



2023 Points of Emphasis for Referees



**ONE NATION.
ONE TEAM.**



Delaying the Restart

Is the opponent:

- 1- Trying to retrieve the ball
- 2- Looking to put the ball into play
- 3- Is the defending team in a position to defend?
- 4- Did the action create an advantage for the offending team and/or a disadvantage for the opposing team?

What is the impact?

Timing: when the whistle blows

Distance to defend



Q&A

After the referee has stopped play and awarded a free kick to Team A, an opponent (Team B player) picks the ball up and holds to prevent the free kick being taken. What is the correct decision?

Team B player must be cautioned (yellow card) for delaying the restart of play. Play is restarted according to the previous decision (free kick).



Stopping a Promising Attack

Speed / Space / Location

- 1- Direction to goal
- 2- Control of the ball or the likelihood to control the ball
- 3- Position of the attackers / defenders
- 4- Likelihood of creating a goal scoring opportunity

A handball stopping a shot on goal

Blatant / Cynical Holding is UB for Deliberate Holding



Dissent / Mobbing

Dissent by word

- Personal
- Provocative

Dissent by action

- Public
- Aggressive
- Slamming the ball down
- Challenging the authority of the match official



Dissent / Mobbing

- Mobbing (Surround the official)
- Coordinated effort
- Aggressive
- Pressure the referee to change their decision



Persistent Offenses

A player repeatedly commits fouls or other infractions throughout a game

A player who participates in a pattern of fouls directed at an opponent

No specific number or pattern of offenses constitutes persistent.

Key word → “pattern”





Stoppage / Additional Time

- Allowance is made by the referee in each half for all playing time lost in that half through:
 - Substitution
 - Assessment / Removal of injured players
 - Wasted Time
 - Disciplinary Sanctions
 - Medical stoppages permitted by the competition rules
 - Delay relating to VAR 'checks' and 'reviews'
 - Any other cause, including any significant delay to a celebration



THANK YOU