

UEFA Champions League 2012 / 2013

Round of 16

(ESP) Malaga FC		2:0		Porto FC (POR)
13 March 2013, 20:45 CET – La Rosaleda, Malaga, Spain				

Match Officials	Name	Origin	Mark ¹	Mark ²	Difficulty ³
Referee	Nikola Rizzoli	ITA	7.8	8.1	Challenging
Assistant Referee 1	Andrea Stefani	ITA	8.3	----	Challenging
Assistant Referee 2	Renato Faverani	ITA	8.4	----	Normal
Additional AR 1	Luca Banti	ITA	7.9	8.0	Normal
Additional AR 2	Paolo Mazzoleni	ITA	8.0	----	Normal
Fourth Official	Ricardo Di Fiore	ITA	8.0	----	Normal
UEFA Referee Observer	Ilkka Koho	FIN			
Blog-Referee Observer ⁴	Edward A	GRE			

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:

Second Leg of the clash between Malaga and Porto with the first leg won by the Portuguese champions by the slight 1-0. So result was open for both teams and we anticipated a big match. La Rosaleda was almost full of crowd (27451 spectators) and they created a very hot atmosphere by cheering and shouting at every moment of the match. Weather was very good with a clear night and with a temperature of 13°. UEFA Elite official Nikola Rizzoli from Italy was appointed at this match and he had many things to do as I will describe further.

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 similar to previous performances and especially at EURO 2012 wanted to let the game flow as much as possible. He was able to do it in a satisfactory manner but he was forced to take a more strict approach since many of the players thought they were in a battle. He had a good foul detection and more importantly he chose not whistle every little contact. His line was clear and his card management was good.

The first difficult situation he had to solve happened at min. 40 when after an air pass Helton (POR) tried to secure the ball but lost it when he fell on Baptista (MAL) who had fell in the ground and after that Javier Saviola scored but the referee disallowed the goal. Replay showed that the Malaga player didn't even touch the GK who fell on him and lost the ball. So it was a perfectly legal goal. The second interesting situation happened in min. 49' when Defour (POR) fouled on Joaquin (MAL) and after having received a Yellow card at min. 24' he was sent off. Rizzoli spotted the infraction and correctly sent off the Belgian.

Finally one must mention 2 similar situations. In mins. 28' and 64' there were 2 similar fouls from behind with 2 feet and with no intention to play the ball. Rizzoli in both situations issued the Yellow card and he was consistent but I have the feeling that if he issued the Red one in both occasions no-one could blame him.

Minute	Description of the situation
13'	Jackson (POR) fouls on Iturra (MAL). He could warn him verbally.
17'	First Yellow Card of the game. Otamendi (POR) fouls on Antunes (MAL) and stops a promising attack. Correct decision.
18'	The referee corrects Porto's GK in placing the ball after a foul. Good management of the situation.
19'	The referee stops a Porto corner from being executed to verbally warn Antunes (MAL) and Varela (POR) from pushing each other and pulling. Again good management of the situation.
23'	Again a good management of 2 players after a foul for Porto.
24'	First yellow card for Defour (POR). He makes a reckless tackle to Isco (MAL).
28.	Another Yellow card. Demichelis (MAL) makes a tackle with 2 feet from behind to Jackson Martinez (POR) with speed and with no intention to play the ball. The referee could have gone for red but even the yellow card is acceptable.
30'	Alexis Santro (POR) fouls on Saviola with a reckless tackle from behind. Another Yellow card correctly issued.
33'	Another yellow card to Gamez (MAL) for a tackle on Alex Sandro (POR) with no intention to play the ball. Correct yellow card.
40'	Disallowed goal for Malaga. After an air pass Helton (POR) tried to secure the ball but lost it when he fell on Baptista (MAL) who had fell in the ground and after that Javier Saviola scored but the referee disallowed the goal. Replay showed that the Malaga player didn't even touch the GK who fell on him and lost the ball. So it was a perfectly legal goal. AAR1 should have helped.
49'	Defour (POR) fouls on Joaquin (MAL) with a deliberate tackle from behind and with no intention on playing the ball. It is a correct yellow card which leads to the sending off.
64'	Toulalan (MAL) makes a tackle to Lucho Gonzalez (POR) with 2 feet from behind with speed and with no intention to play the ball. The referee could have gone for red but even the yellow card is acceptable. AR1 could have helped.
83'	Another card which is debatable. Mangala (POR) fouls on Gamez (MAL) from behind and with 2 feet clearly not having an intention to play the ball. Some referees

could have gone red. Rizzoli issued the yellow one.

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:

Control of the match was good. Rizzoli had a clear line in foul detection and all his decisions were respected by the players. He talked a lot to the players and he issued some verbal warnings when he felt needed. He was consistent with his decisions but in 3 situations the card could have had another color. But at least all the cards he issued were consistent.

Positive Points	1.	Communication with the players.
	2.	Physical Condition
	3.	Consistency
Points to improve	1.	Management of the cards and especially in situations where the tackle is being made with speed from behind and with no intention to play the ball but just to bring the opponent down.
	2.	Alertness and awareness especially inside the penalty area.
	3.	Stricter approach was needed in some fouls.

Minute	Description of the situation
28-64-83'	Three yellow cards which could have gone the other way.
40'	Disallowed goal for Malaga. After an air pass Helton (POR) tried to secure the ball but lost it when he fell on Baptista (MAL) who had fallen in the ground and after that Javier Saviola scored but the referee disallowed the goal. Replay showed that the Malaga player didn't even touch the GK who fell on him and lost the ball. So it was a perfectly legal goal.

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

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

Comments:

Teamwork was good. Assistants helped Rizzoli in some situations but AAR 1 failed help him in the goal situation (min. 40) and AR1 could help him more in Toulalan's tackle (min. 64')

V. If needed: General comments or advices for improvement; explanation of the chosen

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mark; further matters (can be let empty).

Comments:

Overall it was a satisfactory performance with an important area of improvement but with 1 crucial mistake (disallowed goal on min. 40).

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:

He had many offside calls. 1 of them was wrong but he correctly disallowed a goal Porto scored. He should help Rizzoli in 1 foul for the color of the card so his performance is expected level.

Minute	Description of the situation
01'	Joaquin (MAL) is flagged for offside. Correct.
08'	Joaquin (MAL) is onside. Great call by AR1.
20'	Isco (MAL) is flagged for offside. Correct.
26'	Saviola (MAL) is flagged for offside. Mistake.
37'	Saviola (MAL) is flagged for offside. Correct.
64'	Toulalan (MAL) makes a tackle to Lucho Gonzalez (POR) with 2 feet from behind with speed and with no intention to play the ball. The referee could have gone for red but even the yellow card is acceptable. AR1 could have helped.
73'	Lucho Gonzalez (POR) is flagged for offside. Correct.
81'	Disallowed goal for Porto. After a free kick the ball goes to Maicon who is about 1 meter in front of the last defender. Correct and brilliant call.
89'	Jackson Martinez (POR) is flagged for offside. Correct.

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

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	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 second assistant had a good co-operation with the referee. He had less work than AR1 but he had a faultless performance. Expected level.

Minute	Description of the situation
48'	Saviola (MAL) is flagged for offside. Correct call.
82'	Again offside call for Malaga. Santa Cruz is slightly ahead. Correct call.

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:
 He could have helped Rizzoli at the disallowed goal situation for Malaga. Apart from that nothing extraordinary.

Minute	Description of the situation
40'	Disallowed goal for Malaga. After an air pass Helton (POR) tried to secure the ball but lost it when he fell on Baptista (MAL) who had fell in the ground and after that Javier Saviola scored but the referee disallowed the goal. Replay showed that the Malaga player didn't even touch the GK who fell on him and lost the ball. So it was a perfectly legal goal. AAR1 should have helped.

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:
 No involvement for him. Didn't have major calls just the usual.

Minute	Description of the situation
19'	Correct corner kick awarded to Porto.

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 was not involved in remarkable situations. Substitutions and additional time were executed adequately.