



Minnesota Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association

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It has come to our attention that we are missing or incorrectly calling offsides. This is not just one or two officials, but is becoming a trend we are seeing with MISOA officials based on many coaches' comments and clips. Below is our stance on offsides and some suggestions for improvement.

Please approach your offside calls with the following mind set.

1. Your job as assistant referee is not "to catch" players offsides and put up the flag. Your job is to encourage attacking football by being in the right position and punishing the offense only when necessary.
2. When at schools with football lines we want and need you to use these lines to your advantage in helping to judge offside infractions. This is not cheating. In fact it is the easiest way to keep yourself in line with the second to last defender by checking your position with him/her by using these lines to make micro adjustments. When at schools without lines find and use landmarks like fence posts and benches or signs etc.
3. When you do have a player who is offsides AND involved, your flag should come up slowly and confidently. We want you to only snap your flag when you think it will help get the referees attention, but this is used only sparingly. The referee should be checking and re-checking with you constantly anyway, and if the referee does not see your flag, simply shout his/her name.
4. Wait longer. We are seeing a lot of flag snaps when the decision is signaled. As mentioned above the flag snap is largely unnecessary. This type of signal indicates largely that the AR's are not waiting to replay the decision, making sure the player was truly offside or truly involved. You must wait a second longer. Referees, you must remember to visually check in with your AR on balls played in, and then you must remember to check in again a second time, especially when multiple players are involved.
5. Remember, while your duties as AR are many, the most critical is getting offsides decisions absolutely correct. These include the ones we call and the ones we do not call. They are all potential game changing decisions. So if you get all the other "stuff" right like throw-ins and goal kicks but blow a crucial offsides decision, your performance is not acceptable.
6. Finally, with regards to a player being involved once he/she touches the ball: If there is only one attacker who is chasing the ball to the end line and who will be judged offside once contact is made, and that player is the ONLY player chasing the ball, please raise your flag for offsides and save the defender and attacker a useless 40 yard sprint.

At the end of the day, we want you to get the calls right and support attacking soccer. If you are a bit slow but correct it is easy to support you 100%. In fact, better to be slow and have video evidence back you up, than to be quick and have the video show you wrong.

So.....wait.....replay.....judge involvement.....and if necessary raise flag slowly.

