

# LOTG Guidance 2024

NZF Referees Committee  
February 2024



New Zealand  
Football

# Introduction

- New Zealand Football Referees Committee (NZF RC) responsibilities include:
  - To ensure that the “Laws of the Game” as set down by FIFA are implemented throughout the country.
  - To secure uniformity in the interpretations and rulings on the Laws of the Game by Referees in New Zealand.
- This presentation sets out the expectations of the committee with regards to key aspects of the application of the LOTG for the 2024 season. This reflects current trends in the global application of the LOTG.

# Content

1. Participant behaviour – robust approach to improving participant behaviour on-field and in the technical area
2. Effective playing time – more accurate calculation of additional time in line with IFAB guidance and stronger measures to reduce time wasting
3. Handball – decision making principles and considerations
4. Offside – deliberate play considerations
5. Match fixing and betting

# Participant behaviour

## Value, respect and protecting the reputation of the game

- Coaches, players and match officials have collective responsibility for ensuring that value, respect and protecting the reputation of the game are reflected in our actions and interactions
- Players, managers, coaches and other Technical Area occupants must behave in a responsible manner
- The referee will take action against players and team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner, and may warn, caution or send-off offenders
- If the offender cannot be identified for an offence in the Technical Area, the senior coach present in the Technical Area will receive the sanction

# Participant behaviour – on field

## Captains

- Take responsibility for the behaviour of team-mates

## Confrontations

- Running towards a match official to confront
- Confrontation or invasion of personal space
- Clearly visible disrespectful action directed to a match official
- Aggressive physical contact with a match official
- Discriminatory behaviour/language, aggression, offensive language/gestures



# Participant behaviour – Technical Area

## Conduct

- Managers, coaches and other Technical Area occupants must behave in a responsible manner
- Substitutes and substituted players are under the jurisdiction of the referee as ‘players’
- Expectations for Technical Area occupants are listed on LOTG P108-110
- Comply with the maximum number of staff or substitutes permitted by the competition
- Must remain within your own Technical Area during the match
- Must not enter the pitch to confront any match official at half-time or full-time

## Coaching

- Only one person is permitted to stand and coach during the match
- All other Technical Area occupants should remain seated

# Participant behaviour – Technical Area

Manage unwanted behaviour using roadblocks in a stepped approach where possible



Non-confrontational/trivial offence – advise/warn








Dissent, persistent low-level offences



Insulting, offensive or abusive language or actions

# Participant behaviour – Technical area

## Guidance for advising or warning

-  Inadvertently or occasionally leaving the technical area without committing another offence
-  Two or more occupants standing in the technical area
-  Excessive goal celebrations (non-confrontational)
-  Minor/low level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
-  Entering the field of play in a respectful or non-confrontational manner



# Participant behaviour – Technical area

## Guidance for cautionable offences

- Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- Two or more occupants persistently standing in the technical area
- Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- Inflammatory/provocative goal celebrations
- Entering the field of play to confront or direct dissent towards a match official at half/full time
- Dissent by word or action (e.g. throwing or kicking objects, sarcastic clapping)
- Confronting the assistant referee and/or fourth official
- Gesturing for red or yellow cards

# Participant behaviour – Technical area

## Guidance for send off offences

- Deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent towards a match official during play
- Deliberately leaving the technical area to act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- Entering the field of play to physically or aggressively confront a match official
- Insulting, offensive or abusive language or actions
- Technical staff delaying the restart of play by opposing team (e.g., holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player)
- Physical or aggressive behaviour, or violent conduct
- Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play

# Participant behaviour – Anti-discrimination

- New Zealand Football remind our referees that they have unwavering support to take action against discrimination in football
- Match officials cannot apply disciplinary sanctions during the game if they have not heard or seen the incident

## Reporting protocols when heard

1. Referee hears discriminatory comment
2. Dismiss the offending player
3. Make a note of the exact words used (with other officials if appointed)
4. Complete full notes prior to leaving the ground at end of match
5. After the game, submit Incident report to the competition manager

## Reporting protocols when not heard

1. Player reports discriminatory comment
2. Make a note of the incident (with other officials if appointed)
3. During the game, notify both captains and senior technical staff of both teams, explaining that the issue will be reported
4. After the game, submit Incident report to the competition manager



## Effective playing time and delaying the restart

- More accurate calculation of additional time in line with IFAB guidance
- Stronger measures to reduce time-wasting

# Effective playing time

## More accurate calculation of additional time (IFAB Guidance)

- The following are situations where time may be added in accordance with your competition regulations:
  - Apply common sense with 1-point control
  - Greater enforcement in regional and national competitions (3- or 4-point control)

Incident	2024 approach
Goal	Add exact time from goal scored to restart
Substitution	Add exact time from play stopped to restart
Injury	Add exact time from play stopped to restart
Penalty kick	Add exact time from penalty decision to restart
Delaying restart/time wasting	Referee to add extra time based on match events
Red Card	Add exact time from red card shown to restart

# Delaying the restart of play

## Cautionable offences

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or throw-in

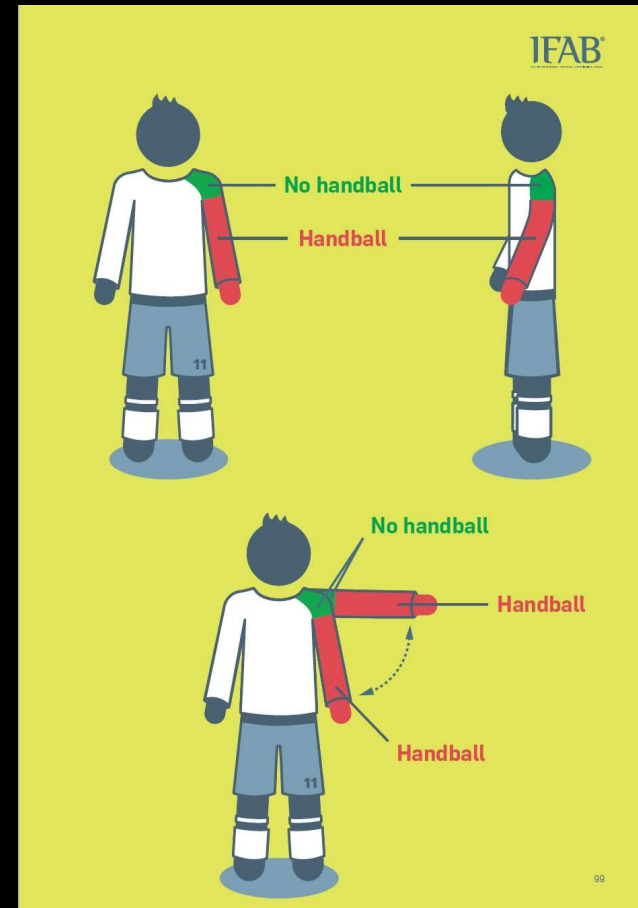
## Threshold for a caution

- Referees are empowered to take a more robust approach to dealing with clear and deliberate actions that are impactful in delaying the restart of play
- For example:
- interfering with the ball after play has stopped
- Taking excessive time to restart play with a free/goal kick

# Handball – decision making principles

## Definition of the hand/arm

- For the purposes of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit



# Deliberate handball – decision making principles

## Decision making considerations

- Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offence
- A player's hand/arm position should be judged in relation to their body movement in that particular situation
- Players are not expected to move with their arms by their side
- It is an offence if a player:

deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm  
e.g moving the hand/arm towards the ball



touches the ball with their hand/arm  
when it has made their body 'unnaturally bigger'





# Deliberate handball – decision making principles

It is an offence if a player:

- Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm
- Touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger

## Considerations

1. Hand/arm clearly moved towards the ball
2. Hand/arm clearly moved into the path of the ball
3. Hand/arm makes body unnaturally bigger and is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation

## Mitigating factors

1. Proximity
2. Justifiable position/action
3. Arm is supporting body
4. Clear change of trajectory (deflection) when played by same player
5. Played by a teammate from close proximity

# Accidental Handball – decision making considerations

It is an offence if a player scores in the opponents' goal:

- Directly from the hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
- Immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental

## Considerations

1. Is there contact between the ball and hand/arm of attacker
2. Does the ball directly enter the goal following contact with hand/arm
3. Does the attacker score immediately following contact with hand/arm

## Mitigating factors

1. Goal not immediate
2. Goal scored by a teammate

# Offside – deliberate play

## Law 11

- A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball, including by deliberate handball, is not considered to have gained an advantage, unless it was a deliberate save by any opponent to prevent the ball entering the goal.
- IFAB have clarified that ‘deliberate play’ is when a player has control of the ball with the possibility of:
  1. Passing the ball to a team-mate; or
  2. Gaining possession of the ball; or
  3. Clearing the ball (e.g. by kicking or heading it).
- If the pass, attempt to gain possession or clearance by the player in control of the ball is inaccurate or unsuccessful, this does not negate the fact that the player ‘deliberately played’ the ball
- <https://www.theifab.com/news/law-11-offside-deliberate-play-guidelines-clarified/>



# Offside – decision making considerations

- Deliberately played is where a player makes a clear action to play the ball, and this results in **control** of the ball. An attacker receiving the ball from a deliberate play should not be penalized for being offside (unless it was a save)
- Where a player makes an instinctive reaction and touches the ball (e.g., stretching or jumping) and there is **no control** of the ball, this should be interpreted as a 'deflection'. An attacker receiving the ball from a deflection may be penalized for being offside in such situations.

## Control

1. The ball travelled from distance and the player had a clear view of it
2. The ball was not moving quickly
3. The direction of the ball was expected
4. The player had time to coordinate their body movement

## No control

1. The ball travelled from short distance and/or the player does not have a clear view of it
2. The ball was moving quickly
3. The direction of the ball was unexpected
4. The player did not have time to coordinate their body movement (e.g., instinctive stretching or jumping to touch ball)

# Match fixing and betting – Protect Yourself. Protect Football.

- Match-fixing is an international business. It is controlled by sophisticated, organised crime syndicates.  
**It's a crime in New Zealand.**
- Match Officials are considered “Persons of interest” and not permitted to bet on any form of football (Visit [nzfootball.co.nz/ABOUT-US/Statues-Regulations](http://nzfootball.co.nz/ABOUT-US/Statues-Regulations)).
- If you are approached or suspect someone you know has been approached or is involved in fixing or inappropriately betting on football - you must report it.
- Play your part in protecting the integrity of football in New Zealand:
  - Recognise.
  - Resist.
  - Report.

**Remove the risk. Don't bet on football.**



- Match officials are expected to complete the Integrity course every 3 years.
- The online Education seminar can be found here:  
[https://integrity-seminar.bubbleapps.io/integrity\\_seminar](https://integrity-seminar.bubbleapps.io/integrity_seminar)
- If you have any questions or want to send a report, you can do so confidentially by contacting the Integrity Officer on [integrity@nzfootball.co.nz](mailto:integrity@nzfootball.co.nz)



**Thank you.**



**New Zealand  
Football**

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