

## LISA SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BULLETIN #4

### “THE CANADIAN WAY”

Below are some best practice guidelines that I received while attending a provincial level course, delivered by the Canadian Soccer Association.

A best practice is a standard or set of guidelines that is known to produce good outcomes if followed.

#### 1. Change to Positioning When Awarding a Penalty

**Kick:** when awarding a PK use a long sharp whistle, point to the mark, then immediately start your movement towards the top left of the penalty area where you would normally take up your position for a PK (neutral zone.) Hold your hand up as a “stop sign” if the players start to approach you. Don’t move towards the penalty mark as this makes you an easy target for the players to surround you and protest your decision.

2. **Consistent Hand positioning for all signals:** when signalling keep your fingers close together and hold your hand in the upright position. The only exception being for goal kicks when the hand may be flat or upright.

3. **Body Language:** Don’t give negative signals. It is not respectful to point or wag your finger at players. For example, signalling to a player to get up.

4. **Communication:** When talking with your team of officials, keep the players and the field in front of you at all times.

5. **Dropped ball procedure**: Do not whistle to “start” a dropped ball. Use the whistle only if it’s necessary to get players back into position or after a substitution has been made.
6. **Offside - Deliberate vs Deflection**: The key word with respect to determining offside or onside on a deflection from the defender is “deliberate.” For example, if the defender stretched to reach for a ball that deflected off his foot or head to an attacker in an offside position then the player is deemed offside. To be onside the pass must be considered “deliberate.”

**Deliberate Play:**

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately played the ball, including by deliberate handball, is not considered to have gained an advantage.

Deliberate play is when a player has control of the ball with the possibility of:

- passing the ball to a team-mate;
- gaining possession of the ball; or
- clearing the ball (e.g. by kicking or heading it)

**7. Cautioning Technique:**

- Show the card first, write 2nd
- Use the 3 I’s: identify the offending player; isolate him/her; initiate the showing of the card.

- Clearly communicate “Persistent Infringement” offences by pointing to the areas on the field where the fouls occurred.

## **8. AR Movement and Signals:**

- Get ahead of the ball, rather than behind it, when the ball is leaving the field along the goal line for a goal kick. Beat the ball to the goal line !

- The AR should chase every ball all the way to the goal line. When the ball clearly goes over the goal line for a goal kick, the AR can stop running and signal in line with the top of the goal area.

- the AR should demonstrate both speed and explosiveness and always be on the balls of their feet for transition purposes (heels should never touch the ground.)

- after having stretched and done some warm ups with the entire crew of officials, the AR should then move over to their quadrant and conduct various running styles (sprint; jog; side to side movement) and practice their signals along the touchline they will be patrolling. This will give the AR a better feel for their area of responsibility and improve their comfort level with the field.

- When the goalkeeper has possession, the AR should stay in line with the ball if an attacking player is within close proximity.

- The AR must always face the field of play, even when running. Side-to-side movement should be used for short distances.

- The AR should synchronize their signals with the referee to send the message that they are a team.
- The AR needs to ensure eye contact with the referee before raising the flag.
- If the referee misses your offside signal, it is quite acceptable for the “other” AR to raise their flag in order to get the attention of the referee.
- When using your voice to get the attention of the referee, call him/her by their “given name”.....not ref, or referee. This avoids confusion as players; coaches; supporters; etc may also be calling “ref.”

#### **9. Ceremonial Free Kicks (“Wait for the Whistle”):**

- Hold and point to the whistle at eye height.
- Make sure the kicker, goalkeeper, and defensive wall can all see your whistle.

**10. ADVANTAGE SIGNAL:** exercise patience.....”wait and see” for a true advantage to materialize before signaling with both arm (one arm or two) and voice !

**11. FOULS:** make early fouls “bigger” as part of your referee’s toolkit. This could be a long sharp whistle or a large public verbal warning for a careless foul. This can help set you up for success for the rest of the game.

**12. GRABBING OR HOLDING THE JERSEY:** a jersey grab is now considered a careless foul unless it’s a hold then it is a yellow card.

**13. PRO TIP: ADDED TIME – NOTHING GOOD HAPPENS AFTER MIDNIGHT”** : what this means is that if one of the teams is ahead by a significant # of goals (say 3-4-5) as the game is coming to a close but you have several minutes of time to add on, cut the added time played in half.....**One of the cardinal rules in officiating is to never create an event for yourself !**

Please contact me if you have any questions or have any suggestions for future Situational Awareness Bulletins.

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