

June 22, 2007

To: National Referees  
National Assessors  
National Instructors  
State Referee Administrators  
State Directors of Instruction  
State Directors of Assessment  
State Directors of Coaching

Cc: Referee Committee  
State Presidents

From: Julie Ilacqua  
Managing Director of Referee Programs  
(Alfred Kleinaitis is on vacation.)

Re: Quick Kick

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In the accompanying video clip of the June 16, 2007 MLS game between Columbus and New England, Columbus player #6, Marcos Gonzalez, is fouled in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute of the game and chooses to take a “quick kick.” New England player, #27, Wells Thompson, is only 2 yards off the ball when the quick kick is taken. Thompson raises his leg to the ball and blocks the kick. The ball goes off his foot directly to teammate, #7, Adam Cristman, who breaks to goal and scores.

Referees are advised in the most current edition of Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game, under Law 13 in Section 13.3, of the following:

“An attacking team which chooses to take a free kick with an opponent closer than the minimum distance may not thereafter claim infringement of the distance requirement, even when the ball is kicked to the infringing opponent, who thereby is able to control the ball without moving toward it. In such a case, the referee cannot caution the opponent who has not remained at the required distance from the ball.”

The key phrase to remember when viewing the attached clip is, **“able to control the ball without moving toward it.”**

It is the consensus of the U.S. Soccer technical staff, that in this particular clip, New England’s Wells Thompson did move toward the ball by thrusting his leg forward to block the kick. The free kick should have been retaken and set up as a ceremonial free kick with the required distance from the ball attained.