

**Clarification CRC in relation to the specific incident in the match  
Ionikos v Aris played on 4.2.2023. (Offside)**

Since this incident a number of discussions have taken place amongst match officials; it is clear the interpretation of this situation differs on whether the defender 'deliberately plays' the ball or whether it 'deflects' off his foot.

**Clarification & Interpretations**

IFAB states under 'Football Terms' :

- **Deliberate** – 'An action which the player intended/meant to make; it is NOT a 'reflex' or unintentional reaction.

IFAB states under Law 11 :

*'The following criteria should be used, as appropriate, as indicators that a player was **in control** of the ball and, as a result, 'deliberately played' the ball :*

- *The ball travelled from distance and the player has a clear view of it. ✓*
- *The ball was not moving quickly. \* ✓*
- *The direction of the ball was not unexpected. ✓*
- *The player had time to co-ordinate their body movement i.e it was not a case of stretching or jumping or a movement that achieved limited contact/control. ✓*
- *A ball moving on the ground is easier to play than a ball in the air. \* N/A in this case*

**Other Observations**

- The ball travelled from approximately 15m
- The defender had sufficient time to adjust his body to play the ball
- He was in control of his actions (*not stretching or jumping*)
- The defender was clearly aware of the close proximity of the attacking player (who was not in an offside position – no impact) close by and deliberately played the ball to prevent the opportunity of the attacker to play the ball

**Conclusion**

- **Correct decision – No Offside**