



Memorandum

To: State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
State Directors of Referee Instruction
State Directors of Referee Assessment
National Referee Instructors and National Assessors
National Referees

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: Send-Offs for Receiving a Second Caution

Date: October 12, 2004

Recent incidents in several professional matches suggest that referees are hesitating to caution a player who has already been cautioned in the match as this would then require that the player be sent off and shown the red card. Referees must remember, however, that the purpose of this action is to remove from the field a player who has previously been officially notified through the first caution that the player's behavior is unacceptable and that, upon repetition, the player will not be permitted to take any further part in the game.

The "second caution send-off" does not distinguish among the various reasons for either the original caution or the second one. In other words, there is no requirement that the misconduct must be more "serious" or of the same type as that which caused the first caution.

Although no caution should be given lightly, a second caution carries the same result as the most serious conduct for which a player would earn a red card. Accordingly, referees should take care that the pattern of misconduct represented by the two cautions reflects behavior that truly is worthy of the player being sent from the field. In cases where the player's conduct on its own would warrant a caution regardless of the player's prior behavior, the referee must consider whether, **in addition and looking at the total pattern of behavior within the spirit and feel for the game**, the second instance of misconduct rises to the level of a send-off.

Where it does, the referee must not hesitate to take the necessary action. Where it does not, the referee should consider other means of encouraging proper behavior by the player, including increasingly assertive demonstrations of dissatisfaction with the player's conduct or increasingly severe verbal admonishments. In any event, full details of all misconduct, whether resulting in a card or not, must be included in the match report.