

**AFC AJAX****0 – 2****MANCHESTER UNITED**

UEFA Europa League, Final.  
24 May 2017, 20:45 CET (Friends Arena, Solna, Sweden)

**Goals:** 0-1 Pogba ('18) ; 0-2 Mkhitarian ('48)

Role	Name	NAT	Mark	*	Difficulty
Referee	Damir SKOMINA	SVN	7.9	8.3	1
Assistant Referee 1	Jure PRAPROTNIK	SVN	8.4		1
Assistant Referee 2	Robert VUKAN	SVN	8.4		1
Additional Assistant Referee 1	Matej JUG	SVN	8.4		1
Additional Assistant Referee 2	Slavko VINCIC	SVN	8.4		1
Fourth Official	Gianluca ROCCHI	ITA	8.4		1
UEFA Referee Observer	Bo KARLSSON	SWE			
UEFA Delegate	Ainar LEPPÄNEN	EST	*only if 7.8/7.9		

Marking Scale		
9.0 – 10.0: Excellent performance		7.9: 1 clear and important refereeing (=crucial) mistake, otherwise 8.3 – 10.0
8.5 – 8.9: Very good. Important decision(s) correctly taken.		7.8: 1 clear and important refereeing (=crucial) mistake, otherwise 8.0 – 8.2.
8.3 – 8.4: Good. Expected level.		7.5 – 7.7: Below expectation / Poor control / Significant point(s) for improvement.
8.2: Satisfactory performance with small areas for improvement.		7.0 – 7.4: Below expectation with poor control including 1 clear OR a performance with ≥ 2 crucial mistake(s).
8.0 – 8.1: Acceptable performance with important areas for improvement.		6.0 – 6.9: Unacceptable

Levels of Difficulty	1 = Normal	2 = Quite Challenging	3 = Very Challenging

Min.	Team #No.	Card	Disciplinary Sanction and Misconduct Classification
31'	MNU #22	YC	Yellow Card - Reckless tackle
52'	MNU #27	YC	Yellow Card - Stopping a promising attack
58'	AJA #3	YC	Yellow Card - Reckless tackle
64'	AJA #11	YC	Yellow Card - Stopping a promising attack
78'	MNU #8	YC	Yellow Card - Reckless tackle
'78	AJA #4	YC	Yellow Card - Unsporting behaviour (Mass-confrontation)

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MATCH

The first European club competition final was on the map on this Wednesday evening. AFC Ajax from the Netherlands faced Manchester United FC from England. A match which symbolically was much more important for the English club after the tragic terrorist attack two days earlier. For this final, UEFA have appointed one of their most experienced referees, Damir Skomina from Slovenia. Although this final could have been much more challenging to handle, Skomina and his teammates faced a quiet match, which stayed calm and fair until the final whistle. The assistants were not challenged as well, that is why the difficulty of this match can be considered as "Normal" for the entire team.

## PART 1: REFEREE

### Section 1: Application and interpretation of the Laws of the Game / match control, tactical approach and management of the game referring to IMPORTANT minute(s):

#### Comments:

Damir Skomina chose a lenient approach to handle this Europa League final and it perfectly suited the overall rhythm of the match. The referee had the match under full control during 90 minutes. No problems for him there.

Minute	Description of the situation
71'	A freekick is awarded to Ajax after a potential handball by MNU#22. The whistle from Skomina came quite late, which suggests that there might have been communication between the referee and AAR2 (Slavko Vincic) here. The decision is not supportable, because we cannot speak in this situation about a deliberate handball. MNU#22 jumps in the air, while AJA#10 shoots the ball at him. The arm of MNU#22 is close to the body plus the ball comes from a short distance, which makes this an unexpected ball. Therefore, this decision can be seen as <b>wrong</b> . Fortunately, it did not have any impact on the match itself. (-0.1)
75'	Penalty appeal by Manchester United waved away by Damir Skomina. MNU#6 attacks the goal and he is followed by AJA#5. The latter one tries to push the Manchester player, who stumbles, but the Ajax player falls as well. There is a little contact between MNU#6 and AJA#5, but replays prove that the Manchester player falls quite late after the contact. Therefore the decision not to assign a penalty here is <b>absolutely supportable</b> .
87'	Attack by MNU#14 who goes straight to goal and he is followed by AJA#5, who is the second-last defender and only the goalkeeper remains in the way. As they enter the penalty area the Ajax defender pulls his left arm out and pushes MNU#14 away. The latter one falls and appeals for a penalty, which is not given by the referee. The push is enough for the player to fall and so a penalty had to be given and also a <b>straight red card</b> for DOGSO (denying of an obvious goal scoring opportunity). <b>Crucial mistake</b> .

### Section 2: Disciplinary Control (cards, verbal warnings)

#### Comments:

In his lenient approach, Damir Skomina had overall a clear and consistent line when it came to punishing offences like SPA (stopping a promising attack) and reckless tackles.

Minute	Description of the situation
47'	Reckless tackle by AJA#11 on MNU#27, close to Manchester's penalty area. <b>Missing caution here</b> . (-0.1)
77'	A tackle by MNU#8 was considered by Damir Skomina as only reckless and therefore decided to go for a yellow card. The foul itself was close to SFP (serious foul play) and therefore also close to a straight red card. The contact happens above the ankle. Nevertheless, Skomina remained consistent in his lenient line and also the fact that MNU#8 was simply too late supports the decision to consider this foul only as reckless and therefore to go for a caution only. <b>Supportable decision</b> .

### Section 3: Personality, Body Language; Management of Players, Team Officials and Conflicts

#### Comments:

No problems whatsoever when it came to all these factors for the match official.

Minute	Description of the situation
'77	After a foul of MNU#8, a mass-confrontation starts. Skomina is immediately alert and sprints towards the players and tries to calm things down and isolates the players, with the result that nothing escalated. <b>Well done!</b> (+0.1)

#### Section 4: Co-operation and distribution of responsibilities

##### Comments:

+	OK	-	
	X		Efficient co-operation & distribution of responsibilities with regard to throw-ins, corner-kicks etc
	X		Efficient co-operation & distribution of responsibilities in important, crucial situations.
	X		Efficient communication in the team (signals, consultations etc.).

#### Section 5: Physical Condition, Positioning, Movement

##### a) Physical condition

+	OK	-	
	X		Fitness
	X		Stamina
	X		Sprinting abilities

##### b) Positioning

+	OK	-	
	X		Always close (but not too close) to play, not interfering with it.
	X		Always producing the best visual angles to play.
	X		Efficient Positioning, anticipating the action.
	X		Close to the penalty area when necessary.
	X		Efficient positioning <b>at set pieces / dead ball</b> (corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)

##### c) Movement

+	OK	-	
	X		Flexible, S-shaped, efficient diagonal movement (not too linear)
	X		Backwards and Sideways Movement when needed
	X		Enters the penalty area when necessary
	X		Elegant, prudent movement (not hectic).

#### Section 6: General comments and explanation of the assessment

In general, Damir Skomina made a good impression in this easy game to handle and was invisible over the whole match. The players stood in the focus and the referee himself remained in the background. It is actually a pity then, when this crucial mistake at the end of the game tarnishes a bit the overall performance. Nevertheless, the Slovenian official can be satisfied with his presentation and performance and his overall season on the European panel. Congratulations!

#### Section 7: Summary of the performance based on positive points and potential need for improvement / consideration

POSITIVE POINTS	1)	Player management, alertness
	2)	Consistency
	3)	Calmness and coolness

POINTS FOR IMPROVEMENT	1)	Detection of deliberate handballs.
	2)	--
	3)	--

## PART II: ASSISTANT REFEREE 1

### Section 1: Assistant Referee 1's performance

+	OK	-	
	X		Accurate (No-)Offside Decisions and good "Wait-And-See-Technique"
X			Alert and concentrated, reaction to incidents happening in his Visual Control
	X		Good co-operation & teamwork with the referee, smooth distribution of responsibilities.
	X		Efficient control <b>at set pieces / dead ball</b> (corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)
	X		Good Positioning and Movement
	X		Adequate Flag Technique (flag always in hand closer to play & visible for referee / signals)

#### Comments:

Jure Pratprotnik faced a calm match without any problems.

Minute	Description of the situation
'77	The alertness of AR1 must be praised as well at the moment of the mass-confrontation. The assistant referee also sprinted to the incident, also trying to calm things down, before Skomina himself took care of things. Good job.

## PART III: ASSISTANT REFEREE 2

### Section 1: Assistant Referee 2's performance

+	OK	-	
	X		Accurate (No-)Offside Decisions and good "Wait-And-See-Technique"
	X		Alert and concentrated, reaction to incidents happening in his Visual Control
	X		Good co-operation & teamwork with the referee, smooth distribution of responsibilities.
	X		Efficient control <b>at set pieces / dead ball</b> (corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)
	X		Good Positioning and Movement
	x		Adequate Flag Technique (flag always in hand closer to play & visible for referee / signals)

#### Comments:

No problems as well for AR2 Robert Vukan, who was not challenged at all in this match.

## PART IV: ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REFEREE 1

### Section 1: Additional Assistant Referee 1's performance

+	OK	-	
	X		Good Positioning and Movement.
	X		Good co-operation & teamwork with the referee
	X		Alert and concentrated, reaction to incidents happening in his visual Control
	X		Efficient control <b>at set pieces / dead ball</b> (corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)

#### Comments:

A calm evening as well for AAR1 Matej Jug, not challenged at all in this final.

## PART V: ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT REFEREE 2

### Section 1: Additional Assistant Referee 2's performance

+	OK	-	
	X		Good Positioning and Movement.
	X		Good co-operation & teamwork with the referee
	X		Alert and concentrated, reaction to incidents happening in his visual Control
	X		Efficient control <b>at set pieces / dead ball</b> (corner-kick, free-kick, goal-kick)

#### Comments:

AAR2 Slavko Vincic faced as well a night without being challenged too much.

Minute	Description of the situation
'71	The handball free-kick decision actually happened in Vincic's angle of vision, but as his line of vision was blocked, we cannot be sure whether he gave the information to Skomina or whether the latter made the decision himself.

## PART VI: FOURTH OFFICIAL

### Section 1: Fourth official's performance

+	OK	-	
	X		Respectful and Deescalating dealing with the benches
	X		Technical Management (injured players, substitutions, signaling additional time)
	X		Reaction to incidents happening in his Visual Control

#### Comments:

Nothing special to report for Gianluca Rocchi, who was fourth official for this match.