

MEDICAL COMMISSION CONFERENCE

LAWS WORKSHOP: TMO

NEW PROTOCOL:

- TMO role has increased significantly in rugby to cater for a game that has become that much more complex.
- It is not a game that could easily once be refereed by 1 person, with 2 people on the side simply putting their flags up when the ball went into touch.

The intention of the Protocol is not to enable the TMO to drive decision making, but instead allow the TMO to support and enable the on field team to make better, more accurate refereeing decisions where by circumstance, situation or human error, they are in need of such support.

- The TMO serves as a vital component to accurate decision making. BUT have we set the TMO up for success or for failure? Are we allowing the first point of call in player welfare (on the field) to operate at the highest level with the greatest chance of success?

PLAYER WELFARE:

- HCP, player welfare and TMO accuracy are DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL.
- BUT we rely on one/two peoples perception based on broadcast angles only in driving decision making. Is this an environment that leads to consistency and accuracy?
- Can better tech aid in more accurate player welfare decision making?
- Are we seeing player behavioral changes as quickly as we would have hoped? How do we accelerate that – is it a player, coaching or union issue vs a laws issue?
- How do we get cross hemisphere consistency? Differences in perception to player welfare across NH and SH Unions.

Public Perception – It's a Problem:

- The role of the TMO either frustrates or excites a stakeholder, there is rarely a middle ground.
- The underlying purpose of the TMO's role is valid and warranted, but have we truly got it right in rugby, or are we merely trying to tick a box?
- The public are frustrated with stoppages in games, and TMO referral's are often such stoppages leading to frustration. That frustration spills over into significant public criticism and abuse of the refereeing team.

PR – BIG MOMENTS:

- How do we as a sport better represent the law to the scribes and public? Especially around HCP?
- Public does not understand the difference between intent and no intent. We can have foul play even though there is no intent, but the wider public cannot understand that. We need to be exploring the process of public education in greater detail.

All Blacks boss Foster didn't agree with the Retallick sending-off. Speaking post-game in a Sky Sport interview, he said: "We are going to have a good look at it. I certainly didn't see any intention, apart from trying to move a body. That's a process we will have to go through."

NEW TECHNOLOGY:

We are one of the most complex games in the world to officiate and adjudicate, yet

**RUGBY DOES NOT
ACTUALLY HAVE ANY
TECHNOLOGY.**





GOAL DECISION SYSTEM

SUPPORTED BY

LIV 1-1 WOL
48:43 +3'

CHECKING GOAL - POSSIBLE OFFSIDE



VAR

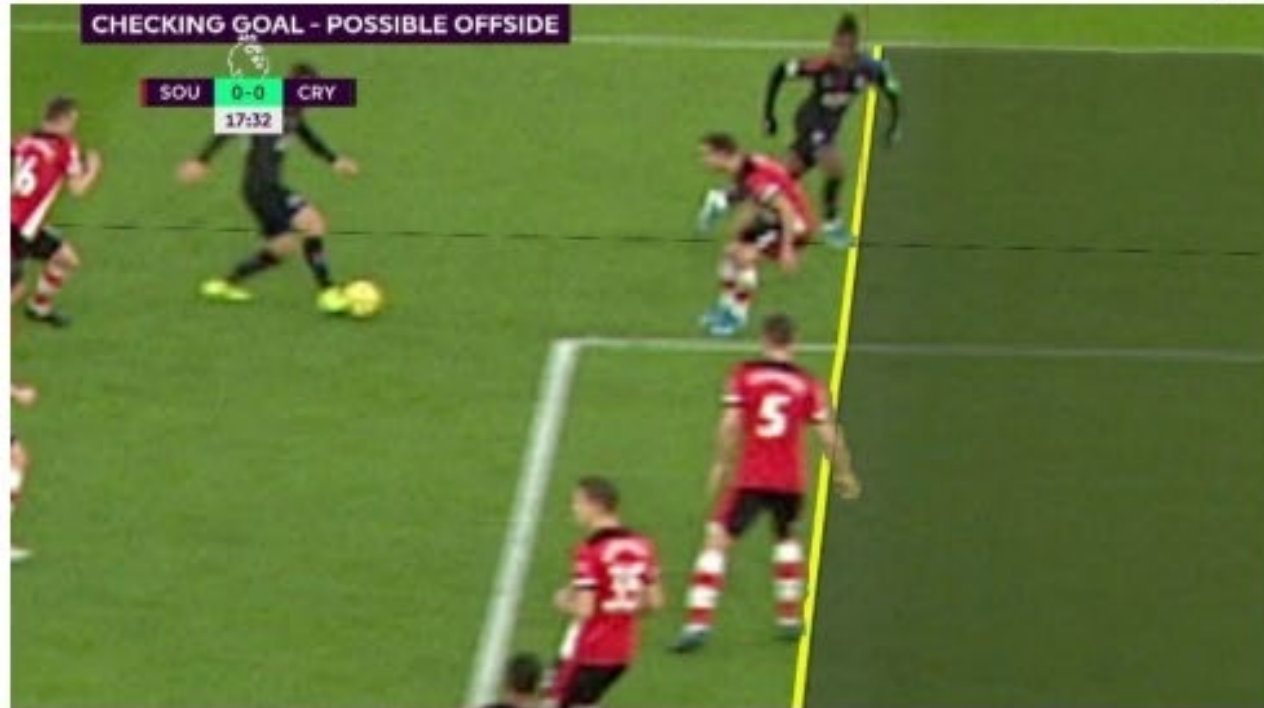
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CHECKING GOAL - POSSIBLE OFFSIDE



CHECKING GOAL - POSSIBLE OFFSIDE

SOU 0-0 CRY
17:32



PREMIER LEAGUE
BHA 2 - 0 BOU 59:13 verizon

LIVE

CHECKING GOAL - POSSIBLE OFFSIDE



VAR

ORIGINAL DECISION

OUT

WICKETS

UMPIRE'S CALL

IMPACT

IN-LINE

PITCHING

IN-LINE

ROYAL LONDON

ROYAL LONDON

ROYAL LONDON

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CITY

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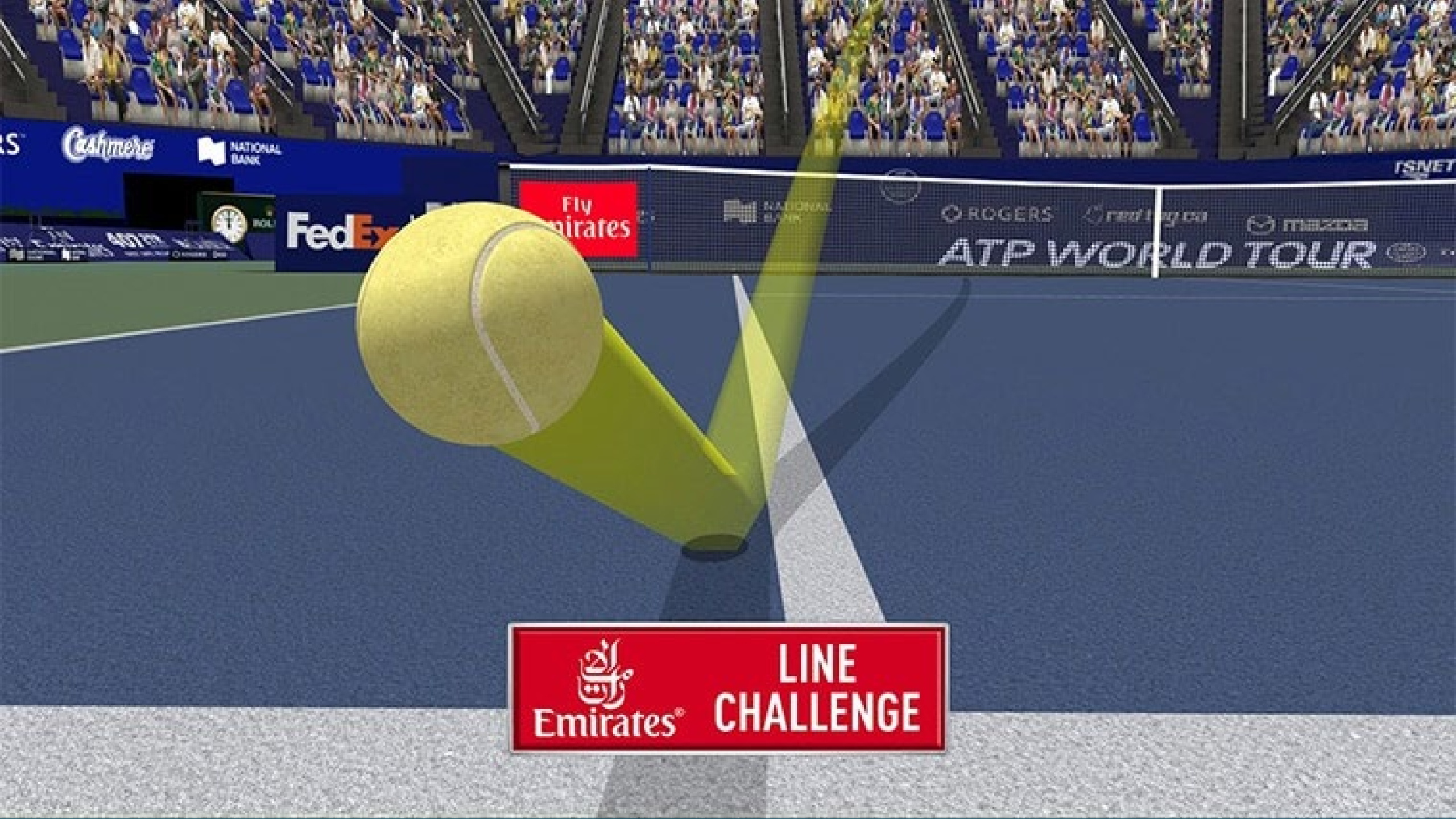
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LS™ Cashmere NATIONAL BANK TSNET
FedEx FLY Emirates ROGERS Credit Agricole MAZDA
ATP WORLD TOUR

Emirates® LINE CHALLENGE

Tech & Rugby...the future:

- Tech should be solving so many of our problems.
- We are one of the only elite, worldwide sports where humans make all the TMO decisions. Do you ever see the public challenging a tennis HawkEye decision, or an LBW decision in cricket – why? Because a computer makes the decision, and a person merely communicates it.
- What If?
 - We could develop forward pass technology that vibrates on a referee's arm?
 - We could develop heat maps that accurately determine point of contact for foul play, as well as force/degree of danger?
 - We could develop touchline technology that accurately allows an AR to identify the place the ball went out through a GPS watch
- Well, we can. And it would speed the game up significantly, bring back greater credibility to the decision making processes in rugby, and provide broadcasters with high quality content that is credible and has the ability to be commercialized.
- World Rugby has an opportunity to lead the process of developing and integrating the right tech into our game.

