of play from 0:58 until the end.

The referee needs more experience at international level. He presented weaknesses at foul detection and disciplinary control. He can be backed on all penalty area incidents. The performance can be described as “Satisfactory with important areas for improvement”. FIFA should be careful with his next appointment.

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

AR1 had a good performance. He was always in line with 2nd last defender and used sidewalk when needed. He correctly kept his flag down at 29'. He had a correct offside call at min. 46'. No more incidents for him. Expected level.

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

AR2 wasn't challenged at all at this match. He was always in line with 2nd last defender and used sidewalk when needed. He didn't have any offside calls. Good usage of the “wait and see” technique at min. 16'. He corrected the referee at min. 12' when he signaled a corner. Good foul call at min. 75' even though it wasn't totally on his area of vicinity. Expected level.

Fourth Official performance:

He executed his duties without any problem. He correctly signaled 1' and 4' additional minutes at the end of each half. Expected level.