

Stephan Studer
U17 World Cup Referee



Flashback

FIFA Under 17 World Cup 2011 Mexico

Referees

FIFA U17 World Cup 2011 Mexico – Flashback

This flashback summarizes the participating referees and analyzes their performances by evaluating them with marks.

It is chronologically ordered by the relative confederation's first letter. (Note: we advise you to read this pdf with a size of 75 %)

Notes concerning the evaluation of the respective referee performance:

- The final mark is made up of the four parameters “Control”, “Calls”, “Neutrality” and “Style”.
- In addition, all the parameters account for 25% each.
- The marks are based on Maicon's, Carlos' and my impressions and assessments.

Explanations concerning abbreviations and symbols:

R = round, Res = result, AVM = average mark, T = Total amount of...,
∅ = average of ..., OM = opener match, GS = Group Stage, R16 = Round of 16, QF = Quarterfinals, SF = Semifinal, **FIN** = Final, PSO = Win after penalty shoot-out.

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1. Asian Football Confederation (AFC)

Ali Hamad AL BADWAWI (UAE/1972)



Well, although he has already joined two Asian Cups (in each case 3 matches) and got 5 matches in the WC 2010 qualifiers and at least 20 matches in AFC Champions League, he had never had any experience of an international FIFA tournament before.

Ahead this U17 WC, I kept him in mind for the final appointment. The policeman from Dubai started with a pretty calm match as he refereed Brazil's first match

against Denmark. He solved this match with a clear line including five yellow cards. After a quite convincing performance in his second match between Uruguay and England where he confirmed his style of less talking but clear decisions again. Consequently, after these two strong performances, he got his third and last match in the quarterfinals when France met the host nation Mexico. In that match, Al Badwawi was not that convincing as in the matches before, but he showed still a decent performance with a couple of minor mistakes and a poor card policy.

During the whole tournament, he had to share his assistant referees Hamad Marhoon Al Mayahi from Oman and Reza Sokhandan from Iran with Nawaf Shukrallah (see below), that might be one reason for the unexpected low number of insets.

Overview: Matches refereed by Ali Hamad AL BADWAWI

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	20/06, 15:00	Guadalajara	BRA vs DEN	3-0	5 (2-3)	0	0	0	7,9
GS	25/06, 15:00	Torreón	URU vs ENG	0-2	4 (0-4)	0	0	0	7,3
QF	04/07, 18:00	Pachuca	FRA vs MEX	1-2	5 (3-2)	0	0	0	6,2
				3 insets	T, Ø	14/4,67	0/0	0/0	7,1

 Hamad Marhoon AL MAYAHI (Oman), Reza SOKHANDAN (Iran)

1. Asian Football Confederation (AFC)

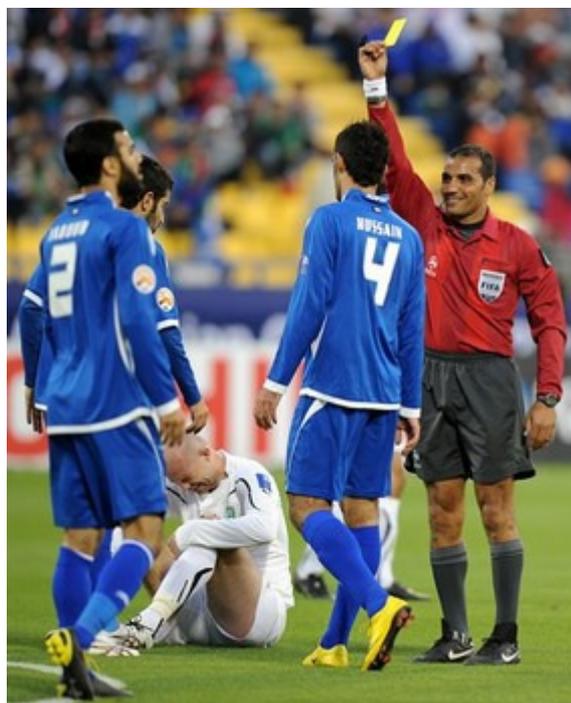
Nawaf GHAYYATH SHUKRALLAH (BAH/1976)

Having recognized him in Qatar at the AFC Asian Cup 2011 for the first time, the young Bahraini showed a quite reasonable performance at this, his first FIFA tournament.

The 35 years old researcher from the small emirat Bahrain had to wait for his first appointment in Mexico until he was selected to referee the group stage match between Panama and Ecuador in Queretaro. It has to be mentioned that he sent a Panamanian off due to some kind of foul which occurred often in Mexico and which was consistently cautioned with a straight red card by all the referees.

After that, he was appointed for a round of 16 match when England defeated Argentina after penalty shoot out, again he showed a convincing performance although he had to give an amount of five yellow cards and again one send-off after a second yellow card for a repeated foul. Well, this decision was not really wrong, but perhaps slightly harsh.

After his original assistant referees and countrymen Khaled Al Allan and Yaser Abdullah Tulefat failed the fitness tests, he shared Al Mayahi and Sokhandan with Al Badwawi (see above).



Overview: Matches refereed by Nawaf GHAYYATH SHUKRALLAH

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	23/06, 18:00	Queretaro	PAN vs ECU	1-2	2 (1-1)	0	1 (1-0)	0	7,6	
QF	30/06, 15:00	Pachuca	ENG vs ARG	1-1 (4-2 PSO)	5 (2-3)	1 (0-1)	0	0	7,8	
				2 insets	T, Ø	7/3,5	1/0,5	1/0,5	0/0	7,7

 Hamad Marhoon AL MAYAHI (Oman), Reza SOKHANDAN (Iran)

2. Confederation of African Football (CAF)

Néant ALIOUM (CMR/1982)

Born in 1982, the Cameroon Néant Alioum is an international referee since 2008. Personally, I have never heard of him ahead the tournament, but he showed that he may be regarded as a talent with future.

He got his first match immediately on the first day of the tournament when he was selected to referee Japan's first match against Jamaica. In matchday 2, there he appeared in Group A when the Netherlands met Korea PRK. After two solid performances, he was selected to referee again a Japanese match in Group B against Argentina where he sent an Argentinean off with a straight red card due to a similar foul which was red-carded by Shukrallah as well.

Then, his last match followed with a Quarterfinal match between Uruguay and Uzbekistan, Alioum had no bigger problems with it. In all the four matches he refereed he showed good performances, especially his assistant referee Djibril Camara from Senegal who caught one's eyes with very good offside decisions. Nevertheless, there is still room for improvement concerning his positioning and style although that goes without saying with regard to his age.



Overview: Matches refereed by Néant ALIOUM

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	18/06, 18:00	Monterrey	JPN vs JAM	1-0	3 (2-1)	0	0	0	7,2
GS	21/06, 15:00	Morelia	PRK vs NED	1-1	2 (2-0)	0	0	0	7,2
GS	24/06, 15:00	Morelia	JPN vs ARG	3-1	4 (1-3)	0	1 (0-1)	0	7,8
QF	03/07, 15:00	Monterrey	URU vs UZB	2-0	4 (3-1)	0	0	0	7,2
			4 insets	T, Ø	13/3,25	0/0	1/0,25	0/0	7,4

 Djibril CAMARA (Senegal), Felicien KABANDA (Rwanda)

2. Confederation of African Football (CAF)



Helder MARTINS DE CARVALHO (ANG/1977)



One-time referee at an African Cup of Nations, Helder Martins de Carvalho gained his first experiences in his mother country Angola last year when he officiated one match (Nigeria-Benin) and was appointed as Fourth Official in the disgraceful semi-final match between Algeria and Egypt.

The 34 years old referee, who is international since 2008, was invited along with the Kenyan Aden Marwa and the South African Zakhele Siwela. This trio was one of the youngest trios of the whole competition.

They were first appointed to referee Uzbekistan vs. New Zealand in Group D, he could not really convince because he was not requested, no bigger situations he could have solved. In Jamaica against

France, his next and last match in Mexico, he awarded a harsh penalty to France which they could not turn into a goal. Moreover, he cautioned a Jamaican player with a straight red card after a rude foul. This decision was good, nevertheless, some weaknesses in the evaluation of midfield duels could be observed.

In the K.O. Round, Martins only appeared one time as Fourth Official at Alioum's side in the Uruguay-Uzbekistan match.

Overview: Matches refereed by Helder MARTINS DE CARVALHO

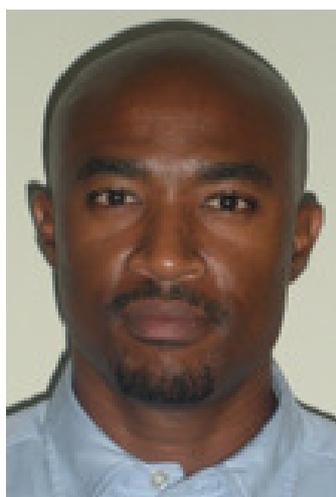
R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	19/06, 15:00	Torreón	UZB vs NZL	1-4	3 (1-2)	0	0	0	7,0	
GS	24/06, 15:00	Monterrey	JAM vs FRA	1-1	4 (2-2)	0	1 (1-0)	1 (0-1)	7,2	
				2 insets	T, Ø	7/3,5	0/0	1/0,5	1/0,5	7,1



Aden MARWA (Kenya), Zakhele SIWELA (South Africa)

3. Confederation of North-, Central- and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF)

 **Raymond BOGLE (JAM/1971)**



Jamaica's no. 2, coming just after Courtney Campbell, was one of the lucky referees who were not sent home although both assistant referees Stephen Brown (Jamaica) and Dion Neil (Trinidad & Tobago) failed the fitness test. Normally, FIFA sends the whole trio at home, Bogle had luck due to the record high amount of eight officials who failed the tests. FIFA needed him, he commented this situation in "the Observer" as follows: "I know I did my part; it's unfortunate that others didn't make it, but that's just how life is. It's really sad because I hate to see my brothers falling, but I did what I had to do under very tough conditions...I persevered and it was really, really tough to witness what I witnessed yesterday."

Unfortunately, his shown performances were not divine. In his first match he oversaw Australia's victory over Ivory Coast where he had no problems, however, he could not avoid some minors. After his second performance in Czech Republic vs. Uzbekistan which was characterized by a wrongly awarded penalty for the Europeans, he finally got a Round of 16 match which was not convincing either. Many doubtful decisions and an inconsistent card policy were present. Without any doubt, Bogle was one of the referees who did not manage to put themselves forward for coming tournaments.

Overview: Matches refereed by Raymond BOGLE

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	20/06, 18:00	Guadalajara	AUS vs CIV	2-1	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	7,2	
GS	25/06, 18:00	Torreón	CZE vs UZB	1-2	2 (1-1)	0	0	1 (1-0)	6,1	
GS	29/06, 18:00	Morelia	CGO vs URU	1-2	6 (3-3)	0	0	0	6,2	
				3 insets	T, Ø	9/3	0/0	0/0	1/0,33	6,5

 Marcos QUINTERO (Mexico), Salvador RODRIGUEZ (Mexico)

3. Confederation of North-, Central- and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF)

Elmer Arturo BONILLA (SLV/1978)

Actually, Elmer Arturo Bonilla was only appointed as a reserve referee, however, due to the high number of assistant referees who failed the test, FIFA obviously decided to promote all the reserve referees. First of all one can say that Bonilla took the chance and showed what he can.

His first match was the easy-going encounter between Germany and Ecuador, the result of 6-1 indicates that there was not thus much to do for the referees. There was one important call that was correct when his assistant referee Octavio Jara decided that the ball crossed the line which meant the 1-0 for Germany. After that, he appeared in one of the most sensational matches of this competition when Ivory Coast defeated Denmark with 4-2. He correctly awarded a penalty to the Africans and showed a solid performance overall. It was a small surprise that he was then selected to referee the Round of 16 match between France and Ivory Coast as to the fact that had actually been a reserve referee. In this match, he gave a correct penalty to France after a clear handball and later in this match, he sent off a French with a second yellow card due to diving.

Taking everything into consideration, Bonilla showed a slightly pedantic style and that he may improve his foul detection in midfield duels but that he is a talent should be observed.



Overview: Matches refereed by Elmer Arturo BONILLA

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	20/06, 15:00	Queretaro	GER vs ECU	6-1	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	7,3
GS	23/06, 18:00	Guadalajara	CIV vs DEN	4-2	5 (1-4)	0	0	1 (1-0)	7,0
R16	30/06, 18:00	Queretaro	FRA vs CIV	3-2	3 (1-2)	1 (1-0)	0	1 (1-0)	6,8
			3 insets	T, Ø	9/3	1/0,33	0/0	2/0,67	7,0

 Keytzal CORRALES (Nicaragua), Octavio JARA (Costa Rica)

3. Confederation of North-, Central- and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF)

 **Paul Enrique DELGADILLO HARO (MEX/1974)**

Without any doubt, the Mexican Paul Delgadillo – at first designated as Reserve Referee – showed us the weakest performance at this youth tournament. The 36 years old referee with the average of 0,57 red cards per match was appointed several times as Fourth Officials, however he received one match as main referee as well as he oversaw the Matchday 2 encounter in Group E between Burkina Faso and Germany.



He has proved to be a pedantic referee who likes showing cards. Well, this style is not isolated. Even World Cup 2010 referees like Alberto Undiano or Khalil Al Ghamdi used this style, the only problem is that Delgadillo showed cards for nothing.

Consequently, he destroyed the match by two harsh send-offs against Burkina Faso and one doubtful penalty for the Europeans who had no problems to win this match. In addition, he sent the African coach off, the only positive thing was the offside detection of Marcos Quintero and especially Salvador Rodriguez.

Moreover, he judged a penalty situation when a German was clearly fouled as being a dive.

In our separate blog which merely consists of blogs, there he has been elected as the worst referee of the tournament and his performance in this match (see above) has been rated having been the worst, too.

Overview: Matches refereed by Paul Enrique DELGADILLO HARO

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	23/06, 15:00	Queretaro	BFA vs GER	0-3	6 (4-2)	1 (1-0)	1 (1-0)	1 (0-1)	4,3
				1 inset	T, Ø	6/6	1/1	1/1	4,3

 Marcos QUINTERO (Mexico), Salvador RODRIGUEZ (Mexico)

3. Confederation of North-, Central- and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF)

 **Roberto GARCIA (MEX/1974)**



The referee with the largest amount of insets was Roberto Garcia with five appointments in which he proved to be a real option behind the experienced two time World Cup veteran Marco Rodriguez.



He was chosen for a Group B match between Argentina and France on the very first day of the tournament, although this match was the easiest you can handle, he did very well.

After a second steady performance in the encounter between Czech Republic and New Zealand, only matches with Brazilian involvement should follow for the Mexican trio. He belonged to one of the referees who got three matches in the group stage, his last match was Brazil's draw with Ivory Coast (3-3). After that, he was selected to referee the quarterfinal between the South Americans and Japan, finally, the third place match between Brazil and Germany in Estadio Azteca should have been the crowning event for Garcia, however, he did not manage to confirm his previous four performances as he awarded a ridiculous penalty to Brazil, although it was an

obvious dive. Furthermore, some doubtful decisions could be observed.

Nevertheless, Roberto Garcia was one of the best referees in Mexico, this assessment manifests itself in the recent election of refspoll.blogspot.com which says that Garcia was the third best referee at this tournament.

Overview: Matches refereed by Roberto GARCIA

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	18/06, 15:00	Monterrey	FRA vs ARG	3-0	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	7,3	
GS	22/06, 18:00	Torreón	CZE vs NZL	1-0	4 (3-1)	0	0	0	6,9	
GS	26/06, 18:00	Guadalajara	CIV vs BRA	3-3	5 (3-2)	0	0	0	7,9	
QF	03/07, 18:00	Queretaro	JPN vs BRA	2-3	1 (0-1)	0	0	0	8,3	
3 rd	10/07, 15:00	Mexico-City	BRA vs GER	3-4	4 (2-2)	0	0	1 (1-0)	7,7	
				5 insets	T, Ø	15/3	0/0	0/0	1/0,2	7,6

 Alejandro AYALA (Mexico), Victor CALDERON (Mexico)

3. Confederation of North-, Central- and Caribbean Football (CONCACAF)



Jafeth PEREA (PAN/1981)



Jafeth Perea from Panama was one of those who benefited from the high amount of officials who failed the FIFA Fitness Test. Even his own Assistant Referee 1 Ricardo Ake from Belize did not manage to pass it. Therefore, he was accompanied by the Honduran Juan Rodas and Jhonny Bossio from Peru who actually ran the lines of Victor Carrillo replaced the dropping out of Ake.

Born in 1981, he got his first and only appointment on matchday 1 when he oversaw the match between Congo Republic and the Netherlands. He showed a solid performance although it was obvious that he was not really challenged in the course of this Group A encounter.

After that, a couple of insets followed as Fourth Official.

Overview: Matches refereed by Jafeth PEREA

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	18/06, 18:00	Morelia	CGO vs NED	1-0	2 (1-1)	0	0	0	7,0
			1 inset	T, Ø	2/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	7,0



Juan RODAS (Honduras), Jhonny BOSSIO (Peru)

4. Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL)

Diego ABAL (ARG/1971)

Although the Argentine's performances were quite good, the amount of his matches was rather small as he only got two matches. That's why Diego Abal counts to the group of officials of these I am quite disappointed.

In CONMEBOL competitions, Abal showed some good performances, however, he could not convince at the last "Sudamericano Sub20" where he showed four red cards in only three matches, consequently, his career path as international referee is characterized by some ups and downs.

His first match was the duel between the United States and Czech Republic where

he had no bigger problems in a very easy match. His second match was slightly quaint as Australia vs Denmark was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions (heavy thunderstorms) and had to be replayed one day later. In this, the second match, he sent a player off due to a foot-up tackle (see Shukrallah/Alioum). Taking both performances into consideration, it was a big surprise that Abal left the tournament (indirectly) thus early.

As it was in Shukrallah's case, too, the fact that Abal's assistant referees failed the tests might have been the decisive reason for FIFA to give Abal no further matches because he had to share Carlos Herrera and Christian Lescano with Omar Ponce.



Overview: Matches refereed by Diego ABAL

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	20/06, 18:00	Torreón	USA vs CZE	3-0	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	7,9	
GS	27/06, 10:00	Queretaro	AUS vs DEN	1-1	3 (1-2)	0	1 (1-0)	0	7,7	
				2 insets	T, Ø	4/2	0/0	1/0,5	0/0	7,8

 Carlos HERRERA (Ecuador), Christian LESCANO (Ecuador)

4. Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL)

Victor CARRILLO (PER/1975)



As one of three referees from CONMEBOL zone, Carrillo showed the most consistent and best performances by far when taking into consideration that Abal has admittedly the better average mark but that the Peruvian had more matches than the Argentine. At first, we thought that Carrillo was one of those officials who had not passed the fitness tests because we only knew an approximate number but

no names. The fact that his assistant referee Bossio ran the lines of Jafeth Perea emphasized this impression.

However, he finally appeared in matchday 2 when he oversaw the match between Japan and France where he showed a decent amount of cards. He could convince with a good performance so that FIFA gave him one of the most sonorous matches of the competition when the host national Mexico defeated the Dutch in Morelia. The Round of 16 match between Uzbekistan and Australia was his last performance. In this encounter, he had some problems in midfield duels' evaluation and furthermore, he showed two red cards to Australians which were absolutely reasonable. Unfortunately, he did not manage to have the full control in the last stage of this match.

After that, Carrillo had two insets as Fourth Official, the first time in the semi-final between Mexico and Germany at Ponce's side and later, he assisted Roberto Garcia in the 3rd place match as Fourth Official.

On the whole, Carrillo showed a very good tournament and may have a chance for coming tournaments and we know that FIFA seems to like him as he had appeared at Club WC 2010 as well.

Overview: Matches refereed by Victor CARRILLO

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	21/06, 15:00	Monterrey	JPN vs FRA	1-1	5 (2-3)	0	0	1 (1-0)	7,8	
GS	25/06, 18:00	Monterrey	MEX vs NED	3-2	6 (1-5)	0	0	1 (0-1)	7,7	
R16	29/06, 18:00	Torreón	UZB vs AUS	4-0	4 (2-2)	1 (0-1)	1 (0-1)	0	7,7	
				3 insets	T, Ø	15/5	1/0,33	1/0,33	2/0,67	7,7

 Jhonny BOSSIO (Peru), César ESCANO (Peru)

4. Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL)

Omar PONCE (ECU/1972)

Omar Ponce is a referee from Ecuador, who is just an international referee since 2009, his appointment for this World Cup was surprising for many of us due to the fact that he showed some bad performances and especially due to a pretty limited experience. In his first match he did not disappoint, he refereed the match between Canada and England (2-2) without problems. After that, the next surprise followed when he was appointed by the FIFA to referee the match between Germany and the United States, Ponce proves himself lenient and avoided using cards.

Finally, when everyone expected the Argentine Diego Abal, FIFA placed its trust in Ponce again for the semi-final between the German and the hosts. This time, the trick of not showing any cards did not function well and resulted in a poor performance because of his style and a lack of character in the field.

Retrospectively speaking: it would have been much better for Ponce if FIFA had not appointed him for this semi-final as it blurred the overall impression we have received of Ponce in his previous matches.



Overview: Matches refereed by Omar PONCE

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	22/06, 18:00	Pachuca	CAN vs ENG	2-2	0	0	0	0	8,0
R16	30/06, 15:00	Queretaro	GER vs USA	4-0	0	0	0	0	8,1
SF	07/07, 18:00	Torreón	GER vs MEX	2-3	2 (1-1)	0	0	0	6,0
				3 insets	T, Ø	2/0,67	0/0	0/0	7,4

 Carlos HERRERA (Ecuador), Christian LESCANO (Ecuador)

5. Oceania Football Confederation (OFC)

Norbert HAUATA (TAH/1979)



The only referee from the OFC zone was Norbert Hauata who had a bit luck to be nominated for this competition as Andrew Achari from Fiji was actually appointed for Mexico but finally missed it. The reason behind this is unknown.

First, the 32-year-old from the French Polynesian island Tahiti was assigned for the match between Rwanda and England where he had no bigger problems, even though he tended to prefer the bigger name (England) in 50-50-decisions.

His second and last match was again a duel between a European giant and outsiders: Germany defeated Panama with 2-0, Hauata only needed two yellow cards but also showed a

straight red card to the German Okan Aydin for a foot-up-tackle. It seemed to be a certain instruction by FIFA as all the referees judged this kind of foul with a sending-off. A very, very positive development which we acclaim.

As there is always only one official from OFC zone at a World Cup, he has to prevail over the two New Zealanders Michael Hester and Peter O'Leary who already have World Cup experience. And again: referees from the OFC zone do not seem to be an option for FIFA for the later stages of a tournament.

Overview: Matches refereed by Norbert HAUATA

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	19/06, 15:00	Pachuca	RWA vs ENG	0-2	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	7,0	
GS	26/06, 15:00	Queretaro	PAN vs GER	0-2	2 (2-0)	0	1 (0-1)	0	7,3	
				2 insets	T, Ø	3/1,5	0/0	1/0,5	0/0	7,2

 David CHARLES (Papua New Guinea),  Mark RULE (New Zealand)

6. Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Tony CHAPRON (FRA/1972)

The nomination for the U17 World Cup is another clue for the conjecture that the baldhead from Flers (Basse-Normandie) may have overtaken his countryman Lannoy who showed overall only decent performances in the last Champions-League season and a poor World Cup in South Africa. After having refereed two matches of UEFA U21 Euro 2009, this was his next youth tournament. Tony Chapron was initially appointed to referee the second match of the hosts (Mexico) against Congo Republic. He needed a



lot of cards including two red cards against the Africans. The first one was absolutely deserved after a cynical foul which stopped a promising goal attempt. Even though the other red card was correct as well, the procedure was slightly odd: Chapron needed a lot of time to recognize that he had to show a card. As far as he saw how hard the foul must have been, he lately decided to send the next African off. To my mind, this decision was correct but based on impressions that were not based on the foul itself but on its consequences.

His second match was Canada vs Rwanda, an easy-going match for the French. And again: Chapron was another lucky referee who could stay in Mexico although his first assistant referee Emmanuel Boisdenghien failed the tests, nonetheless, it was pretty surprising that he did not get any further match in the K.O. Round.

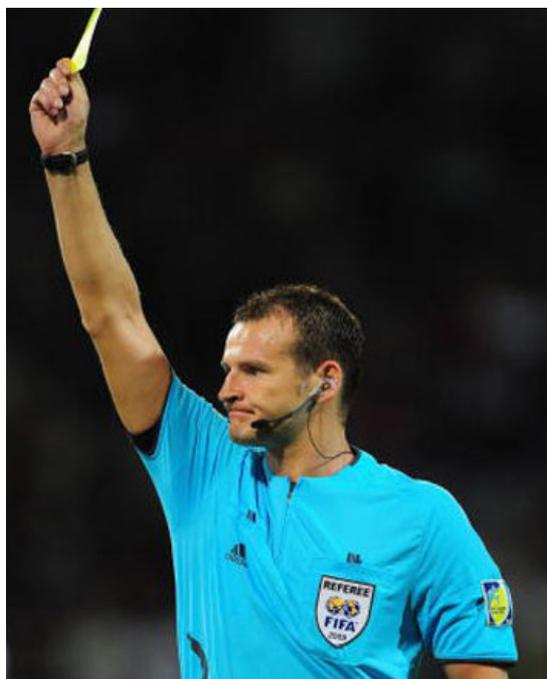
Overview: Matches refereed by Tony CHAPRON

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	21/06, 18:00	Morelia	MEX vs CGO	2-1	6 (2-4)	0	2 (0-2)	0	7,4	
GS	25/06, 15:00	Pachuca	CAN vs RWA	0-0	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	7,0	
				2 insets	T, Ø	7/3,5	0/0	2/1	0/0	7,2

 Fredji HARCHAY (France), Sandro POZZI / Raffael ZEDER (both Switzerland)

6. Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

 Pavel KRALOVEC (CZE/1977)



According to our separate blog which merely concentrates on polls which present the opinion of the whole community, Pavel Kralovec from Czech Republic was the best referee in Mexico and showed the best single referee performance when he oversaw the quarterfinal between Germany and England. His first match was Jamaica vs Argentina, he showed a solid but no great performance. His assistant referee Miroslav Zlamal stole the Caribs a superb goal attempt in the very last minute of extra-time (90+3') because of an alleged offside position which did not exist. After a good performance in a Group A match, his first K.O. Round match followed as he was appointed for the round of 16 match between Brazil and Ecuador. He proved himself a referee with a very strong foul detection and a clear line concerning

bookings so that his yellow card average is much higher than other referees' ones.

With his last performance (the best performance of the whole tournament, see above), he confirmed my impression. He was the best man in the field, the match was intense and there were a couple of 50-50 decisions which were very well solved by the Czech.

It is not really astonishing that UEFA promoted him to Elite Development Group in June 2011. In Mexico, Kralovec was with far the best referee of UEFA zone and actually, he would have been my choice for the final in Estádio Azteca.

Overview: Matches refereed by Pavel KRALOVEC

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
GS	21/06, 18:00	Monterrey	JAM vs ARG	1-2	6 (4-2)	0	0	0	7,5	
GS	24/06, 15:00	Morelia	PRK vs CGO	1-1	5 (3-2)	0	0	0	7,8	
R16	29/06, 15:00	Guadalajara	BRA vs ECU	2-0	6 (3-3)	0	0	0	8,4	
QF	04/07, 15:00	Morelia	GER vs ENG	3-2	5 (3-2)	0	0	1 (0-1)	8,4	
				4 insets	T, Ø	22/5,5	0/0	0/0	1/0,25	8,0

 Martin WILCZEK (Czech Rep.), Miroslav ZLAMAL (Czech Rep.)

6. Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Svein Oddvar MOEN (NOR/1979)



The youngest referee of UEFA's Elite Category was Svein Oddvar Moen, the final referee of this U17 World Cup. Having established himself in matches taking part in big stadiums like Stamford Bridge in London is naturally a good precondition for a young referee who is in charge of a final ahead the special atmosphere of Estádio Azteca and the incredible number of 99.000 visitors. FIFA decided to give the Norway this honour and he repaid its confidence.



He had no problems with the heated atmosphere although one has to emphasize that both teams, Mexico and Uruguay, focused on playing football. Therefore, Moen could savour these moments and did very well.

Nevertheless, the tournament had not started optimally for the Scandinavian as his assistant referee Frank Andas with whom Moen had worked the whole season in UEFA's club competitions. He had to share the Dutch Erwin Zeinstra with Bas Nijhuis, the next two referees whose amount of matches were influenced by this issue.

He only got one match in the Group Stage and that was more likely a poor match when Uruguay defeated Rwanda with 1-0 in the 95th minute. His second match was the Round of 16 match between the host nation Mexico and Panama, another easy-going match where Moen actually could not prove anything. The final appointment was perhaps a bit surprising, but his experience with both, Uruguay and Mexico, might have been another good reason for this designation.

Svein Oddvar Moen was elected by the community as 2nd best referee of the tournament.

Overview: Matches refereed by Svein Oddvar MOEN

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	22/06, 15:00	Pachuca	URU vs RWA	1-0	4 (1-3)	0	0	0	7,8
R16	30/06, 18:00	Pachuca	MEX vs PAN	2-0	3 (2-1)	0	0	0	7,6
FIN	10/07, 18:00	Mexico City	URU vs MEX	0-2	3 (3-0)	0	0	0	8,4
				3 insets	T, Ø	10/3,33	0/0	0/0	7,9

 Kim Thomas HAGLUND (Norway), Erwin ZEINSTRA (Netherlands)

6. Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Bas NIJHUIS (NED/1977)



For the Dutchman Bas Nijhuis it was his second youth competition and one can say that he was not the greatest referee in Mexico but that he is in a certain stage that can be described with the usual phrase “He is still learning”. In UEFA Europa League, he showed some real good performances but a few doubtful ones as well (e.g. Sporting-Lille). Anyway, it is surprising that FIFA preferred the Dutch no.3 instead of Blom who is in UEFA Elite Category. That might be a clear message who is more under FIFA’s consideration...

He started with a solid performance in a Group E encounter between Burkina Faso and Panama where he showed some minors, in addition, the match difficulty can be rather described as very low. After that, he got his last appointment when having overseen the United States against New Zealand where he sent one American off which was a correct decision.

In the following, he was appointed as Fourth Official several times, last but not least in the final along with Svein Moen.

Overview: Matches refereed by Bas NIJHUIS

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	20/06, 18:00	Queretaro	BFA vs PAN	1-2	3 (2-1)	0	0	0	7,2
GS	25/06, 18:00	Pachuca	USA vs NZL	0-0	2 (0-2)	1 (1-0)	0	0	7,4
				2 insets	T, Ø	5/2,5	1/0,5	0/0	7,3

 Erwin ZEINSTRAS (Netherlands), Kim Thomas HAGLUND (Norway)

6. Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Aleksei NIKOLAEV (RUS/1971)

The Russian Aleksei Nikolaev was, honestly speaking, one of the most disappointing referees of this tournament. He could not show consistency during the competition, even though he was appointed to referee a semi-final.



The first match which was refereed by the UEFA Elite category referee (who had only shown an average Champions-League season) was the encounter between Uruguay and Canada where he showed a decent performance, nothing outstanding.

In his next match (USA-UZB), one has to mention that it was a poor performance (including a small gusto for Uzbekistan) which has to be relativized as his colleague Vladimir Pettay had just died a few days earlier. It was another Nikolaev in the field, that was obvious.

Anyway, FIFA trusted him and gave him his third match (BFA-ECU). Obviously, these performances were good enough for FIFA to give him the semifinal between Brazil and Uruguay. It was a very intense and hard match, at first, Nikolaev tried it in a soft way, later, he had to pull out several yellows and moreover, he awarded a correct penalty to Uruguay. It was a good and important call. On the whole, he did well when taking the match difficulty into consideration.

As Nikolaev is the only referee from Russia who has chances for the next World Cup, this semifinal might be a pretty good basis for him.

Overview: Matches refereed by Aleksei NIKOLAEV

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM
GS	19/06, 18:00	Pachuca	URU vs CAN	3-0	1 (0-1)	0	0	1 (1-0)	7,0
GS	22/06, 15:00	Torreón	USA vs NZL	1-2	4 (3-1)	0	0	1 (0-1)	6,3
GS	26/06, 15:00	Guadalajara	BFA vs ECU	0-2	1 (1-0)	0	0	0	6,5
SF	07/07, 15:00	Guadalajara	URU vs BRA	3-0	7 (4-3)	0	0	1 (1-0)	6,9
			4 insets	T, Ø	13/3,25	0/0	0/0	3/0,75	6,7

 Anton AVERIANOV (Russia), Thikon KALUGIN (Russia)

6. Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

Stephan STUDER (SUI/1975)



One of the most surprising appointments was his one: Stephan Studer's appointment may be based on the fact that one needs a certain replenishment after Busacca's retirement. Studer also got the final at UEFA U19 Euro last year in France; along with his assistant referees Pozzi and Zeder, he was the head of one of the youngest trios at this World Cup. The impression we received by the young Suisse is quite convincing: He managed to escalate during the tournament as he did not start with the

best performance when he refereed the official opener match between Mexico and Korea PRK. It was overall a good performance but he made one big mistake: the sending-off against the North Korean goalkeeper was totally wrong as he played clearly the ball. In his next match, he oversaw Australia against Brazil, this performance was just good without bigger problems but with a very good style.

His last match was the climax, it was his best match: the round of 16 match between Japan and New Zealand. After that, he accompanied Pavel Kralovec into the quarterfinal (GER-ENG).

Although one can have doubts on his quality, the fact that Busacca retired and Studer was invited to referee matches at this World Cup may be an advantage for him.

Overview: Matches refereed by Stephan STUDER

R	Date, Time	Venue City	Encounter	Res.					AVM	
OM	18/06, 15:00	Morelia	MEX vs PRK	3-1	1 (0-1)	0	1 (0-1)	0	6,9	
GS	23/06, 15:00	Guadalajara	AUS vs BRA	0-1	4 (1-3)	0	0	0	7,3	
R16	29/06, 18:00	Monterrey	JPN vs NZL	6-0	2 (0-2)	0	0	0	7,8	
				3 insets	T, Ø	7/2,33	0/0	1/0,33	0/0	7,4

Sandro POZZI (Switzerland), Raffael ZEDER (Switzerland)

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STATISTICS

REFEREE INSETS (ordered by amount of insets):

Origin	Referee	born	insets					Ø
Mexico	Roberto GARCIA	1974	5	15	0	0	1	7,6
Cameroon	Neant ALIOUM	1982	4	13	0	1	0	7,4
Czech Republic	Pavel KRALOVEC	1977	4	22	0	0	1	8,0
Russia	Aleksei NIKOLAEV	1971	4	13	0	0	3	6,7
UA Emirates	Ali Hamad AL BADWAWI	1972	3	14	0	0	0	7,1
Jamaica	Raymond BOGLE	1971	3	9	0	0	1	6,5
El Salvador	Elmer BONILLA	1978	3	9	1	0	2	7,0
Peru	Victor CARRILLO	1975	3	15	1	1	2	7,5
Norway	Svein Oddvar MOEN	1979	3	10	0	0	0	7,9
Ecuador	Omar PONCE	1977	3	2	0	0	0	7,4
Switzerland	Stephan STUDER	1975	3	7	0	1	0	7,4
Argentina	Diego ABAL	1971	2	4	0	1	0	7,8
France	Tony CHAPRON	1972	2	7	0	2	0	7,3
Tahiti	Norbert HAUATA	1979	2	3	0	1	0	7,2
Angola	Helder MARTINS	1977	2	7	0	1	1	7,1
Netherlands	Bas NIJHUIS	1977	2	5	1	0	0	7,3
Bahrain	Nawaf SHUKRALLAH	1976	2	7	1	1	0	7,7
Mexico	Paul DELGADILLO	1974	1	6	1	1	1	4,3
Panama	Jafeth PEREA	1981	1	2	0	0	0	7,0
		TOTAL	52	170	5	10	12	136,2
		Ø	AVERAGE	3,27	0,10	0,19	0,23	7,17

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REFEREE INSETS (ordered by average mark):

Origin	Referee	born	insets					Ø	
Czech Republic	Pavel KRALOVEC	1977	4	22	0	0	1	8,0	
Norway	Svein Oddvar MOEN	1979	3	10	0	0	0	7,9	
Argentina	Diego ABAL	1971	2	4	0	1	0	7,8	
Bahrain	Nawaf SHUKRALLAH	1976	2	7	1	1	0	7,7	
Mexico	Roberto GARCIA	1974	5	15	0	0	1	7,6	
Peru	Victor CARRILLO	1975	3	15	1	1	2	7,5	
Cameroon	Neant ALIOUM	1982	4	13	0	1	0	7,4	
Ecuador	Omar PONCE	1977	3	2	0	0	0	7,4	
Switzerland	Stephan STUDER	1975	3	7	0	1	0	7,4	
France	Tony CHAPRON	1972	2	7	0	2	0	7,3	
Netherlands	Bas NIJHUIS	1977	2	5	1	0	0	7,3	
Tahiti	Norbert HAUATA	1979	2	3	0	1	0	7,2	
UA Emirates	Ali Hamad AL BADWAWI	1972	3	14	0	0	0	7,1	
Angola	Helder MARTINS	1977	2	7	0	1	1	7,1	
El Salvador	Elmer BONILLA	1978	3	9	1	0	2	7,0	
Panama	Jafeth PEREA	1981	1	2	0	0	0	7,0	
Russia	Aleksei NIKOLAEV	1971	4	13	0	0	3	6,7	
Jamaica	Raymond BOGLE	1971	3	9	0	0	1	6,5	
Mexico	Paul DELGADILLO	1974	1	6	1	1	1	4,3	
			TOTAL	52	170	5	10	12	136,2
			Ø	AVERAGE	3,27	0,10	0,19	0,23	7,17

ASSISTANT REFEREE INSETS (ordered by amount of insets):

Origin	Assistant Referee	born	insets
Oman	Hamad Marhoon AL MAYAHI	1975	5
Mexico	Alejandro AYALA	1976	5
Mexico	Victor CALDERON	1976	5
Norway	Kim Thomas HAGLUND	1977	5
Ecuador	Carlos HERRERA	1970	5
Ecuador	Christian LESCANO	1983	5
Iran	Reza SOKHANDAN	1974	5
Netherlands	Erwin ZEINSTR	1977	5
Russia	Anton AVERYANOV	1973	4
Peru	Jhonny BOSSIO	1975	4
Senegal	Djibril CAMARA	1983	4
Rwanda	Felicien KABANDA	1971	4
Russia	Thikon KALUGIN	1974	4
Switzerland	Sandro POZZI	1980	4
Mexico	Marcos QUINTERO	1973	4
Mexico	Salvador RODRIGUEZ	1973	4
Czech Republic	Martin WILCZEK	1970	4

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Switzerland	Raffael ZEDER	1980	4
Czech Republic	Miroslav ZLAMAL	1973	4
Nicaragua	Keytzel CORRALES	1980	3
Peru	César ESCANO	1970	3
Costa Rica	Octavio JARA	1981	3
Papua New Guinea	David CHARLES	1982	2
France	Fredji HARCHAY	1975	2
Kenia	Aden MARWA	1977	2
New Zealand	Mark RULE	1981	2
South Africa	Zakhele SIWELA	1982	2
Honduras	Juan RODAS	1984	1
		TOTAL	104

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[blogs]:

<http://internationalreferee.blogspot.com/>

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Thanks for reading through it!

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