

To: State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
State Directors of Referee Instruction
State Directors of Referee Assessment
National Referee Instructors and National Referee Instructor Trainers

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Re: Celebration of Goals

Date: March 19, 2001

The celebration of goals is a natural part of soccer and is not ordinarily an occasion for misconduct by the successful team. To keep such displays within reasonable limits, however, the practice in the past has been to caution players who take off their jersey or who leave the field to approach the spectator seats.

The International Board, at its recent meeting on March 10, 2001, has indicated that automatically punishing such specific acts should be discontinued. Instead, referees must look beyond the behavior of players celebrating goals and consider as misconduct only those actions which are provocative, obscene or insulting, or which unnecessarily delay the restart of play.

AK/m