

AR positioning and signal when offside offence committed in player's own half

Following the change in the wording of the Laws of the game, we would like to provide advice in relation to the positioning and signal from the Assistant Referee.

This is best demonstrated with the following example:

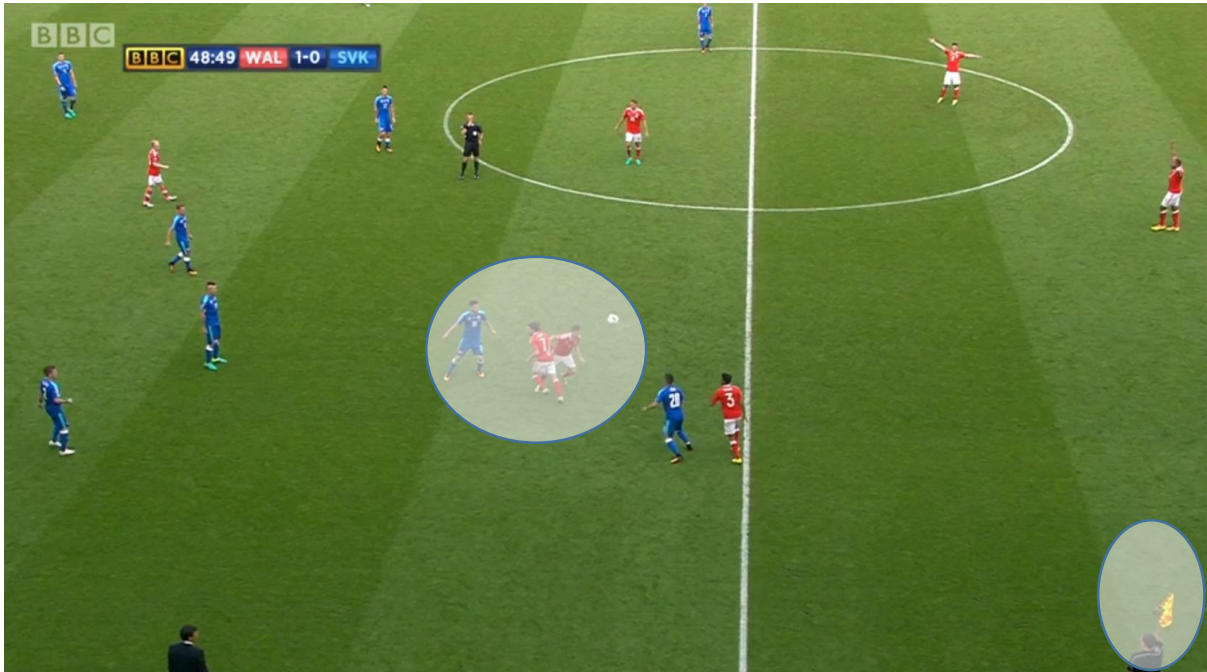
The player in Blue moves from an offside position and challenges as opponent for the ball just inside his own half of the field of play.

As the player moves the AR should communicate ***"WAITING ON.....(player name/number)"***. This raises the Referees awareness of a possible offside situation (*Fig 1*).



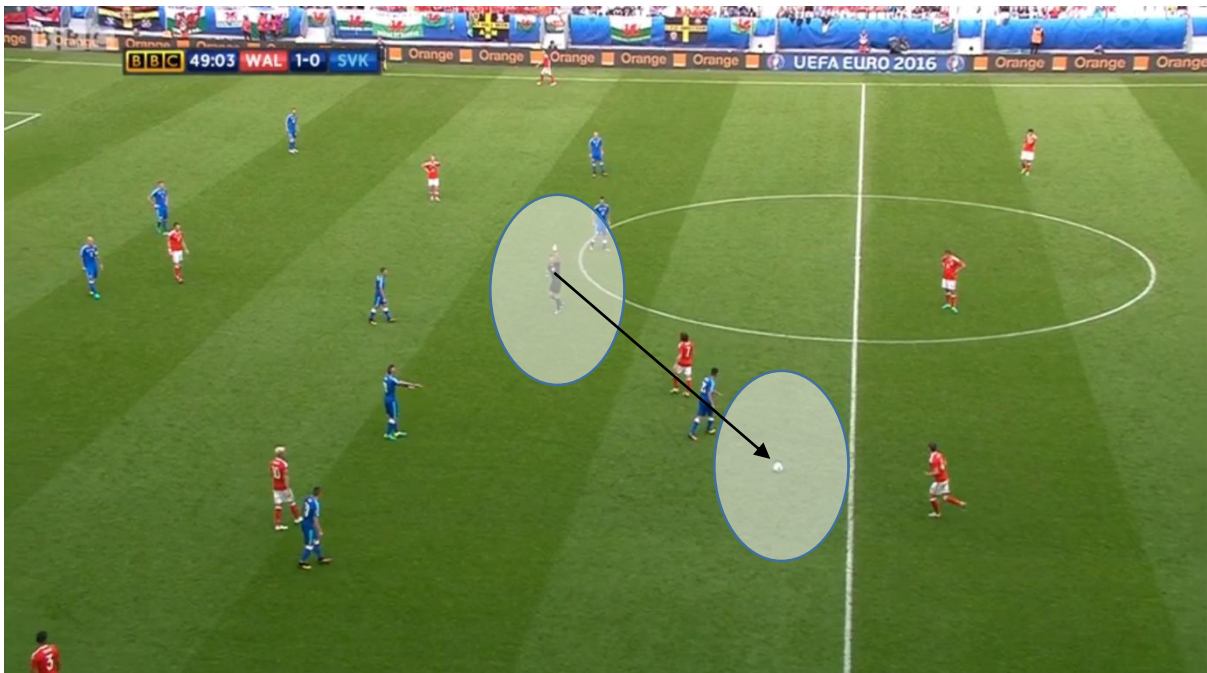
(Fig. 1)

The AR raises his flag directly above his head to indicate, without any agitation, to indicate the offside situation. (Fig. 2)



(Fig.2)

The Referee is able to manage the positioning of the free kick before giving an appropriate signal for play to continue. (Fig. 3)



(Fig. 3)

Points for clarification:

1. As the player in an offside position moves towards the ball, the AR should clearly communicate “**WAITING ON (player name/number)**”.
2. The AR should raise the flag to indicate the offside offence. It is not required to retain the flag across the field of play to indicate ‘Far’, ‘Middle’ or ‘Near’ as this may lead to confusion amongst players and spectators in relation to the location for the restart.
3. ARs should not cross the half-way line when signalling or communicating an offside offence. The half-way line should be the furthest point at which they position themselves.
4. It is not necessary for the AR to run up to the halfway line to ‘sell the decision’.
5. It may helpful for the AR to use their left hand in a ‘right to left’ gesture/arc signal to help communicate that the player has moved back from an offside position. This should be a simple visual communication and not exaggerated or repeated numerous times.
6. Referees should take control of positioning of the restart as they would on any other FK situation in their half of the field of play. The AR may, of course, use the communication system to help the Referee but if the system is not available, the Referee would make the decision based upon the information available to him.