INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide the refereeing fraternity with a standard match analysis system based on universal principles for decision-making and match report writing.

In line with the topics covered in the Laws of the Game, the guidelines enumerate the factors to be considered when assessing a match incident, as well as formulas to accurately describing the particular action in the match report.

The reasons for cautionable and sending-off offences must be stated in the match report as per the Laws of the Game. Likewise, a complete report shall cover the “who, what, where, when, how and why”.

The content of the AFC Refereeing Guidelines is based on the IFAB Laws of the Game 2019/2020.
# Fouls & Misconduct: Careless, Reckless, Using Excessive Force and Violent Conduct

1. Does the player show a lack of attention or consideration when making the challenge?
2. Does the player act without precaution when making the challenge?
3. Does the player make fair or unfair contact with the opponent after touching the ball?
4. Does the player act with disregard to the danger for the opponent?
5. Does the player act with disregard to consequences for the opponent?
6. Does the player have a chance of playing the ball in a fair manner?
7. Does the challenge put the opponent in a dangerous situation?
8. Does the player touch the ball after making contact with the opponent?
9. Does the player use excessive force and endanger the safety of the opponent?
10. Does the player use brutality against the opponent when challenging for the ball?
11. Does the challenge endanger the safety of the opponent?
12. What degree of speed and/or intensity is the player using when making the challenge?
13. Does the player show clear malice when making the challenge?
14. Does the player lunge on the opponent from the front, from the side or from behind?
15. Which part of the body has the player used to make contact?
16. Does the player use studs when making a tackle?
17. On which part of the opponent's body is contact made?
18. In which direction are the tackler's feet pointing?
19. Does the player challenge for the ball at the moment the contact is made?
20. Does the player charge the opponent in a fair manner?
21. Do you consider the foul an act of violent conduct or a serious foul play?
22. Has the challenge been committed in a fair manner or a careless manner?
23. Does the player use the arm as a 'tool' or a 'weapon'?
24. Does the player challenge for the ball in a fair manner?
25. Does the player attempt to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball?
26. Is the force used to strike the player's head/face negligible?
27. Does the player throw an object at the ball, opponent or match official?
28. Does the player commit an offence outside the field of play against someone from his/her own team?
29. Does the player bite or spit at someone?
30. Does the player's action threaten to cause injury to someone including the player himself?
Interfering with or Stopping a Promising Attack

31 What is the distance between the offence and the goal?
32 Does the player have control of the ball?
33 Can the player gain control of the ball?
34 What is the direction of play?
35 How many defenders are involved in the situation?
36 Where are the defenders located?
37 How many attackers are involved in the situation?
38 Where are the attackers located?
39 How many options to pass the ball did the player have when he was fouled?
40 Does the foul interfere with or stop a promising attack?
41 Does the handball offence interfere with or stop a promising attack?
42 Does the player commit an offence inside his/her own penalty area (whilst attempting to play the ball) to interfere with or stop a promising attack?

Denying a Goal or a Goal-Scoring Opportunity

51 What is the distance between the offence and the goal?
52 Is there a likelihood of the player keeping control of the ball?
53 Is there a likelihood of the player gaining control of the ball?
54 What is the general direction of play?
55 How many defenders are involved in the situation?
56 Where are the defenders located?
57 Is the offence a direct free kick or an indirect free kick?
58 If there is no offence, does the player have an obvious opportunity to score a goal?
59 Does the player commit a handball offence to deny the opposing team a goal?
60 Does the player hold, pull or push an opponent to deny an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
61 Does the player commit an offence inside his/her own penalty area (whilst attempting to play the ball) to deny an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
62 Does the player making the challenge inside own penalty area have a possibility to play the ball and deny an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
63 Did the referee apply advantage in a goal-scoring opportunity and caution the player when the ball was out of play?
Handling the Ball

71 Is the hand moving towards the ball or is the ball moving towards the hand?
72 Are the player’s hands or arms in a “natural position” or an “unnatural position”?
73 Does the player attempt to avoid the ball striking the hand?
74 Does the ball strike the player’s hand from a short or from a long distance?
75 Does the player use the hand or arm to touch or block the ball?
76 Does the player attempt to score a goal by a handball offence?
77 Does the player prevent a goal by a handball offence?
78 Does the player prevent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence?
79 Does the player try to deceive the referee by handling the ball?
80 Is the ball moving in the direction of the goal when the player handles the ball?
81 Does the player unsuccessfully attempt to prevent a goal by a handball offence?
82 Does the player make contact with the ball with a held object?
83 Does the player gain possession/control of the ball after it has touched his/her hand/arm and then scored in the opponents’ goal?
84 Does the player gain possession/control of the ball after it has touched his/her hand/arm and then creates a goal-scoring opportunity?
85 Does the player score in the opponents’ goal directly from his/her hand/arm, even if accidental?
86 Does the player touch the ball with his/her hand/arm when the hand/arm has made his/her body unnaturally bigger?
87 Does the player touch the ball with his/her hand/arm when the hand/arm is above/beyond his/her shoulder level?
88 Does the ball touch the player’s hand/arm directly from his/her own head or body (including the foot)?
89 Does the ball touch the player’s hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close?
90 Does the ball touch the player’s hand/arm when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body?
Simulation

91 Is there contact between the players involved?
92 Does the attacker use the slight contact to deceive the referee?
93 Has the attacker initiated the contact between the opponent and themselves?
94 Is there fair/normal contact between the players, resulting in no offence being committed?
95 Has the attacker anticipated the contact between the opponent and themselves?
96 Does the attacker initiate the contact?
97 Has the player over-exaggerated the seriousness of the foul committed?
98 Does the player simulate a foul to win a free kick?
99 Does the player attempt to deceive the referee?
100 Does the player create a wrong/false impression to gain an unfair advantage?

Confrontation

101 Have the original or initial offenders been punished appropriately?
102 Were the actions of the players involved excessive with regard to physical contact?
103 Did the player(s) become involved unnecessarily by running from some distance?
104 Are the ARs effective in helping to prevent further confrontation between players?
105 Does the referee get "too close" to the incident and become caught up in the confrontation?
106 Does the referee remain calm when dealing with the confrontation?
107 Does the referee touch or push the players?
108 Does the referee try to separate the first players at the beginning of the confrontation?
109 Does the fourth official act appropriately?
110 Should any of the match officials make physical contact with players or members in the technical area?
111 Was at least one player from each team involved in the confrontation identified and punished appropriately?
Management of the Restart

121 Do the match officials manage the restart of play effectively?
122 Does the referee indicate to the kicker to wait for a signal to restart play?
123 Does the referee succeed in ensuring that the defensive wall retreats 9.15m and remains so?
124 How far away are the defensive players when the free kick is taken?
125 Does the referee take up the most advantageous position for the restart?
126 Is the ball placement acceptable?
127 Does the player prevent a quick restart?
128 Does the player provoke a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee had stopped play?
129 Does the player appear to take a restart but suddenly leave it to one of the teammates to take it?
130 Does the referee indicate or acknowledge the restart of the match after it has been stopped?
131 Were disciplinary sanctions correctly applied?
132 Should the referee allow a ‘quick’ free kick in this situation?
133 Is the ball intercepted by an opponent who is less than 9.15m (10 yards) from the ball?
134 Does the player distract or impede the thrower by moving closer than 2m (2 yards) where the throw-in is to be taken?
135 Is the use of vanishing spray effective in controlling 9.15m (10 yards) distance?
136 Does the player enter the field of play without the referee’s permission and interfere with play?
137 Where three or more defending team’s players form a “wall”, do the attacking team’s players remain at least 1 m from the “wall”?
138 At a goal kick, is an opponent inside the penalty area challenging for the ball before it is in play?
### Advantage

141 Is there a team benefit if the referee applies the advantage?
142 Did the fouled player still have possession of the ball after the foul was committed?
143 Is there more of a benefit in applying advantage or awarding a free kick?
144 Does the foul committed deserve a yellow card?
145 Does the foul committed deserve a red card?
146 Is the foul committed near the penalty area?
147 Does the fouled player have space to progress?
148 Are there teammates in a good position to pass the ball to?
149 After advantage has been applied, should the referee return to administer a disciplinary sanction?
150 After application of the advantage, does the offending player play the ball or challenge/interfere with an opponent?
151 Where on the field of play did the offence occur?
152 Should the tempo/temperature of the match be considered?
153 If the player who committed the first offence had previously been cautioned, would it have been advisable to allow play to continue?
154 Is there a chance of an immediate attack?
155 Could the referee adopt a “wait and see” approach by delaying the whistle?
156 Does the referee give a clear signal to allow play to continue when the offence occurred?

### Dissent

161 Does the player show dissent by protesting verbally (by words)?
162 Does the player show dissent by protesting non-verbally (by action)?
163 Does the player act in a manner that shows a lack of respect for the game?
164 Could dissent have been avoided if the referee or AR had intervened quicker?
165 Does the referee support his/her colleague following a reaction by a player to a decision made by an AR?
166 Is the correct disciplinary sanction (yellow or red card) applied?
167 Does the referee correctly differentiate between frustration and dissent?
168 Does the captain of the team show dissent by protesting?
169 Does the player influence the referee to get an opposing player cautioned by waving an “imaginary card”?
170 Does the player spit on the ground to display anger at and disagreement with the decisions of the match officials, etc.?
Body Language

171 Does the referee show signs of uncertainty?
172 Does the referee’s body language show confidence or alertness?
173 Is the referee’s reaction slow after the incident?
174 Have the referee’s actions inflamed the situation?
175 Does the referee remain calm and in control?
176 Has the referee been influenced into taking disciplinary action?
177 Does the referee use the whistle appropriately?
178 Does the referee use the cards appropriately?
179 Does the referee make the signals according to the guidelines for referees?
180 Does the referee make the message clear to the player(s) involved?
181 Does the referee raise his/her profile appropriately in more demanding situations?
182 Should the referee remain “neutral” and not make movements as though he is going to issue a disciplinary sanction?

Concentration / Awareness

191 Is the referee aware of a possible conflict in allowing the game to continue?
192 Is there immediate communication between the match officials to avoid unnecessary protests or appeals?
193 Does the referee keep his/her focus and concentration throughout the incident?
194 Is the referee in a good position to make the correct decision?
195 Is the communication process appropriate in deciding who the offending player is?
196 Why is the disciplinary sanction shown to the wrong player?
197 Is the referee aware of what the Law allows in certain situations?
198 Is the player guilty of persistently infringing the Laws of the Game?
199 Is the referee aware of the tactical play of a team that breaks up play or targets individual opponents?
200 Does the referee protect (a) player(s) from potential serious injury?
Teamwork

221 Is the AR or AAR closer to the action than the referee?
222 Does the AR or AAR have a better view of the incident than the referee?
223 Does the referee have a better view of the incident than the AR or AAR?
224 Is the signal from the AR to the referee clear?
225 Did the referee make a decision before the signal by the AR?
226 Does the incident happen out of the view of the referee?
227 Does the AR or AAR inform the referee about any misconduct?
228 Should one of the match officials have seen the incident?
229 Should the fourth official intervene, if none of the other officials had seen the incident?
230 Has teamwork broken down because of a lack of concentration?
231 Should the AAR intervene if none of the other officials had seen the incident?
232 Should the referee be aware of “upper body” or contact with the hands/arms when the AR is focused on the ball being in or out of play?
233 Is the decision given by the referee or AR credible given the distance they are from the incident?
Offside

241 Is the AR in a good position to judge offside?
242 Is the player in an offside position? If so, which part of the body?
243 Is the player in an offside position interfering with play by touching the ball?
244 Is the player in an offside position interfering with the goalkeeper? If so, how?
245 Is the player in an offside position interfering with an opponent? If so, how?
246 Does the player in an offside position gain an advantage by playing the ball?
247 Does the player in an offside position gain an advantage by interfering with an opponent?
248 Will the ball go to a player who was previously in an offside position after a rebound/deflect from an opponent?
249 Does the player in an offside position receive the ball after a deliberate save?
250 Does the player in an offside position receive the ball after a deliberate pass?
251 Does the assistant referee adopt the “wait and see” technique?
252 Is any other teammate who has a chance to play the ball in an onside position?
253 Does the player in an offside position challenge the opponent for the ball?
254 Does the AR give the benefit to the attacking player when the defender and attacker are in line?
255 Could the field markings help the AR to make a correct decision?
256 Does the referee identify the player who last touches the ball?
257 Is the offence (by the attacker/defender) committed before or after the attacker commits an offside offence?
Miscellaneous

261 Is the foul committed inside or outside the penalty area?
262 Is the foul committed inside or outside the field of play?
263 Was the ball in play when the offence was committed?
264 Does the player enter or re-enter the field of play without the referee’s permission?
265 Does the ball enter the goal?
266 Does the player kick the ball deliberately to his/her own goalkeeper?
267 Does the goalkeeper handle the ball after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate?
268 Did the referee need to stop play in this situation?
269 Does the player prevent the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands?
270 Did the player(s) deliberately delay the re-start unnecessarily?
271 Is this violent conduct or merely unsporting behaviour?
272 Should the referee consider suspending or abandoning the match?
273 Does the player impede the progress of an opponent without any contact being made?
274 Does the player kick or attempt to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing the ball?
275 Did a dropped ball enter the goal without touching at least two players?
276 Is the ball kicked and clearly moves?
277 Does the player use a deliberate trick to pass the ball to his/her own goalkeeper in order to circumvent the Law?
278 Does the player commit two cautionable offences even in a close proximity?
279 Does the player commit a cautionable offence and a sending-off offence in a close proximity?
280 Does the goalkeeper handle the ball inside his/her penalty area when not permitted to do so and stopping a promising attack or denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?
281 Does the goalkeeper handle the ball when he/she has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after it has been deliberately kicked to him/her by a team-mate?
282 Does the holding start from outside the penalty area and continue inside?
283 Does the player impede the progress of an opponent with contact?
284 Does the player impede the progress of an opponent with the hands?
Management of the Penalty Kicks

281 Was the goalkeeper of the kicker in the correct position during kicks from the penalty mark?
282 Do(es) the attacking player(s) fail to remain 9.15m before the penalty kick is being taken?
283 Do(es) the defending player(s) fail to remain 9.15m before the penalty kick is being taken?
284 Does the referee need to order the penalty kick to be retaken?
285 Does the goalkeeper gain an unfair advantage by moving forward before the kick is being taken?
286 Does the kicker play the ball a second time before another player touches the ball?
287 Does the goalkeeper deliberately attempt to delay the taking of the penalty kick by acting in an unsporting manner?
288 Did the referee ensure the re-taken penalty kick was carried out in accordance with the Law?
289 Was the penalty kick taken correctly and in accordance with the Law?
290 Was the kick from the penalty mark completed?
291 Was the penalty kick taken by a teammate of the identified kicker?
292 Does the kicker feint to kick the ball after completing the run-up?
293 Does the kicker feint in the run-up?
294 Is the defending goalkeeper touching the goalposts, crossbar or goal net before the ball has been kicked?
295 Does the defending goalkeeper have at least part of one foot touching, or in line with, the goal line?

Injuries

301 Should the referee need to stop the game earlier?
302 Was the Law correctly applied to the injured players before play was re-started?
303 Does the referee need to give an early signal for the stretcher?
304 Did the treatment of the injured player(s) take too long?
305 Does the player exaggerate the injury to get an opponent cautioned or to deceive the referee?
306 Does the fourth official check the player before allowing him/her to re-enter?
307 Does the referee play the correct amount of “additional time”?
308 Was the injury assessed before calling for the stretcher?
309 Did the player avoid possible contact to prevent injury to themselves?
310 Are the playing conditions dangerous and a threat to players’ safety?
311 Was the treatment on the field of play completed quickly? (in case an exception to leave the field of play)
The Other Match Officials

321 Does the AR raise the flag in the correct hand?
322 Does the AR’s flag technique confuse the referee?
323 Does the AR change hands before the flag is raised?
324 Is the AR’s signal correct given the infringement that has been committed?
325 What else could the AR have done to get the attention of the referee?
326 Does the AR’s intervention change the original decision of the referee?
327 Does the AR make eye contact with the referee before signalling?
328 Does the AAR make the correct judgement?
329 Is the AR or AAR positioned adequately to decide whether the ball has crossed over the goal line?
330 Is the AAR correctly positioned during the incident?

Players’ Equipment

341 Is it permissible to wear undershorts of a different colour to the main shorts?
342 Are players allowed to play without shin guards?
343 Should a goalkeeper wear colours that distinguish him/her from the other players and match officials?
344 Did the player wait until there is a stoppage in play before returning to the field of play?
345 Is a player allowed to continue playing with blood on the shirt?
346 Do the colours of the basic compulsory equipment distinguish the player from the opponents?
347 Do the colours of the basic equipment distinguish the player from the opponents?
348 Do the stockings entirely cover the shin guards?
349 Do the shin guards provide a reasonable degree of protection?
350 Is a player permitted to wear jewellery?
351 Is a player allowed to wear tape to cover jewellery?
352 Can a player play the ball without a boot on?
353 Does play need to be stopped for a player to adjust his/her equipment?
Positioning & Movement

361  Is the referee too close to the incident?
362  Is the referee too far away to make a credible decision?
363  Is the referee’s view obscured by (a) player(s)?
364  Does the referee create a good viewing angle in order to get the correct decision?
365  Is the AR better placed than the referee?
366  Are both the referee and the AR in good viewing positions?
367  Does the referee’s position give him/her a good viewing angle?
368  Does the AR’s position give him/her a good viewing angle?
369  Does the referee anticipate play and show good acceleration and speed?
370  Does the referee ensure to keep play between him/her and his or her assistant?
371  Is the referee’s position close enough for controlling the further development of the situation?
372  Is the lead AR within the referee’s field of vision?
373  Does the referee have a good angle of vision?
374  Was the referee in a good position to make the correct decision?
375  Does the referee’s position interfere with play?
376  Does the referee anticipate play and adjust his/her position?
# Celebration of a Goal

381 Did the celebration result in excessive time wasting?
382 Did the player make a gesture which was provocative?
383 Did the goal scorer climb onto the perimeter fencing to celebrate?
384 Did the player remove his/her shirt whilst celebrating?
385 Did the player cover his/her head with the shirt when celebrating?
386 Did the player use a mask to cover the head or face?
387 Did the player leave the field of play to celebrate?
388 Did the referee act in a preventative manner and exercise common sense?
389 Did the player jump into or go amongst the spectators to celebrate?
390 Did the goalscorer display a message on a under shirt or any other part of the equipment?
391 Were the goalscorer’s actions excessive and creating safety concerns for the spectators?
392 Does the player approach the spectators in a manner which may cause safety and/or security issues?
393 Should the player be cautioned for the excessive celebration of a goal and the goal has been cancelled?

# Delaying the Restart of Play

401 Does the player delay the goalkeeper from distributing the ball into play?
402 Does the player provoke the referee into deliberately receiving a caution?
403 Should the referee consider if the player heard the whistle and clearly tried to delay the restart of play?
404 Did the player delay the restart of play by deliberately kicking the ball away?
405 Does the goalkeeper delay the re-start of play, if so, how?
406 Does the injured player use/extend the delay unfairly for a tactical reason?
Video Assistant Referee

Line of Intervention

407 Was the referee assisted by VAR in the event of a ‘clear and obvious error’ or ‘serious missed incident’?
408 Was the incident related to a goal/no goal situation?
409 Was the incident related to a penalty/no penalty situation?
410 Was the incident related to a direct red card (not second caution) situation?
411 Was the incident related to a case of mistaken identity in which the referee cautions or sends off the wrong player of the offending team?

Communication

412 Did the referee give the VAR clear/detailed information when the initial decision was made?
413 Did the VAR/AVAR communicate clearly and accurately?
414 Did the VAR communicate information or only state the decision?
415 For an ‘on-field review’, did the VAR explain to the referee what was going to be shown on the referee review area’s screen?
416 Did the referee make it clear which other angles/speeds were needed?

Review Process

417 Was the first/original decision (including disciplinary action) made by the referee or assistant referee?
418 Was it necessary for the VAR to confirm with the referee that no ‘clear and obvious error’ or ‘serious missed incident’ occurred?
419 Did the referee accept the recommendation of the VAR for a ‘review’?
420 Did the referee have to stop play for the ‘review’?
421 Did the referee delay the restart of play when it was required?
422 Did the players try to restart the game to avoid a ‘check’ or ‘review’?
423 Did the referee change his/her original decision after the ‘review’?
424 Was the final decision made by the referee based solely on the information from the VAR (without an ‘on-field review’)?
425 Was the final decision made by the referee after an ‘on-field review’?
426 Did the referee use the ‘on-field review’ for a factual decision to help manage the players/match or to enhance the credibility of his/her decision?
427 Was the referee asked by the players or team officials to review an incident?
428 Did the VAR/referee use slow motion replays for the fact:
   a. position of the offence?
   b. position of the player(s) in an offside/denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity situation?
   c. point of contact for a physical offence/handball situation?
   d. ball out of play (including goal/no goal)?

429 Did the VAR/referee use normal speed for the intensity of an offence or to decide if a handball offence occurred?

430 Did the referee leave the referee review area and then return for another look?

431 Did the referee/VAR ‘check/review’ the attacking possession phase before the goal/penalty/denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity incident?

432 Did the referee undertake a ‘review’ for a case of mistaken identity when play has stopped and restarted?

433 Did the referee undertake a ‘review’ for a potential sending-off offence when play has stopped and restarted?

434 Was the referee surrounded by players or team officials before, during or after an on-field review?

435 Was the referee surrounded by players when he indicated a penalty kick after an on-field review?

436 Did the referee remain ‘visible’ during the review process to ensure transparency?

437 Did the VAR inform the referee how to restart the game in case of the penalty kick being cancelled?

438 Was it necessary to cancel the sanction after cancelling the penalty kick?

439 Should the sanction remain after cancelling the penalty kick?
Procedures

440 Did the assistant referee delay the flag signal for a tight offside situation?
441 Did the assistant referee delay the flag signal for a tight ‘ball in/out’ situation?
442 Did the referee delay the whistle when it was required (e.g. when there was a chance of a goal being scored)?
443 Did the referee delay the whistle when the assistant referee raised flag for tight offside or ‘ball in/out’ situation?
444 Did the referee signal a ‘check’ by clearly holding a finger to the earpiece/headset and extending the other hand/arm?
445 Was a ‘check’ signal maintained until the ‘check’ was completed?
446 Did the referee stop play when the ball was in a neutral zone/situation?
447 Did the referee stop play quickly enough?
448 Did the referee indicate that a ‘review’ will be taking place by clearly showing the ‘TV signal’?
449 Did the referee indicate that the ‘review’ was completed by clearly showing the ‘TV signal’?
450 Did the referee show the ‘TV signal’ after the ‘review’ away from the technical areas?
451 Did the referee confirm the final decision immediately after the ‘TV signal’ that followed the ‘review’?
452 Did the referee restart the game correctly (especially if the original decision was changed)?
453 Did the players remain on the field of play during the ‘review’ process?
454 Did the substitutes and team officials remain off the field of play during the ‘review’ process?
455 Was a player/substitute/substituted player who excessively showed the ‘TV signal’ or entered the referee review area cautioned?
456 Was a team official who excessively showed the ‘TV signal’ or entered the referee review area publicly cautioned?
457 Did a player/substitute/substituted player or team official try to enter the video operation room?
458 Did the referee clearly communicate on the field when a disciplinary sanction was changed?
459 Did the fourth official inform both technical areas about changes of a disciplinary sanction?
Role of the On-Field / Video Match Officials

460 Did the AVAR continue watching the live TV footage while the VAR was busy with a ‘check’ or a ‘review’?

461 Did the AVAR describe to the VAR what was happening and what the referee was doing while the VAR was busy with a ‘check’ or a ‘review’?

462 Did the AVAR assist the VAR’s communication with the referee, telling referee to stop play or delay the restart?

463 Did the AVAR record the time ‘lost’ when play was delayed for a ‘check’ or a ‘review’?

464 Did the AVAR keep a record of the game’s goals, substitutions, cautions and sending-offs?

465 Did the AVAR keep a record of VAR-related incidents and any communication or technology problems?

466 Was the location of the offence (inside or outside the penalty area) checked by the VAR?

467 Were the best angles/replay speeds selected by the VAR for the referee?

468 Were the slow motion replays used for a factual decision?

469 How many screens were used in the particular situation?

470 Did the VAR select the best (freeze) picture of the moment the ball was kicked for offside decision?

471 Did the VAR select the best (freeze) picture for the point of contact?

472 Did the VAR recommend ‘on-field review’ for offside decision (interfere with an opponent or gaining an advantage)?

473 Was normal speed used for the ‘intensity’ of an offence or to decide if a handball was ‘deliberate’?

474 Did the VAR/AVAR confirm the number of a player who was cautioned/sent-off?

475 Did the assistant referees and fourth official control the players and technical areas when the referee was busy with a ‘review’?

Attacking Possession Phase

476 Was a possible offence by the attacking team in the APP checked?

477 Did the VAR check the APP for decisions/incidents relating to goals, penalty/no penalty and red cards for denying a goal of an obvious goal-scoring opportunity?

478 Did the VAR/AVAR correctly identify the start of the APP?

479 Did the VAR/AVAR correctly identify the end of the APP (‘reset’)?
## A. Cautionable Offences - Reasons to Show a Yellow Card

### A1 Unsporting Behaviour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Offence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>501</td>
<td>Charges an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<td>502</td>
<td>Jumps at an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>Kicks an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<td>504</td>
<td>Pushes an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<td>505</td>
<td>Strikes an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<td>506</td>
<td>Tackles or challenges an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<td>507</td>
<td>Trips an opponent in a reckless manner</td>
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<tr>
<td>508</td>
<td>Commits a handball offence which is moving in the direction of the goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>509</td>
<td>Handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>Handles the ball in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>511</td>
<td>Attempts to deceive the referee</td>
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<tr>
<td>512</td>
<td>Attempts to deceive the referee by feigning injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>513</td>
<td>Attempts to deceive the referee by pretending to have been fouled (simulation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>514</td>
<td>Commits a foul to interfere with a promising attack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
515 Commits a foul to stop a promising attack
516 Handles the ball to interfere with a promising attack
517 Handles the ball to stop a promising attack
518 Despite receiving a warning, continuously holding an opponent before the ball is in play
519 Despite receiving a warning, continuously holding an opponent after the ball is in play
520 Plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
521 Verbally distracts an opponent during play
522 Verbally distracts an opponent at a restart
523 Unfairly distracts or impedes the thrower by moving closer than 2m (2 yards) where the throw-in is to be taken
524 Makes unauthorised marks on the field of play
525 Uses a deliberate trick to pass the ball to the own goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law
526 Uses a deliberate trick to pass the ball from a free kick to the own goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law
527 Gesturing in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way
528 Feinting to kick the ball once the kicker has completed the run-up
529 Does not comply to leave the field of play on a stretcher or on foot after the referee has authorised the doctors and/or stretcher-bearers to enter the field of play
530 Gains an unfair advantage by re-entering the field of play, after having left the field of play for a tactical reason
531 Distracts an opponent, after having left the field of play for a tactical reason
532 Changes place with the goalkeeper without the referee’s permission
533 Throws an object at an opponent or other person in a reckless manner
534 Throws the ball at an opponent or any other person in a reckless manner
535 Shows a lack of respect for the game
536 Unsporting behaviour against a match official
537 Unsporting behaviour against a team-mate
538 Unsporting behaviour against any other person
539 Takes a penalty kick without being identified to take the kick
540 Plays in a dangerous manner with obvious risk of injury to an opponent
541 Before the ball is in play (from penalty kick), goalkeeper infringes the Laws of the Game and the ball does not enter the goal
542 Kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again in reckless manner
543 Throws the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again in reckless manner
544 Unsporting behaviour not previously mentioned
A2  Celebration of a Goal

- Climbing onto a perimeter fence
- Gesturing in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way
- Covering the head or face with a mask or other similar item
- Removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt

A3  Dissent by Word or Action

- Shows dissent by protesting verbally against a referee’s decision
- Shows dissent by protesting non-verbally (gesture) against a referee’s decision
- Shows dissent by protesting verbally against an assistant referee’s decision
- Shows dissent by protesting non-verbally (gesture) against an assistant referee’s decision
- Shows dissent by hitting the ball on the ground
- Shows dissent by clapping hands after a referee’s decision

A4  Persistent Offences

A5  Delaying the Restart of Play

- Appearing to take a throw-in but suddenly leaving it to a teammate to take
- Delaying leaving the field of play when being substituted
- Excessively delaying a restart
- Kicking the ball away after the referee has stopped play
- Carrying the ball away after the referee has stopped play
- Provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play
- Taking a free kick from the wrong position to force a retake
- Deliberately preventing a free kick being taken quickly
- Excessively celebrating a goal resulting in excessive time-wasting
A6  Failure to Respect the Required Distance when Play is Restarted with a Corner Kick, Free Kick or Throw-In

565  Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick
566  Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a free kick
567  Failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a throw-in

A7  Entering or Re-Entering the Field of Play without the Referee’s Permission

568  Entering the field of play without the referee’s permission
569  Re-entering the field of play without the referee’s permission

A8  Deliberately Leaving the Field of Play without the Referee’s Permission

570  Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee’s permission
571  Deliberately leaving the field of play to put an opponent in an offside position unfairly

A9  Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity within Own Penalty Area and Referee Awards a Penalty Kick

572  Attempts to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
573  There is a possibility to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
B. Sending-off Offences - Reasons to Show a Red Card

B1 Denying the Opposing Team a Goal or an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity

574 Denying the opposing team a goal by a handball offence
575 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by holding an opponent
576 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by pulling an opponent
577 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by pushing an opponent
578 Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence
579 Player commits an offence (outside own penalty area), which is punishable by a free kick, against an opponent who is moving towards the player’s goal, denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
580 Does not attempt to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
581 There is no possibility to play the ball when commits an offence against an opponent within own penalty area which denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity
### B2 Serious Foul Play

| 582  | Charges an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball |
| 583  | Jumps at an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball |
| 584  | Kicks an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball |
| 585  | Pushes an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball |
| 586  | Strikes an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball |
| 587  | Tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent |
| 588  | Tackle or challenge that uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent |
| 589  | Trips an opponent using excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball |
| 590  | Lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball with excessive force or endangering the safety of an opponent |

### B3 Bites or Spits at Someone

### B4 Violent Conduct

<p>| 592  | Uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball |
| 593  | Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball |
| 594  | Uses excessive force or brutality against a team-mate |
| 595  | Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a team-mate |
| 596  | Uses excessive force or brutality against a team official |
| 597  | Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a team official |
| 598  | Uses excessive force or brutality against a match official |
| 599  | Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a match official |
| 600  | Uses excessive force or brutality against a spectator |
| 601  | Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a spectator |
| 602  | Uses excessive force or brutality against any other person |
| 603  | Attempts to use excessive force or brutality against any other person |
| 604  | Throws an object at an opponent or other person using excessive force |
| 605  | Throws the ball at an opponent or any other person using excessive force |
| 606  | Deliberately strikes an opponent on head or face with a hand or arms when not challenging for the ball |
| 607  | Deliberately strikes any other person on head or face with a hand or arms when not challenging for the ball |
| 608  | Kicks the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again using excessive force |
| 609  | Throws the ball at an opponent in order to play the ball again using excessive force |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B5</strong></td>
<td>Using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B6</strong></td>
<td>Receiving a Second Caution in the Same Match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B7</strong></td>
<td>Sending-Off for an Offence not Previously Mentioned in Law 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Reasons to Warn, Caution or Send off a Team Official

C1 Reasons to Warn a Team Official

615 Entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
616 Failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. Ignoring an instruction/request from the assistant referee or the fourth official
617 Minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
618 Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offence

C2 Reasons to Caution –but not limited to– a Team Official

621 Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team’s technical area
622 Delaying the restart of play by their team
623 Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
624 Dissent by word or action including throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match official(s) e.g. Sarcastic clapping
625 Entering the referee review area (RRA)
Excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card  
Excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR ‘review’  
Gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner  
Persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)  
Showing a lack of respect for the game  

Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. Holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player, etc.  
Deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner  
Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner  
Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play  
Entering the field of play to confront a match official (including at the half-time and full-time), interfering with play, an opposing player or match official  
Entering the video operation room (VOR)  
Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. Ball boy/girl, security or competition official, etc.)  
Receiving a second caution in the same match  
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures  
Using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment  
Violent conduct
Law 5
“The referee:

• […] Provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, including information on disciplinary action and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match.”

The referee’s report will be consulted by the appropriate authorities for any disciplinary action / sanction to be taken against players, substitutes, team officials, etc.

The report will be used as reference for further disciplinary sanctions, where necessary, based on:

• The Laws of the Game
• AFC Disciplinary & Ethics Code

Disciplinary offences committed must be reported according to the Laws of the Game.

• Player’s name, number, team, etc.;
• Description of the incident; and
• Accurate details as per Law 12 (refer to sections A & B: Reasons to show a yellow / red card)

When required, the supplementary report section must be filled in.

Remember the “AFC Rule”:

A - Accurate
F - Factual
C - Concise & brief

The supplementary report must be submitted without delay.

In the event of any sending-off offences, the report must be submitted immediately after the match.
Law 5
“Disciplinary action

- Takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction. A medical team official who commits a sending-off offence may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention.”

Further sanction subject to the AFC Disciplinary & Ethics Code (Article 48):

A team official is sent off if he/she commits any of the following three offences:

- **Throwing of tantrums, water bottles on or off the field, kicking of property, uttering vulgarities and profanities to the match officials, opponents etc.**
- **Attacking match officials, opponents on or off the field of play, kicking, holding and pushing etc. in an aggressive manner.**
- **Biting or spitting at the match officials, opponents etc., or on the ground to display anger at and disagreement with decisions by the match officials etc.**

The AFC Disciplinary & Ethics Code consider the following as offences (Section 2: Offences):

- Any party whose conduct brings the game into disrepute;
- Involvement in a brawl;
- Causing damage to property before, during, or after a match;
- Team misconduct: any team of which at least five (5) individuals have been sanctioned (caution or expulsion) by the referee during a match or any team where several individuals threaten or harass match officials or other persons during a match;
- Anyone who publicly incites others to hatred or violence;
- Anyone who provokes the general public during a match;
- A player who was fielded in a match despite being ineligible;
- A team that refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which has begun;
- Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions;
- Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats or uses violence or threats to pressure a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely; and
- Improper conduct undertaken by spectators: violence towards persons or objects, Letting off incendiary devices or fire, flashing lasers, throwing objects, displaying insulting, religious, or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, pitch invasion, flying drones, and any other type of misconduct.
Further details to include in the referee’s report:

- Any delay kick-off offences due to failure of the necessary number of ambulances or medical staff being in place at the appropriate times, floodlight or security failures, etc;
- The reasons and circumstances of the delay must be mentioned in the report, despite taking place before or after the match, or during half-time;
- The time of incident and the length of the delay must be stated in the report.

Details to include in the supplementary report:

- ONLY sending-off offences (players, substitutes and team officials)
- The reasons and circumstances of the delay must be mentioned in the report, despite taking place before or after the match, or during half-time;
- The time of the incident, player’s name, jersey number and team must be included in the report.

Elements of a well-written match report

A good match report will ensure questions relevant to who, what, when, where, how and why are completed for each incident. The emphasis placed on each of these questions will vary based on the type and complexity of the incident.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>Who is reporting the incident?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Who was affected?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>What happened? (Include incident type and identify details)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What are the characteristics of the incident?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What initial actions did you take?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is the incident severity rating (ISR) at the time of the incident report?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>When did the incident occur?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Where did the incident occur?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How and Why</td>
<td>Why and how did the incident occur?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What factors contributed?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• State the **FACTS** - avoid opinions and inferences
• **CONCISE** - give enough information clearly and in a few words
• **COMPLETE** - Who, What, When, Where, Why and How
• **UNDERSTANDABLE** - Present thoughts in an organised, chronological manner; good grammar and spelling, and avoid abbreviations
• **PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE** - Document the chain of custody of all equipment and supplies affiliated with the incident

It may seem contradictory to say that a report should be both complete and concise. However, concise means ensuring all the important details are included. Omit words that do not add value and that interfere with readability.

Well-written reports are factual, fair and impartial. A fact is something real that can be either proved or disproved. Opinions and inferences should be avoided.