

# Law 5 - The Referee

## REFEREE OBSERVATION REPORT

2019 FIFA UNDER 20 WORLD CUP

Match 17 (Lublin)

27 May 2019, 18:00 CET

**Honduras - Uruguay**

Referee: Jesús Gil Manzano (ESP)

Assistant Referee 1: Ángel Nevado Rodríguez (ESP)

Assistant Referee 2: Diego Barbero Sevilla (ESP)

Fourth Official: David Yareboinen (PNG)

Video Assistant Referee: Juan Martínez Munuera (ESP)

Assistant Video Assistant Referee: Artur Manuel Ribeiro Soares Dias (POR)

Law 5 Blog Observer: Mikael W.

### Presentation of the match:

Honduras – Uruguay gave us the first duel fought exclusively in Latin America during this Under-20 World Cup. It was the South Americans who scored an important 2-0 victory that put them through to the next round, while the Hondurans are likely to be eliminated after their next match. Especially since confederational neutrality became a *buzzword* inside FIFA refereeing, they often struggled make appointments that ensured good officiating in Hispanic duels; Jesús Gil Manzano, thirty-five years old Spaniard, was entrusted with controlling this match. He managed exactly that, always keeping the control, but his approach was not the optimal one for such clashes especially during the 1H.

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

His approach to this match can be described as *generous*.

The obvious logic behind this appointment was self-evident even before Gil Manzano blew a whistle; he talked *very* easily with the players in Spanish, and had no problems connecting with them on a conversational level, especially at talks when the ball was dead, eg. during an injury break. This is an **extremely** useful tool that he didn't use that effectively during the trickier moments in the match.

Gil Manzano opened the cards at 9' for a clear SPA handball that was fully deliberate, he faced minimal / zero protests for this decision, this misconduct was *mutually accepted* – like all of YCs he sorted out in the 2H, maybe some of these were closer to careless than others in the 1H, but crucially, all protagonists were *expecting* cautions in these situations; in other words, we cannot learn that much about Gil Manzano from the 2H, he was just officiating another game. 1H was much more interesting.

HON No.19 was the player admonished at 9', and at 11' he committed a foul on the goalkeeper from a freekick hit high into the penalty area. On replays it was clear that he actually carted out a reckless elbow and should have been sent off for a second caution (**crucial mistake**). I don't blame Gil Manzano too much, this decision would have inflamed the match a lot and plus nobody even asked for it; FIFA also I'm sure will be satisfied. But formally this is a crucial mistake, but a rather irrelevant one.

Then he missed two more cautions in the short period afterwards (studs tackles at 13' and 15', the first a perception mistake, I cannot really understand the second), in a part of the match with a lot of rudimentary tackling, and it seemed that Gil Manzano would continue to tolerate rough play from both sides, especially technically-weaker Honduras. What impressed me, despite such leniency, is that Gil Manzano issued a verbal warning at 32' after a borderline careless-reckless foul that said "next player who fouls, yellow!", which he delivered on after another careless-reckless foul at 37'. This revealed a quite deep smartness from Gil Manzano that impressed me.

As touched on, Gil Manzano found it very easy to *chat* with the players, but apparently he finds it harder to *make his point* in the harder moments. At 13' after a clear reckless studs tackle, he first asked offender to apologise to the player he fouled, and then verbally warned him, but as offender was running away and probably not even looking at him; he should have the determination to fully issue the warning (okay, he doesn't have to order him back and publicly challenge him, but at least quietly do so). The same happened at 33', when it was a **perfect** moment to slow the game down, order the player back, and make clear not only for the player involved but for the whole audience, that he was NOT going to tolerate these heavier fouls anymore; instead the warning and mimic was weak and didn't give a so convincing impression.

As a referee, as in life, it is important to play to one's strengths. Gil Manzano is clearly able to connect with the players on an empathic level and presents an amiable leadership style on the pitch. Hence, he really limits himself in his range of management tools if he is unable to deliver firm but also empathic verbal warnings in tactically important moments; one can have the impression of a very relaxed man in one moment and then in another that of quite a shy person. The ability is there, the Spaniard just has to move it into actuality.

Besides, I don't think that his approach to this match was the best one. Playing advantage from a careless-reckless standing leg tackle and a clear YC at 29' (that was given after play stopped) in the hotter moments of the game, until 32' not trying to curb the unfair play that was quite prevalent, and a shocking management of a dropped ball at 52' where the game could have exploded. I don't know whether he just treated this game as *just another U20 one* or he didn't feel like he had the charisma to take charge of the game, because he has the smartness, shown by the caution at 37' for team persistent infringement. Let's see if he chooses a smarter approach in future matches.

His foul detection was quite good in partly trying circumstances, allowing the players a lot of scope to play, not many full simulations but definitely a lot of exaggerated fouls, but he generally managed to see through them (eg. 4').

His fitness, movement and positioning as we know him were quite outstanding- I didn't note one moment where he had a bad insight angle into a situation.

Jesús Gil Manzano has a talent but he needs to maximise it if he wants to further develop in his career.

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

Ángel Nevado Rodríguez had some interesting situations. Correctly observing the wait-and-see technique, he incorrectly evaluated a situation as 35', that was extremely tough- an eagle eye was needed there! A confusing moment was at 55' when it seemed Gil Manzano (rightly) waved down his flag for it being a very promising attack, although from an unfortunate deflection, but then after the attack failed we didn't go back for the offside. Particular. The rest of his work was good.

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

Diego Barbero Sevilla had a quiet match. He did sth that I never saw before, wait-and-see technique after a ball in vs. out situation (perhaps aided by situations in matches recently) at 58'. On the whole good show.

**Fourth Official performance:**

David Yareboinen executed his role on an expected level.