



FIFA Club World Cup Japan 2012

Quarterfinals

(JPN) Sanfrecce Hiroshima		1:2		Al-Ahly (EGY)
09 December 2012, 19:30 JST – Toyota Stadium, Toyota, Japan				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark ¹	Mark ²	Difficulty ³
Referee	Carlos VERA	ECU	7.9	8.4	challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Christian LESCANO	ECU	8.8	---	very challenging
Assistant Referee 2	Byron ROMERO	ECU	8.4	---	normal
Fourth Official	Alireza FAGHANI	IRN	8.0	---	normal
Reserve AR	Reza SOKHANDAN	IRN			
Blog-Referee Observer ⁴	Niclas E	GER			

¹ Final mark according to evaluation scale! (Expected level for fourth official is 8.0!)

² Mark if the final mark had not been influenced by a crucial mistake (only in case of a crucial mistake, to be held empty if no crucial mistake occurred).

³ Difficulty has to be integrated into the final mark. Levels of difficulty are: "normal", "challenging" and "very challenging".

⁴ Blog-Referee Observer = Inofficial referee observer appointed by our blogs' community

Evaluation scale	Description of the Marks
9.0 – 10.0	Excellent.
8.5 – 8.9	Very good. Important decision(s) correctly taken.
8.3 – 8.4	Good. Expected level.
8.2	Satisfactory with small areas for improvement.
8.0 – 8.1	Satisfactory with important areas for improvement.
7.9	One clear and important mistake, otherwise 8.3 or above.
7.8	One clear and important mistake, otherwise 8.0 – 8.2.
7.5 – 7.7	Below expectation, poor control, significant point(s) for improvement.
7.0 – 7.4	Disappointing. Below expectation with one and clear important mistakes or a performance with two or more clear and important mistakes.
6.0 – 6.9	Unacceptable.

Description of the match:

Second quarterfinal match of this edition of FIFA Club World Cup, played in Japan for the last time. It was furthermore the debut of Ecuador's Carlos Vera, who performed his first match on the way to Brazil 2014 in form of a FIFA organized tournament. For Al-Ahly, it was the first match since 2008 in this competition and finally, they managed their first win. Although Japan's champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima featured a pretty passionate play and created significantly more attempts than the other side, the Egyptians' cleverness and efficiency made the final impact on the result.

The match was played in front of a quite vigorous and friendly atmosphere. On the contrary, the weather conditions made it quite difficult for specially Al-Ahly, as it began to snow quite heavily around the 30th minute.

Referee

I. Knowledge, Application and Interpretation of the Laws of the Game, Disciplinary Control and Technical Management of the game with special reference to the situations and the minutes when they occurred.

(Crucial decisions, if available, have to be explicitly mentioned in the grid and highlighted).

Comments:

The referee had a sufficient and well-applied knowledge and interpretation of the Laws of the Game, including foul detection and basic things. He started to influence the match proactively in the 11th minute when Hiroshima's #7 committed a tactical foul to prevent a dangerous attack. The referee only admonished the player here, which was actually not enough. A yellow card would have been suitable. Immediately after that, he set his line by booking Al-Ahly's #11 for having trod on his opponent's foot when the ball was already away. Correct decisions also with regard to other yellow cards: in minute 35 yellow card to Hiroshima #8 for a reckless challenge, without totally hitting his opponent; also a yellow card for having impeded a quick execution of a free-kick against Al-Ahly #25 was ok. Two further bookings for fouls were adequate, too. Finally, two decisions must be outlined: still acceptable to not whistle foul against an Egyptian striker, who slightly undermined his opponent preceding the 1-2 goal. Could also be a foul, a borderline situation so that the officials' call is ok. However, the referee missed a penalty to Hiroshima in minute 38' when a striker was strongly and unfairly pushed from behind (defender clearly utilized his hand to push him), so that he was unable to reach a ball three or four metres in front of the empty goal. It would have been a penalty for DOGSO and a red card.

After a heavy injury of the Japanese in the 3rd minute of play, there was a four-minute suspension so that the additional time of the first half, 5 minutes, was absolutely justified.

Minute	Description of the situation
38	Missed a penalty to Hiroshima: a striker was strongly and unfairly pushed from behind and thus prevented from reaching a pass he would have certainly converted into a goal. If the referee gives penalty, the defender must be off for DOGSO.

II. Tactical approach and its Degree of Consistency, Personality, Match Control and Management of the Teams and Players with special reference to the situations and the minutes when they occurred.

Comments:

While the referee did not choose the most lenient line to handle this match, he did not whistle every contact either. It was therefore a consistent line the players were aware of leading to a lot of control.

The only weakness, if you can describe it as such, was that he completely relied on too many whistles, on his cards forgetting that some verbal interactions with players could have bolstered his authority and contributed to his management of the match (an exception is minute 11).

Apart from that, he was dissociated from the players and could have applied more personality.

Positive Points	1.	Consistency in his line, creating awareness among players for what is tolerated and what is considered as an infringement.
	2.	The match was under his full control throughout the whole match, he was respected by the players, decisions were mostly accepted without complaints.
	3.	Determination in his calls
Points to improve	1.	Deploy more personality here and there
	2.	Improve interaction with players, recognize communication as another form to lead the match
	3.	It's not necessary to always run very quickly to the positions where fouls occurred, making a call and standing still at his original position is enough; running quickly to a foul position should be reserved for more serious infringements.

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Minute	Description of the situation

III. Physical Shape, Stamina, Positioning, Movement as well as Mental Awareness, if needed, with reference to the minutes when they occurred, always in case of a “-“.

Physical Condition (very good, good, average, poor): Good.

Further Aspects:

+	Expected	-	
	X		Always close to play, follows play at all times with a flexible diagonal system and impedes interference with play
	X		Efficient positioning (at set pieces e.g.) and movement to be ready to take a (crucial) decision (specially in the box; be able to enter the box in some cases when it is necessary)
	X		Shows awareness and is able to anticipate the action

Minute	Description of the situation

IV. Teamwork (co-operation with (A)ARs and fourth official with reference, if needed, to special situations and the minutes when they occurred)

Comments:

Both assistant referees supported the referee basically with offside and onside decisions; there were not so many situations in their vicinity when fouls could have been detected. One meaningful exception is that AR1 let down his flag preceding the 1-2 and did not indicate the undermining of a player, which finally was acceptable. So in the end a normal degree of teamwork, the crew was not that much challenged.

V. If needed: General comments or advices for improvement; explanation of the chosen mark; further matters (can be let empty).

Comments:

In general, the referee's performance revealed several of his skills. Nonetheless, he should have given a penalty, which is to be counted as a crucial mistake, as it was actually pretty obvious. Apart from that, the mark would have been between 8.3 and 8.4. As FIFA does not know the term “crucial mistake” in their evaluation scale, it is possible we see this referee again, if not at this competition, then surely at one of next year's FIFA tournaments.

Assistant Referee 1

Assistant referee's performance (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

Relevant Aspects:

+	Expected	-	
X			Correct offside decisions by means of a good application of the "wait and see"-technique
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity
	X		Reasonable degree of co-operation with referee (not flagging too much/too little; being able to support referee in crucial decisions)
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

Comments:

The first assistant referee had a very challenging evening. He had to make more than ten critical offside decisions, due to a lack of replays in some of these situations, I have to rely on the impression of either blurred replays or the action in full pace. According to that, everything was right. Doubts remain about his decision in the 17th minute, it rather seemed to be level. He could have perhaps seen the hard push in the middle which should have entailed a penalty, but this was clearly the referee's area of responsibility. Before this specific situation, he made an excellent onside decision, one of many (minutes 2, 17, 21, 22, 25, 38, 42, 45+4, 73, 88 and 90). Very good performance.

Minute	Description of the situation

Assistant Referee 2

Assistant referee's performance (please mention some important decisions either by integrating them into a coherent comment or mentioning them in the grid below; mandatory if a "-" (negative point) is selected)

Relevant Aspects:

+	Expected	-	
	X		Correct offside decisions by means of a good application of the "wait and see"-technique
	X		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity
	X		Reasonable degree of co-operation with referee (not flagging too much/too little; being able to support referee in crucial decisions)
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

Comments:

Although the second assistant referee was obviously less employed than his colleague on the other side of the pitch, he also had to take a couple of important offside decisions. In the 4th minute, he correctly let the flag down leading to a first 100% goal attempt of Al-Ahly. Then, in minutes 51 and 60, there were obvious

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offsides to be detected by him; last but not least, he had to take a very difficult onside decision when Hisato appeared freely in front of the goalkeeper and nearly scored. The decision was correct, but many Egyptian players protested, which led a yellow card for dissent.

Minute	Description of the situation

Fourth Official

Fourth official's performance (reference to technical management like substitutions or signalling of additional time, dealing with benches in case of conflicts)

Comments:

The fourth official did not have to cope with any extra-ordinary event and executed everything in a reasonable manner. 8.0.