

Referee Coaching Criteria 2023

The marking scale to be used for Referee Coaches has been adapted from the FIFA Marking Scale. Coaches should follow the instructions and apply the evaluation criteria issued.

The purpose of observing referees and assistant referees in matches is:

- Provide reports giving evaluative appraisal of the performances of match officials
- Ensure a uniform and consistent interpretation of the Laws of the Game are applied
- Issue verbal and written assessments of performances to Match Officials

The purpose of the Coaches report form is:

- Achieve uniformity in the marking of match officials
- Award Referees and Assistant Referees marks within the prescribed scale which reflects the individual's performance and the nature of their task
- Submit the report within a defined time frame following the end of the match
- Provide specific and accurate examples within the report to support the comments

| Mark | Description |
|---|---|
| 9.0 - 10.0 | An excellent performance in a very challenging match |
| 8.8 - 8.9 | One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An excellent performance in a challenging match • A very good performance in a very challenging match |
| 8.6 - 8.7 | One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very good performance in a challenging match • A good performance in a very challenging match |
| 8.5 | One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very good performance in a normal match • A good performance in a challenging match |
| 8.3 - 8.4 | A good performance in a normal match |
| 8.2 | A satisfactory performance but with some small areas to be improved upon |
| 8.0 - 8.1 | A satisfactory performance that requires important areas for improvement |
| 7.9 | A performance which is below expectation with a clear refereeing mistake on a key match incident with some small areas to be improved upon |
| 7.8 | A performance which is below expectation with a clear refereeing mistake on a key match incident that requires important areas for improvement |
| 7.5 - 7.7 | The Referee had no clear mistakes but had a lack of overall control of the match and has significant points to improve |
| 7.0 - 7.4 | There was one clear refereeing mistake on a key match incident which directly affects the result of the match and other significant areas that require improvement; or There was more than one clear refereeing mistake on a key match incident which directly affects the result of the match and possibly other significant areas that require improvement |
| 6.0 - 6.9 | An unacceptable performance with clear refereeing mistakes on key match incidents, major disciplinary inconsistency and / or no match control |
| Evaluation scale for the Fourth Official | |
| The marking system of the Fourth Official is now similar to the marking of the other match officials and takes into account "the clear refereeing mistake system". A good performance should be marked between 8.3 - 8.4. If the Fourth Official deals positively with a special incident(s), the mark can be more than 8.3 - 8.4. In cases with more or less than 8.3 - 8.4, a clear explanation is expected within the report | |

"Clear refereeing mistakes"

1. Failure to recognise and action an obvious second yellow card offence
2. Failure to dismiss a player from the field of play for an obvious red card offence
3. Clear misjudgment of the award or non-award of a penalty kick
4. Major misinterpretation of the Laws of the Game
5. Incorrect offside judgements leading to a key match incident, i.e. a goal scored or disallowed, a penalty kick awarded, or a red card issued, **including through the misapplication of delayed flag protocol under VAR**

Degree of difficulty

The degree of difficulty is incorporated into the individual mark of each match official. The Coach now must decide and include the level of difficulty and the ability of each match official to deal with critical incidents. As a matter of information, the Coach shall indicate the level of difficulty from the summary table below. They must mention the important elements of the match officials' performances in their report, indicating the minutes when critical incidents occurred, in order to justify the final mark.

The level of difficulty includes the number of key match decisions combined with the intensity of the match. The intensity of the match can be determined based on numerous factors including but not limited to:

- the speed of the match
- the frequency/style of fouls committed (e.g. many reckless challenges)
- the attitude of the players and coaching staff (e.g. general aggression, high levels of dissent, melees)

| | Low intensity | Medium intensity | High intensity |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 KMIs | Normal | Normal | Challenging |
| 1-2 KMIs | Normal | Challenging | Very challenging |
| 3+ KMIs | Challenging | Very challenging | Very challenging |

Marking range (prior to deductions)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Excellent | A faultless performance and no identified areas for improvement. The match official proactively and positively influenced the management of the match. |
| Very good | A polished performance with no clear refereeing mistakes, important decisions made correctly, and only minor areas for improvement. The match official positively contributed to the management of the match. |
| Good | A performance expected of match officials in this league, however still having scope for targeted and ongoing development. Exhibited qualities which could have positively contributed to the management of the match but was not necessarily presented with such opportunities. |
| Satisfactory | A generally sound or average performance with scope for ongoing experience and continuing improvement. |

| | Good | Very good | Excellent |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Normal | 8.3 - 8.4 | 8.5 | N/A |
| Challenging | 8.5 | 8.6 - 8.7 | 8.8 - 8.9 |
| Very challenging | 8.6 - 8.7 | 8.8 - 8.9 | 9.0 - 10.0 |

Deductions and Clarifications

- A mark of 0.1 would be deducted when a Referee fails to caution a player for a clear yellow card offence or cautions a player incorrectly.
- The use of a bracketed marking scale can be used when there is only one KMI incorrect. If the referee receives a 7.8 then if but for this one KMI (which may be a difficult

decision) the mark would otherwise have been 8.0-8.2. Likewise, if the referee's mark is 7.9 and they make one incorrect difficult KMI, if but for this incorrect KMI, their mark would have been 8.3. This allows for greater analysis which provides for greater effectiveness when capturing performances.

- A clear refereeing mistake made by the referee must still result in a deduction even when the decision has been corrected after consultation with another Match Official (AR, 4O, VAR). The same principle also applies for Assistant Referee mistakes, including a misapplication of delayed flag protocols under VAR.
 - Example: A penalty kick and a yellow card is awarded by the referee but following intervention of the AR or VAR the decision is correctly overturned and play is restarted with a drop ball.
Although the decision is corrected, FFA cannot accept such mistakes by the Referee at this level and therefore the maximum mark applied must be 7.9, subject to any further clear refereeing mistakes or deductions.

Assistant referee performances

It is important to pay particular attention to the Assistant Referees. Offside decisions are often decisive in goal- scoring situations. The performance of the Assistant Referee also forms a crucial element of a good overall team performance. The Assistant Referee report must be completed carefully and accurately.