

The question arose as to what referees should do in the event that the first game of a double-header is interrupted by lightning. Here is the answer from Mary Arter, RDYSL President:

Our rules don't directly address this, so here goes:

In the event that the first game of two scheduled on a field is delayed due to lightning and then resumed, please instruct the referees to:

1. Complete the first game.
2. Start the second game as soon as practical after the end of the first game.
3. If the second game can't be completed due to darkness, handle as you would for a single game that it gets too dark to complete.

Thanks!

Mary

A second question was sent to me this morning - and it's the second time the issue has been raised this year. It's an interesting situation and one of those things we want to know before it happens - so that we can quickly get it right on the field. Here's the situation that occurred in the Italy-Netherlands game yesterday:

An Italian defender collided with his goalkeeper. The momentum of the collision knocked the defender down and off the field, beyond the goal line. The goalkeeper made it back into position.

The Dutch controlled the ball and passed it to their player (Nistelroy) who was standing in front of the keeper and nudged the ball into the goal.

So the question is - do we count the player who is off of the field when considering the "2nd last opponent" element of offside?

The answer can be found in Advice to Referees, Section 11.11:

"A defender who leaves the field during the course of play and does not immediately return must still be considered in determining where the second to last defender is for the purpose of judging which attackers are in an offside position. Such a defender is considered to be on the touch line or goal line closest to his or her off-field position."

So the answer is yes - we count the defender who has left the field of play. However, because the defender left the field during the normal course of play, he/she is not considered to have left the field without the referee's permission. In a situation where a defender **DELIBERATELY** leaves the field in an attempt to place an opponent in the offside position, we would "count" that player for offside, and at the next stoppage of play we should caution the player for leaving the field without permission.