

Law 5 - The Referee

REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

2019 FIFA U20 World Cup Matchday 3

Match 27 (Gdynia)

29 May 2019, 18:00 CET

Ecuador - Mexico

Referee: Ivan Kružliak (SVK)

Assistant Referee 1: Tomáš Somoláni (SVK)

Assistant Referee 2: Branislav Hancko (SVK)

Fourth Official: Michael Oliver (ENG)

Video Assistant Referee: Paweł Raczkowski (POL)

Assistant Video Assistant Referee: Alejandro José Hernández Hernández (ESP)

Law 5 Blog Observer: Edward

Presentation of the match:

Matchday 3 for Group B of this year's U20 World Cup. The match was played at Gdynia Stadium with an attendance of 4.208 spectators. Weather and stadium conditions were very good. Both teams wanted the win. Ecuador to qualify and Mexico to compete for the 3rd spot of the group. Ecuador managed to score after only 12' and the match was quite open with a few chances from both teams. 35 y.o. Ivan Kruzliak (UEFA, 1st) was appointed at this match. Despite the high amount of fouls (36) and cautions (9) the match didn't present many difficulties for the refereeing team. On 1 occasion (min. 19') VAR had to intervene. As a result we can assign a "Normal" difficulty.

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

The referee had a good understanding and application of the LOTG. His tactical approach to this match was to mostly stay in the background and intervene when it was absolutely necessary. That approach worked well in this match. In terms of foul detection the referee tried not to whistle every little contact. The match, however, presented a total amount of 36 fouls (17-19) which can be explained by the passion both teams had for the win. The advantage rule was applied correctly on the few scenes that was necessary (11', 90+3') but at the same time the referee was able to bring back play when the ball was lost (31', 40'). The referee managed very well injured players (04') and in co-operation with FO, any player that left the field of play, could come back after he was checked.

Disciplinary control: The referee issued 9 YC's. The number may seem high but mr Kruzliak was correct on every occasion (13' N8 ECU -> reckless usage of arm, 44' N11 ECU -> UB, 45+2' N3 MEX -> UB, 48' N11 MEX -> reckless usage of arm, 81' N4 MEX -> reckless, 84' N13 MEX -> reckless, 85' N5 MEX -> reckless, 88' N6 ECU -> UB, 90+5' N1 ECU -> DR.

[The only crucial incident of the match](#). At min. 19' MEX goal was disallowed due to offside. N13 from MEX scored with a header after a foul was executed. After a long VAR review (3') the goal was annulled since the scorer was in offside position at the time of the long pass.

The referee has a good physical condition. He is able to be close to play the whole time. He didn't appear tired at any part of the match. He also used sprint in an efficient manner. But he shouldn't be too close to the ball since there is a chance that he might be get caught into play (like it happened at 82').

The referee had a good performance. His foul detection and disciplinary control was on a very good level the whole match. Plus the referee presented a very good physical condition. His only point for improvement would be his

positioning which was too close to the ball. He should be appointed again on either R16 or QF. Good luck to the future.

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

AR1 had a good performance. He was always in line with the 2nd last defender and used sidewalk when needed. He had 2 offside calls (73', 90+4') and both were correct. No other incidents for him. Expected level.

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

AR2 should have been involved at min. 19'. He kept his flag down and the goal was, initially, scored. After a long VAR review, the goal was annulled. Difficult scene for the AR. He had a few correct fouls on his area of vicinity (9', 18', 81'). No other incidents for him.

Fourth Official performance:

The Fourth Official executed his duties on an efficient manner. Additional time was 5' (due to VAR review) and 6'. Every substitution was executed properly. Expected level.