

# A referee's phrasebook

(created by Ian Allanach)

What to say and when

The “accepted” explanations

## Why? 1

- Player is entitled to a brief explanation
- Guideline G19 : “may be appropriate to explain the decision....referee may give a concise explanation...”
- Agreed phrases offer consistency to players
- A timely response gives players confidence

## Why? 2

- Agreed phrases prevent awkward referee silences
- Agreed phrases stop referees “making something up” in heat of moment
- A timely response shows referee knowledge, understanding and control
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- Agreed phrases show consistency among referees

## And in 3 referee system?

- The giving of explanations by central referees is to be discussed at this very conference at a later session

### However

- This phrasebook is still necessary to help referees arrive at their decisions

## “No let” decisions 1– request made by striker

- There was no interference
- Interference was minimal (and did not prevent you getting to and playing the ball)
- You made the interference or you played the person, not the ball or you were taking an indirect line to the ball
- You would not have reached the ball

# “No let” decisions 2 (cont)



- You were not making every effort to reach the ball or You need to make more effort to play the ball
- You accepted the interference or you went past the interference and could have played the ball
- The ball was past you or you were not in a position to play the ball
- It was a winning shot ( by your opponent)

“Stroke” decisions – request by non-striker(unhappy at stroke)

- He had no shot to the front wall
- You made no effort to clear or you were unable to clear
- You prevented your opponent’s swing/shot/ winning shot or you were in his swing or you are crowding your opponent or you must give your opponent freedom of swing

## “Yes let” decisions – request from striker (looking for stroke)



- You had room to play or your opponent was clear
- Interference was some distance from ball
- There was interference on your swing/shot – it was not prevented
- You were still preparing your shot or you had not fully prepared
- The ball was too tight or you could not have played a winning shot



“Yes let” decisions – request from non-striker (unhappy at let)



- There was interference
- You interfered with your opponent's swing
- He would have reached the ball
- There was a fear of injury or it is a safety let

## Caution

- Try not to personalise explanations or imply negatives in player's game e.g.
- “It was a weak shot”
- “You were too slow”
- “You are not that tall” (on a lob)
- “You made the wrong choice of shot”

## Confirming calls

- If questioned about an out, down, not up, etc.
- Play a let if genuinely unsure
- Use phrases such as “I saw the ball good, down, out”, etc. – better than “It was out, down”, etc.
- “I saw it good” – who can argue???

## Player views

- If both players agree a ball was up, down, etc., **accept it**, thank them, and alter a call if necessary.
- If, after giving an interference decision eg “stroke to ...”, players say “we are happy with a let”, do **not** change the decision – better to say “Thank you, but as referee, I saw a stroke situation” – and then stick with your decision