

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup

Match 36 (Tychy)

31 May 2019, 20:30 CET

South Korea - Argentina

Referee: Benoît Bastien (FRA)

Assistant Referee 1: Hicham Zakrani (FRA)

Assistant Referee 2: Frédéric Haquette (FRA)

Fourth Official: Iván Arcides Barton Cisneros (SLV)

Video Assistant Referee: Benoît Millot (FRA)

Assistant Video Assistant Referee: Khamis Al-Marri (QAT)

Blog Observer: Emil

Presentation of the match:

Second match of the tournament for these two teams, which played generally rapid counterattack football. While the intensity was rather high and play often clumsy, the match overall remained clean and presented no particularly salient challenges for the referee team. After KOR scored the first goal at 42' and then a second at 57', the game became rather one-sided, with ARG putting pressure to attempt to even the score. Nevertheless, and despite extensive time wasting by KOR in the second half, the game remained free from any significant trouble or disruption.

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

Bastien performed admirably well, displaying both good control and solid refereeing technique. In the style of many French referees (Lannoy comes to mind), his body language was strong, assertive, and he dealt efficiently with any minor dissent, while remaining cold and formal. This approach was well respected by the players, who kept their distances and respected the referee's authority. Bastien intervened once with the Korean coach following a foul near the benches (45+2'), in a manner both firm and calming.

Bastien's positioning generally followed a rather classical diagonal, which ensured that he consistently remained close to play, in a good position to judge the action, and also out of play (he did not interfere once with play). His physical condition must be highlighted, and is nothing short of impeccable. Sprints were quick and effective, and he exhibited no signs of physical fatigue whatsoever, despite near constant running.

Foul detection remained constant throughout, with three clear fouls setting the tone in the first three minutes. A minor lull in the first 10 minutes of the second half could perhaps be observed, but Bastien returned to his usual standard quickly. As mentioned above, play was sometimes clumsy, and Bastien reacted well to punish poorly executed tackles. Five cautions were issued (4 four reckless fouls at 14', 20', 59' and 72', and one for delay of restart at 90'), with possibly missed (one clear miss at 27' and one possible at 53', where Bastien gave the benefit of the doubt to the player). The cautions at 59' and 72' were nearly identical, and Bastien did well to remain consistent.

Communication was effective throughout. VAR (correctly) did not recommend a review in this game, and the several checks were quick and did not delay the game. At 68', on a back pass, Bastien and AR2 cooperated effectively to allow play to continue. Advantage, similarly, was used effectively, at 26' and 48'.

Finally, Bastien's vigilance must be highlighted. Changes were managed effectively in line with the new Laws of the Game (notably at 62'). More importantly, Bastien did well to watch play after stoppages to ensure no trouble ensued, particularly after the goal at 88', at 90', and after the end of the game. One minor point of improvement could be the positioning of throw-ins, who were often taken far from the point at which the ball exited the field of play. Nevertheless, Bastien displayed great alertness and remained in confident control of the game throughout.

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

The ARs were not challenged in this game. AR1 cooperated to signal fouls at 8' and 90+5', but otherwise had no significant situations to judge. Good

communication with the referee at 3' to ensure consistency on a throw-in/corner decision.

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

One situation must be highlighted for AR2, at 68'. On a back pass by a KOR defender, he cooperated well with the referee to allow play to continue.

Fourth Official performance:

The Fourth official was unusually active, often moving on the sideline close to the field of play between the benches. He was in good control, and assisted the referee effectively. Particularly, at 13', as ARG #13 challenged for a header recklessly just between the benches, the 4th official arrived quickly on the scene to establish control and defuse the situation. Similarly, at 45+2', on a foul near the Korean bench, the 4th official arrived rapidly to control the coaches, and reacted aptly when an ARG player approached the KOR player to inflame the situation. Very good performance by the 4th, who performed above the expected level.