



MEMO

SOCCER NSW

TO - ALL CLUBS & ASSOCIATIONS  
FROM - EXECUTIVE MANAGER FOOTBALL SERVICES  
DATE - 22 March 2006  
SUBJECT - *OFFSIDE INTERPRETATION & CLARIFICATION*

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We have received the following interpretation for the new offside law from Richard Lorenc, National Refereeing Manager, FFA:

In most offside situations the 'old' rule will still apply i.e. where only one attacking player clearly goes for the ball from an offside position, the player is deemed offside. If the referee uses the 'wait and see' approach for this player to touch the ball, then the defending team will be disadvantaged. The indirect free kick is taken from where the offside player was situated when the ball was played and not from where he touches it as the new law suggests.

The new interpretation of 'wait and see' will generally apply when 2 or more attacking players (some onside, some offside) go for the ball at the same time. Should any of these players going for the ball be clearly onside, the referee will confirm who touches the ball first before either ruling offside or playing on. If the onside player touches the ball first, play continues regardless of offside positions of his team mates.

Should an offside player touch the ball first, he will be deemed to be offside regardless of the player alongside being onside. The indirect free kick will be taken from where the ball was touched.

Kind regards

BRANKO CULINA,  
Executive Manager Football Services