



REVERSING A CALL: A RESOURCE FOR REFEREES

On the field the head referee is the final word on all calls. In an ideal world a head referee will not make a mistake, but it is not an ideal world and we must take responsibility for errors. There are certain situations that justify reversing a call and if necessary a head referee should avail themselves of this option.

CONDITIONS THAT ALLOW FOR REVERSAL

WHEN NEW INFORMATION COMES TO THE HEAD REFEREE'S ATTENTION.

A head referee should not make a call until they have utilized all information immediately apparent to them, so without additional input the referee should not change their mind.

WHEN THE CALL IS NOT AN INTERPRETIVE ONE.

On the field the head referee is the final word on rulebook interpretations. If a team disagrees, they have the option to appeal the game, but on the field the head referee must make the call to the best of their understanding and continue to call the game that way.

WHEN THE CALL IS REVERSED PRIOR TO PLAY RESUMING.

If the play has moved on it is impossible to fairly reverse a call.

The only acceptable source of information for overturning a call is from one of the game's other officials; claims from players, coaches, or spectators cannot affect a call or provide additional information.



NEW INFORMATION

Information from another official can only be used to reverse a call if the following conditions are met:

THE OTHER OFFICIAL HAD A DIFFERENT ANGLE ON THE ACTION

The official is not telling the head referee they were wrong, but rather that there was something they could not see.

THE OTHER OFFICIAL WITNESSED A DIFFERENT ACTION OR WAS PRIVY TO NEW INFORMATION THAT CHANGES THE CALL.

The other official witnessed a different action or was privy to new information that changes the call - a call should not be reversed simply because a different official didn't witness the same action as the head referee.

THE OTHER OFFICIAL PROPERLY ALERTS THE HEAD REFEREE.

If an assistant referee has information that meets the above criteria, they should alert the head referee as if they were alerting them to a foul.

PROCEDURE FOR REVERSING A CALL

1. The head referee is alerted by an official that other information exists.
2. The head referee confers with that official.
3. The head referee decides if the new information warrants a reversal.
4. The head referee corrects the call to the best of their ability including changing possession, adding/removing a goal, or reinstating/penalizing a player.

PROTIP! You do not need to talk to assistant referees after every stoppage, but before you make a call or before resuming play after a call is made, remember to look around to see if they are trying to get your attention.



EXAMPLES

SITUATION

The head referee calls a goal good via one long whistle and the scoring team hands the ball to the defending team. Before play is restarted via the short whistle, an assistant referee informs the head referee that they saw a beat that invalidated the goal.

OUTCOME

The head referee should discount the goal and return the quaffle to the scoring team since they had lost possession due to the referee's corrected call.

SITUATION

A player is given a yellow card for what appears to the head referee to be a trip. An assistant referee alerts the head referee that from their alternate angle, no contact had been made below the knee.

OUTCOME

The player is allowed to return to the pitch and the quaffle returns to the possession of the team that had it before the stoppage.