



Critical Match Incident Marking National Assessment Program

February 19, 2009

This policy is applicable to **all**
National Referees and National Referee Candidates.
It may be used as a guideline for other levels of officials.

In deciding the final mark or scoring of a match official, the assessor must consider the overall performance as well as the accuracy and credibility of “critical match” decisions. If a **key error** is detected, the assessor **must** assume that it has been seen or should have been seen by at least one (but maybe more than one) match official.

If the “critical match incident” is missed due to a **serious and/or obvious** error of judgment and/or lack of control, the mark given the match official must be reflected by:

Deducting ten (10) points/marks.

In other words, when a **serious and/or obvious error** occurs relating to a “critical match incident,” a grade or mark of ten (10) is to be deducted from the overall mark awarded.

Critical Match Incidents: Definition

If a match official fails to deal with any of the “critical match incidents” listed below and such failure results in “the outcome of the game being affected,” then the performance of the official(s) should be impacted by deducting ten (10) points.

A “Critical Match Incident” must be one of the following:

- Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity (DOGSO) dealt with incorrectly;
- A clear and obvious serious foul play/violent conduct send off not correctly dealt with;
- Not calling a penalty kick that is obvious or incorrectly awarding a penalty kick that is clearly not;
- Incorrectly allowing a goal that should be disallowed or not allowing a goal that should be given (including offside decisions for assistant referees);
- Not sending off a player after he/she has received a second yellow card;
- Incorrect application of the Laws of the Game;
- Any other incident that has a significant affect on the match that requires further examination on the part of the assessor.

Not recognizing and/or correctly dealing with the aforementioned “critical match incidents” includes those “critical match incidents” that *should have been seen/observed and dealt with or were seen/observed but dealt with incorrectly.*

Affecting the Outcome of the Game:

- “Affecting the outcome of the game” often times depends upon the final result of the game. For example, if an obvious and clear penalty kick is missed in a 4-0 game, the “affect” on the game may be lessened. This, however, does not minimize the impact of the missed call on the referee’s overall match performance rating.
- In some instances, the failure to correctly address one of the aforementioned factors when the outcome of the game is NOT affected, may also lead to an unacceptable performance given the referee’s overall performance and/or the significance of the error in performance.

Collective Responsibility:

- There may be occasions where there is collective responsibility by match officials in missing a “critical match incident.” In such cases, two or more match officials could be culpable and all their final marks should reflect this.

Marking/Scoring

A single “critical match incident” may not be **double counted** by an assessor. For example, if there is a Law 12 error involving a “critical match incident” and the ten (10) points are deducted, there may be no further deduction for this error in the overall report. However, if the assessor is of the opinion that a match official makes another Law 12 error of judgment(s) that is not a “critical match incident,” this should be reflected in the final mark and reference made in the report narrative (e.g. missed cautions).

The following is an example of the methodology to be used:

Example 1

Mark/Grade Awarded:	78
Less Serious/Obvious Error:	<u>10</u>
Final Mark:	68

Example 2

Mark/Grade Awarded:	78
Less Serious/Obvious Error 1:	10
Less Serious/Obvious Error 2:	<u>10</u>
Final Mark:	58

Critical Match Incident Reporting

For professional matches in which a video, DVD, or replay of the “critical match incident” is available, the assessor must view the incident prior to making the ten (10) point deduction.

In situations where a video, DVD, or replay is not available, the assessor must make his/her decision based upon the view the assessor had of the “critical match incident” as well as the obvious/serious nature of the incident. The assessor may also take into consideration the match official’s interpretation of events.

Not Acceptable Performance Assessments:

- For professional matches in which the assessor has been assigned by the National Office, a “not acceptable” performance assessment (whether it involves a “critical match incident” or not) may not be released until the assessment has been approved by the National Office.

Notation on the Assessment Form:

- When making the ten (10) point deduction on the assessment form, the assessor must specifically state in the “Overview” section of the form that points are being deducted for missing a “critical match incident.” This must be accompanied by a description of the incident and why it met the criteria.