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Media briefing notes re the Video Umpire for the Women's Champions Trophy, Sydney (AUS), 11-19 July 2009

Introduction

Video Umpire will be used at the Women's Champions Trophy in Sydney (AUS) for each day of the competition.

The Tournament Director will appoint a Video Umpire to each match from the panel of umpires appointed to the Tournament.

The location of the Video Umpire will be in a suitable position with a view overlooking the pitch. A monitor will be used for reviewing the incidents and replays, together with a communication system with the TV truck/TV Director to request any replays necessary to assist with Video Umpire referrals. The replays will be taken from the camera footage being used for the World feed television coverage.

Referral of decisions to the Video Umpire

The only persons who can refer decisions to the Video Umpire are the match umpires. No one else, including the Video Umpire or Officials at the Technical Table, can stop the match to request a referral.

Referrals cannot be made as a result of protests, queries or pressure from players, team managers or coaches.

Decisions which can be referred to the Video Umpire

The match umpires may refer decisions to the Video Umpire when they are not convinced that they have taken, or are able to take, the correct decision relating to the awarding or disallowing of goals.

Therefore the match umpires shall be entitled to request the Video Umpire to assist in making decisions related only to whether or not a goal has been legally scored which will include, but are not restricted to: -

1. Whether the ball crossed the goal line (within the area bounded by the goalposts and crossbar)

2. Whether the ball was legally played or touched inside the circle by the stick of an attacker before the ball crossed the goal line
3. Whether the ball travelled outside the circle before it entered the goal during the taking of a penalty corner
4. Whether a breach of the rules has been observed within the attacking 23 metre area in the play leading to the awarding or disallowing of a goal. It is then for the umpire to take any breach into account in reaching his decision

The final decision therefore remains with the match umpire, and not with the Video Umpire.

All other decisions will remain with the match umpires only.

Procedure of referring decisions to the Video Umpire

Umpires are advised that in cases where referral needs to be made to the Video Umpire: -

1. If possible, the engaged umpire is to signal the decision she considers to be the correct one
2. Play and time should be stopped before referring to the Video Umpire
3. The engaged umpire indicates that assistance is required from the Video Umpire by a clear hand signal (rectangular screen shape as used in cricket)
4. The engaged umpire (only) will then communicate with the Video Umpire through radio contact, clearly explaining what she wishes to be advised upon
5. The Video Umpire will confirm that the request has been received and understood
6. The Video Umpire will provide her advice and recommendation to the match umpire by radio contact within the shortest time frame possible.
The only possible outcomes of referrals are: -
 - ♦ Goal
 - ♦ No Goal
 - ♦ No decision possible (if the video footage is inconclusive, in which case the original decision of the match umpire stands. If there was no decision given before the referral, then the final decision is no goal)
 - ♦ A breach of the rules is observed, which the umpire shall take into account in reaching her final decision
7. The match umpire should repeat back the Video Umpire's advice and recommendation to ensure that this has been correctly heard and understood
8. The match umpire will then communicate her decision in the usual manner
9. The decision of the match umpire shall be final and no protest against this will be possible

Extract from the FIH Tournament Regulations: -

13. VIDEO UMPIRE

13.1 Power to refer decisions to the video umpire:

- (a) The match umpires are the only persons who can refer decisions to the Video Umpire.
- (b) Referrals cannot be made as a result of protests, queries or pressure from players, team managers or coaches on any decision. Teams (and their captains) will be held responsible for any violation or abuse of the Video Umpire protocols.
- (c) No one, including the Video Umpire or technical officials at the technical table, can stop the match to request a referral.

13.2 The match umpires may refer decisions to the Video Umpire when they are not convinced that they have taken, or are able to take, the correct decision relating to the awarding or disallowing of goals.

Referrals shall only relate to whether or not a goal has been legally scored.

13.3 The match umpires shall therefore be entitled to request the Video Umpire to assist in making decisions (related to whether or not a goal has been legally scored) which will include, but are not restricted to:

- (a) Whether the ball crossed the goal line (within the area bounded by the goal posts and crossbar).
- (b) Whether the ball was legally played or touched inside the circle by the stick of an attacker before the ball crossed the goal line.
- (c) Whether the ball travelled outside the circle before it entered the goal during the taking of a penalty corner
- (d) Whether a breach of the rules has been observed within the attacking 23 metre area in the play leading to the awarding or disallowing of a goal. It is then for the umpire to take any breach into account in reaching his decision

13.4 The Video Umpire shall call for as many replays from any camera angle as necessary to reach a decision.

The Video Umpire will provide his advice and recommendation ('Goal' or 'No Goal' or 'No decision possible'; plus advice on any observed breach of the rules) within the shortest time frame possible. If a breach of the rules is observed and advised to the match umpire, it is then for the match umpire to take into account the breach in reaching his final decision.

13.5 The final decision still remains with the match umpire and not the video umpire.

13.6 All other decisions shall remain with the match umpires.