

UEFA Champions League 2012 / 2013

Round of 16

(ESP) Valencia CF		1:2		Paris S.G. (FRA)
12 February 2013, 20:45 CET – Estadi di Mestalla – Valencia – Spain				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark ¹	Mark ²	Difficulty ³
Referee	Paolo Tagliavento	ITA	7.8	8.2	Normal
Assistant Referee 1	Mauro Tonolini	ITA	7.8	8.2	Challenging
Assistant Referee 2	Lorenzo Manganeli	ITA	8.4	---	Challenging
Additional AR 1	Andrea De Marco	ITA	7.9	---	Challenging
Additional AR 2	Antonio Damato	ITA	8.0	---	Normal
Fourth Official	Riccardo Di Fiore	ITA	8.0	---	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	Donald McVicar	SCO			
Blog-Referee Observer ⁴	Turan Oz.	USA			

¹ Final mark according to evaluation scale. Expected level for AARs and fourth official is 8.0, crucial mistake 7.9 as usual!

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 the blog administrator.

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:

The match was played in Valencia's Mestalla stadium. The stadium wasn't full house but it was almost full with a good crowd eager to watch some good football. The weather was very good to play football and the spectators created a perfect atmosphere. With PSG looking for the first French win in Spain, they started off very well at the beginning of the match. Valencia then recovered quickly and mostly dominated the match with the possession. Their domination, though, couldn't produce efficient attacks. Furthermore the only goal they scored was from a set piece. At the end of the match PSG would go back home with a half happy half sad mood. They won the match but lost two of their key players for the second leg.

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 mostly had a good foul recognition and selection throughout the match. There weren't any controversies in anywhere of the pitch and he called the same foul in every place of the field. The disciplinary control of the match was always in hand and players stayed within the borders most of the time. There was only one situation that the referee should have overruled his AR1 in a PSG attack.	
Minute	Description of the situation
9 th	Good advantage play by the referee. The shot came back off the post after the advantage.
31 st	After an incident in midfield (PSG player went down) it took a while for VAL to kick the ball out and PSG players got frustrated. There was a very small riot in front of AR1 and he quickly got in between players and separated them. After the incident the referee chose to give yellow card to both of the players. In my opinion, in such a high level match the referee should be more cautious when issuing yellow cards. Those two yellows were too soft and one of them caused the player to miss the next match. The referee should have talked to the players since the incident wasn't so important.
72 nd	Disallowed goal scored by PSG. As the score was 2-0, this goal would have made the score 3-0. And it's a huge difference between the two scores since this is a K.O. stage. The ball deflected off the VAL player and PSG player controlled it inside the goal area. He then put the ball back in the net. However the AR1 put his flag up calling the offside. Here, AAR1 and the referee should have taken the responsibility and overrule the AR1 because from AR1 position it was very difficult to see whether or not defense kicked the ball. AAR1 was the closest and this call should have been made by him.
90+1	Good example of team work. Ibrahimovic (PSG) made a studs-up tackle to his opponent and the referee sent him off with the help of AR1. In my opinion, referee could have given the player a strong warning with a yellow card because the game deserved that. But his decision is also acceptable.

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: The referee's tactical approach was to keep the game flowing as much as possible. He applied couple of advantage calls correctly. Most of the fouls he called were consistent with each other and he kept the match under control. However, he needs to improve his relationship with the players. He chooses to yell at the players when they are not happy with his calls and this leads players talk back to him some times. In some other matches this could result in unnecessary cards. If he speaks little softer the players wouldn't argue so much is my opinion.		
Positive Points	1.	Applying advantage.
	2.	Fitness.
Points to improve	1.	Point the direction of play when needed. Throw ins, fouls.

	2.	Use flexible diagonal. Many times left the ball behind him in center circle and kept running. The ball could hit him on the back on a long cross.
	3.	Adjusting his positioning during dynamic play.
	4.	Side stepping and back pedaling when needed.

Minute	Description of the situation
21 st	This happened couple of times but it's only necessary to mention once: A PSG player was dribbling towards the opponent's goal and the referee started to run only after player ran a good amount of time. He stayed behind the play and was far from position. He wouldn't be able to see, if there was a foul. In my opinion, he should be anticipation that the player will be dribbling and then be adjusting his position accordingly.
24 th	The referee is obstructed by a player while two players are on the ground battling for the ball. The referee bends to see the position however he should be moving dynamically to have a better angle. He should adjust his positioning to be closer in this 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): Very good.

Further Aspects: Although the referee had a very good fitness his anticipation level wasn't good enough for him to be at the proper position at the right time. This didn't affect the outcome of the match, however.

+	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 (especially 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
72 nd	The referee should have taken the responsibility and call the goal scored by PSG as stated above. This has dropped his mark dramatically.

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

Comments:

Good teamwork between the crew. No flags were missed and couple of times AARs were talking to the players while corners were being taken. Good communication.

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

Comments:

Generally, good foul selection, flow of the game and fitness. However anticipation level should be higher and positioning needs to be improved. Once the ball hit the referee and possibly a promising attack ended. When he is running to take his position in the center circle he doesn't look back at the ball and he could be hit by the ball sometimes.

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 assistant referee had helped the referee in one of the most critical decisions towards the end of the match. He assisted with his flag to send-off a PSG player. Good communication but the game didn't deserve it.

Minute	Description of the situation
72 nd	Wrong offside call cost PSG the third goal. This lowered his mark critically.
79 th	Wrong offside call for Ibrahimovic as he started his run on his half of the field. A possible counter attack was disallowed.
90+1	Good assistance with the foul and card.

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: Couple of very tight offside decisions and all of them correct.	
Minute	Description of the situation
34 th	Very tight offside call and correct.
50 th	Another very tight offside call. Correct.
61 st	Very good no call for an offside position. Very tight again.

Additional 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		Good positioning and movement
		X	Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity based on a reasonable degree of co-operation with referee
X			Efficient control at set pieces

Comments:
 Although the AAR1 was generally was in good position he should have helped with the disallowed goal by seeing the position that the defender kicked it backwards.

Minute	Description of the situation
72 nd	Should have helped with the disallowed goal.
13 th	Warning the players inside the penalty area to stop pushing and shoving before a corner kick is taken. Good.

Additional 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		Good positioning and movement
	X		Mental alertness and reaction to incidents in his area of vicinity based on a reasonable degree of co-operation with referee
	X		Efficient control at set pieces

Comments:
Not many challenges for AAR2.

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:
Fourth official wasn't challenged neither by the coaches nor by the players.