

## Ask the Ref # 12, 2011 – AHJSA Cup Matches.

Hi all football enthusiasts, coaches, referees, players and long suffering parents,

Welcome to the next slightly edited edition of Ask the Ref, the Adelaide Hills Referee Branch's just about weekly bulletin on the rules of the game that is sent out each year.

This week, with preliminary rounds scheduled for this Saturday, the bulletin looks at **issues surrounding cup matches**.

As usual please distribute this bulletin as widely as possible through your club contacts and networks. The aim of this bulletin is to reach those who know nothing about the game so that they may learn and grow to enjoy the game more as a result. If it also informs those who have been around for a while then that's a bonus.

The AHJS Association Cup is a **knock out competition** that requires a winner at the end of the game. This means that, if after the first two halves of normal time have been played the teams are equal on goals, according to our local competition rules, a further **10 minutes** each way is played (20 minutes of football in total). This is called extra time and is, in essence, a game in itself. The referee tosses a coin and restarts just as is done at the first kickoff.

If, **after extra time** the teams are still tied the winner is decided by a series of penalty kicks. The referee chooses at which end the penalty kicks will take place. The referee must again toss a coin but this time, the winner chooses whether to kick first or second in the shoot out.

Two important things to remember if the game gets to this situation:

- Only the **players who are on the field of play (the pitch)** when extra time is finished are allowed to take part in the penalties. Final interchanges must occur before this.
- Both teams must have an **equal number of players**. This means that if a team is a player down due to an injury or a player having been sent off, or if they started with less than 11, then they must remove players from the pitch to even up the numbers.

The referee should have organised things before the game starts so that the coaches and officials are aware of this procedure. The referee would also have told all players who are **on the pitch** at the final whistle **not to leave the field of play** and to assemble in the centre circle. Coaches, substitutes and other officials **should not enter** the field of play at this time. Coaches need to have sorted their team's penalty kick procedure, ie **the kicking order**, preferably before the match started ready to give this to the referee if it is needed.

All kicks are taken at one end to ensure that both teams' kick-takers and goalkeepers face the same pitch irregularities (if any).

All players other than the kicker and the goalkeepers must remain in the pitch's centre circle.

Each kick is taken in the general manner of a penalty kick. Each kick is taken from the penalty mark, with the goal defended only by the opposing goalkeeper. The goalkeeper must remain between the goal posts on their goal line until the ball has been kicked, although they have been known to jump in place, wave their arms, move side to side along the goal line or otherwise try to distract the shooter. They **cannot call out as this is unsporting behaviour**.

Sometimes, goalkeepers do not remain on the goal-line and move forward before the kick is taken with the aim of reducing the angle of the penalty shot, therefore increasing their chance of saving the penalty, albeit unfairly. If the shot is saved and it is deemed that the keeper has come off their line before the kick was taken, the referee must call for a retake of the penalty.

The kicker may hesitate on the way to the ball but must not do during the actual kick. Each kicker can **kick the ball only once per attempt**. If the goalkeeper saves the ball the kicker cannot score from the rebound (unlike a normal penalty kick). As with all penalties, if the ball bounces directly off the goal posts, the kicker cannot score directly from the rebound anyway.

Teams take turns to kick from the penalty mark in an attempt to score a goal, until each has taken five kicks. However, if one side has scored more goals than the other and the other team could not possibly reach them with all of their remaining kicks, the shootout ends regardless of the number of kicks remaining.

If, at the end of these five rounds of kicks, the teams have scored an equal number of goals, sudden death rounds of one kick each are used until one side scores and the other does not.

Only players who were on the pitch at the end of play are allowed to take kicks. A regular substitution can only be made in the case of **injury** to a goalkeeper.

No player is allowed to take a second kick from the penalty mark until all other eligible players on their team have taken a first kick.

Players “deselected” by the coach to keep the teams equal in number cannot play any part in the procedure. A goalkeeper cannot be “deselected” from kicking while retained for saving. This applies whether players are absent through injury or having been sent off.

A couple of other quirks are that the referee cannot abandon the match if, during the penalty shoot out, a team for whatever reason is reduced to less than seven players. If a player is injured or sent off during the penalty shoot out the referee must not reduce the other team’s numbers to even up the team numbers. It is only a requirement to have equal numbers at the start of the penalty kicks.

If all players are used in the penalty kicks, at the beginning of the next cycle, the previous order of players does not need to be followed.

**Volunteer lines-people** should assist the referee in the penalty kicks. One must position him or herself on the touchline towards the corner of the penalty area and supervise the keeper (standing behind him) who is not in goal at the time and may be asked to assist with the ball in and out of goal or any other instructions provided by the referee on the day. The other should be in the centre circle making sure that both teams remain there (except for a penalty kicker and the keepers). The referee may decide to vary these arrangements depending on the experience and demonstrated skills of the club assistants available on the day.

Lastly, when recording this kind of game on the Team Sheet, the referee will record the goal scorers for normal and extra time, but will not record the penalty scorers on the **Team Sheet**, as this can become quite a long list in some circumstances. There are also no best players recorded by the ref. for Cup games as this is unfair to players in teams knocked out early.

The AHJSA website has special conditions for player eligibility and so on. Go to: [http://www.ahjsa.asn.au/AHJSA Association Cup Rules.pdf](http://www.ahjsa.asn.au/AHJSA%20Association%20Cup%20Rules.pdf)

Cup games are special. However, despite being a KO match, they are still subject to all of the **laws of the game** and coaches are strongly urged to remind some players of this fact before the game to ensure fair play. I hope you enjoy those you’re associated with this month.

Regards,

Peter van der Zwaag, AHRB.

*Footnotes:*

*In the 1996 Turkish FA Cup match between Genclerbirligi and Galatasaray the match finished 1-1 after extra time and Genclerbirligi eventually won the shoot-out 17-16.*

*In the 1988-89 Argentine Championship match between Argentinos Juniors and Racing Club, which had finished 2-2, 44 penalties were taken before Argentinos emerged as 20-19 victors.*

For other trivia see: <http://www.rsssf.com/miscellaneous/penalties.html>