

A referee's phrasebook

What to say and when

The "accepted" explanations

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Why? 1

- ◆ Player is entitled to a brief explanation
- ◆ Guideline G19 : "may be appropriate to explain the decision.....referee may give a concise explanation...."
- ◆ Agreed phrases offer consistency to players
- ◆ A timely response gives players confidence

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Why? 2

- ◆ Agreed phrases prevent awkward referee silences
- ◆ Agreed phrases stop referees "making something up" in heat of moment
- ◆ A timely response shows referee knowledge, understanding and control
- ◆ Agreed phrases show consistency among referees

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And in 3 referee system?

- ◆ The giving of explanations by central referees is to be discussed at this very conference at a later session
- However
- ◆ This phrasebook is still necessary to help referees arrive at their decisions

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“No let” decisions 1– request made by striker

- ◆ There was no interference
- ◆ Interference was minimal (and did not prevent you getting to and playing the ball)
- ◆ You made the interference **or** you played the person, not the ball **or** you were taking an indirect line to the ball
- ◆ You would not have reached the ball

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“No let” decisions 2 (cont)

- ◆ You were not making every effort to reach the ball **or** You need to make more effort to play the ball
- ◆ You accepted the interference **or** you went past the interference and could have played the ball
- ◆ The ball was past you **or** you were not in a position to play the ball
- ◆ It was a winning shot (by your opponent)

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“Stroke” decisions – request by non-striker(unhappy at stroke)

- ◆ He had no shot to the front wall
- ◆ You made no effort to clear **or** you were unable to clear
- ◆ You prevented your opponent’s swing/shot/ winning shot **or** you were in his swing **or** you are crowding your opponent **or** you must give your opponent freedom of swing

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“Yes let” decisions – request from striker (looking for stroke)

- ◆ You had room to play **or** your opponent was clear
- ◆ Interference was some distance from ball
- ◆ There was interference on your swing/shot – it was not prevented
- ◆ You were still preparing your shot **or** you had not fully prepared
- ◆ The ball was too tight **or** you could not have played a winning shot

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“Yes let” decisions – request from non-striker (unhappy at let)

- ◆ There was interference
- ◆ You interfered with your opponent’s swing
- ◆ He would have reached the ball
- ◆ There was a fear of injury or it is a safety let

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Caution

- ◆ Try not to personalise explanations or imply negatives in player’s game e.g.
- ◆ “It was a weak shot”
- ◆ “You were too slow”
- ◆ “You are not that tall” (on a lob)
- ◆ “You made the wrong choice of shot”

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Confirming calls

- ◆ If questioned about an out, down, not up, etc.
- ◆ Play a let if genuinely unsure

- ◆ Use phrases such as “I saw the ball good, down, out”, etc. – better than “It was out, down”, etc.
- ◆ “I saw it good” – who can argue???

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Player views

- ◆ If both players agree a ball was up, down, etc., **accept it**, thank them, and alter a call if necessary.

- ◆ If, after giving an interference decision eg “stroke to ...”, players say “we are happy with a let”, do **not** change the decision – better to say “Thank you, but as referee, I saw a stroke situation” – and then stick with your decision

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And now

- ◆ Slides handout
- ◆ Comments
- ◆ Questions