Referee Laws of the Game Update

Fall 2010

2 Items

- Substitution of injured players
  - If injured players from each team is attended to for a possible injury at the same time, neither player has to leave the field.
- Feinting during a penalty kick
  - USSF Position paper dated 04/05/2001

Feinting at the Taking of a Penalty Kick

- The International Board has reasoned that, since a penalty kick is awarded for a violation which otherwise would cause play to be restarted with a direct free kick, the team taking the kick should have at least some of the same latitude which is given for a direct free kick restart. <u>It is permissible to feint at the taking of a direct free kick</u> (Question 6 under Law 13 notes that "feinting tactics to confuse opponents" are permitted and are "part of football").

Feinting at the Taking of a Penalty Kick

- Nevertheless, referees must still decide if any particular action by the kicker is clearly unsporting. An example of this was seen recently in a pre-season MLS game. The kicker ran past the ball, backed up, during which time various players (teammates and opponents) entered the penalty area, the penalty arc, or moved closer than 12 yards from the goal line, and the goalkeeper moved off the line. This sort of conduct, which produced mass confusion, should be whistled immediately upon seeing the movement past the ball, the kicker cautioned, and play resumed in accordance with Law 14.

Feinting at the Taking of a Penalty Kick

- The kicker should also be considered <u>guilty of misconduct</u> if his behavior before actually kicking the ball results in unnecessary delay in restarting play (for example, by excessively changing direction during the run to the ball). Where possible, this also should be dealt with before the ball is kicked.

Feinting at the Taking of a Penalty Kick

- However, in situations where the manner of taking the kick is deemed unsporting but the referee is unable to stop play before the kick occurs, the referee must follow Law 14 by allowing the kick to proceed. If the ball goes into the goal, the penalty kick is retaken after cautioning the kicker for unsporting behavior. If the ball does not enter the goal, play continues and the kicker should be cautioned at the next stoppage of play.

Feinting at the Taking of a Penalty Kick

- USSF paper “7 + 7 Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
  - Added “q. At a penalty kick, feints to kick the ball once the run-up to the ball has been completed”