



Memorandum

To: Officials Working Professional League Matches

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Subject: The Field of Play (Equipment and Devices)

Date: March 29, 2005

Various questions have been raised recently regarding the status of cameras and other devices which may be found around, near, or even on the field of play. The fundamental principle is that the referee has authority under Law 5 to make final decisions regarding both the compliance of the field with the requirements of Law 1 and the overall safety of the field.

If a field has a physical object located directly above the field (e.g., a clock or moveable camera -- popularly called a "skycam"), play must be **stopped** if the ball makes contact with the object and then **restarted with a dropped ball**.

Any device or equipment intended to enhance communications, to assist in the management of the event, or to facilitate broadcasting the match and which is located on or around the field must be brought to the attention of the referee and made available for inspection prior to the commencement of the match. The referee will work with local facility managers to resolve any issues related to the presence or operation of such devices but the final decision regarding safety remains with the referee. At all times, such equipment must be operated so as not to interfere with or disrupt play.

Unusual equipment and devices which do not endanger the safety of players and which have been allowed by the referee must nevertheless be reported in the Competition Incident Report.