

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

FIFA 2019 U-20 World Cup

Match 10 (Gdynia)

25 May 2019, 18:00 CET

France - Saudi Arabia, 2-0

Referee: Fernando Andrés Rapallini (ARG)

Assistant Referee 1: Diego Yamil Bonfá (ARG)

Assistant Referee 2: Gabriel Alfredo Chade (ARG)

Fourth Official: Ndala Ngambo (COD)

Video Assistant Referee: Wilton Pereira Sampaio (BRA)

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

Blog Observer: Emil

Presentation of the match:

First match of the tournament for these two teams. After a strong start by Saudi Arabia, the rhythm of the match changed significantly after the sending-off of a Saudi player at 12'. Afterwards, the game was fairly straightforward, with France remaining in control consistently. While the game was rather fast-paced with a lot of counterattacks, it posed relatively few challenges for the referee team.

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

Rapallini displayed good control and a good feel for the game throughout, intervening when needed but otherwise letting the game flow. A verbal warning at 2' for two successive similar fouls by FRA set the tone and ensured that he was respected throughout. Decisions, including three cautions (52', 55', 84', were generally correct and appropriate.

Positioning yielded mixed results. Rapallini displayed an excellent physical condition, following play without problems, and often seeking to anticipate play. [He showed no hesitation to move out of the diagonal to get closer to play, sometimes getting very deep into the opposite sides or the penalty area.](#) However, at a number of occasions, this desire to get close to play led him to interfere with action. This was particularly notable in the first 15 minutes of the game, after which he adapted; the problem, however, recurred in the second half, among which at 51' and 73'.

Only one formal VAR review occurred, at 11', for serious foul play. [The procedure was well followed, and the decision to review the play and to issue a red card were both appropriate.](#) [However, given the positioning of the referee,](#) it may have been expected for the referee to detect the misconduct by himself, and not rely on the VAR. Other VAR checks (19', 40', 80') were all correct. One other

point of note for the referee consists in the disallowed goal for offside at 80'. As AR2 delayed the offside flag, he should normally have informed the referee over microphone of a delayed offside. When the goal is scored, Rapallini initially points the centre before correcting himself and indicating the offside. As the team gets more familiar with communication and delayed offside procedures, it will be important to avoid such slips in communication.

Overall, a very good performance by the referee, in normal conditions

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

AR1 performed his duties appropriately, with two correct offside decisions. AR1 additionally advised fouls at 52' and 58', and likely advised the referee to issue a caution for SPA at 52'. Good performance.

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

AR2 performed well, with three offside decisions, all correct. On all three, AR2 delayed the flag according to procedure; this was notable at 80', when a goal scored by FRA was disallowed for a correct delayed offside. Very good performance by AR2.

Fourth Official performance:

Expected level.