

CRITICAL GAME SITUATIONS

Critical Game Situations

- Most issues are our own fault as referees
- Analyze your games, work on making improvements, become a student of the game

Game Control Problems

- Problems start small
- Not always noticed
- If certain incidents go unsettled it will always result in a game control problem

3 Most Critical Situations

Tackles from Behind

Why is it a problem?

- It's unfair
- No defense against it
- Players want protection and justice
- Upsets players
- Extremely dangerous
- Committed by unfair players

Harassing the Goalkeeper

Why is it a problem?

- Action is expected
- Forbidden by the Laws
- Reaction at all levels
- Game goes to a "bad" level
- Player frustration
- Seen more often than other unfair play
- Laws offer special protection
- Teammates seem more protective

Encroachment

- Occurs at:
 - Free kicks
 - Penalty kicks
 - Corner kicks
 - Goal kicks
 - Kick offs
 - Throw-ins
- Common characteristics
 - all involve restarts
 - done intentionally
 - done to delay restart
 - done to gain an unfair advantage
- Dangers of encroachment
 - game control

- frustration
 - perceived lack of ref quickness and firmness
 - what's fair for the goose... (treat both teams fairly)
 - directed at your authority
- THERIN IS THE DANGER SIGNAL

Other Critical Game Situations

Trouble with player

- When it occurs
 - Run to player
 - Talk face to face
 - Address him/her solely
 - Get your point across

DON'T WALK INTO TROUBLE

- When speaking to a player
 - Directly and calmly
 - Say it and **mean it**
 - Don't wave finger
 - Don't belittle or intimidate

- Eye contact
 - Look as you approach
 - Look at players during play
 - Look around and off the ball
 - Make sure they see you looking

- Be vocally decisive
 - No need to shout
 - Say it simply, quickly and in a normal voice
 - Don't scold
 - Address players neutrally
 - Avoid the use of "son"

Use whistle to reinforce decisiveness

- Sharp blast decisive
- No tooting
- Sound as if you mean it
- Harder blast – serious event
- Overuse = lost of effectiveness

Disagreement possible problem

- Ball in touch
- You signal and show proper direction
- Other team's player picks up the ball to throw

Solution? Reconfirm decision

- React quickly – don't think
- Whistle & point
- Hold the signal

Problem solving on the field

The 8 remedies for problem solving on the field can be summarized in 5 words:

- Realize
- Avoid
- Protect
- Establish
- Set

Remedies

- Realize you have a problem
- Realize game control is important
- Avoid repetitions
- Avoid more serious incidents
- Avoid player confrontations

Protect – Establish – Set

- Protect player – avoid retaliation
- Establish your authority
- Set the tone of the game

In addition:

- Know your intent – apply
- Penalize the 1st offense
- Take quick action
- No advantage – or follow up asap
- Treat the incident firmly and seriously
- Know your options
- Make everyone aware