

Sample Referee's Pre-Game Instructions **Suggested for entry level officials**

Strategy

- Introduce each other, know the other referee's names
- Know who the teams are
- Discuss teamwork, support one another, communication, and eye contact at every stoppage
- Ensure everyone records the events of the game – goals, misconduct etc.

Offside

- Stay with the second last defender or the ball if it is nearer to the goal line
- Wait and see if the player who is in an offside position is involved in active play
- Raise your flag and keep the flag up until I blow the whistle then indicate far, middle, near and then put your flag down.
- If I miss the offside flag, continue to keep the flag raised and yell my name until you have got my attention, or the ball has been cleared by the defending team.
- If in doubt, do not raise the flag
- Don't be upset if the referee waves your flag down.

Fouls/Misconducts

- Talk to players and be preventative
- If you see a foul in front of you, raise your flag and look to me and make eye contact then wiggle it side to side, when whistle is blown give direction
- If you think a foul deserves a Yellow card, tap your badge after making the call, or if I miss something wait until the next stoppage and call me over.
- If you think you see something that deserves a Red card, immediately raise your flag, get my attention and tap your shorts pocket.
- If a foul occurs in the penalty area and it is to be a penalty kick, and you think my vision is blocked, make eye contact, and raise your flag. Once the whistle is blown take your position for a penalty kick.
- If a misconduct happens when the play is going the other way, out of sight of the referee, raise your flag and call the referee's name. Ensure you have the number of the players involved.

Ball in and out of Play

- Make eye contact before raising the flag. We are not in a hurry. Take time to think and get it right.
- If the ball goes out of play in your area raise the flag to 45 degrees giving direction of play
- If the ball goes out in my half of the field, mirror my call.
- Follow the ball all the way to the goal line when making a call for a goal kick or corner.
- If we have a ball that quickly leaves the field of play and re-enters, raise your flag and get my attention.
- If you see a ball bounce in and out of the net and a goal was scored, raise your flag, make eye contact and then sprint towards center.

Substitutions

- Signal for a substitution when it will not interrupt the flow of play by the opponents.
- If the player being substituted is near you, remind them to leave at the nearest line.
- Try to control the player(s) entering the field of play. They are to wait for the player(s) leaving the field of play

Throw-in

- Watch the feet, and I will watch the hands, tell the player where to take the throw-in from if you are close to play.
- When you are unclear of the direction, keep the flag at your side and I will give direction, and you will then mirror my signal.

Penalty Kick

- If there is a significant defensive foul in the penalty area that I miss, make eye contact, give me a nod, raise the flag, and when the whistle is blown run down and around the corner flag taking your position at the edge of the penalty area.
- Your job will be to watch for significant encroachment from the keeper, if this happens raise your flag. You will also be the judge of the ball crossing the line for a goal.

At the end of each half meet up with the referee. If the ball is near you, pick it up.

Remember, we are a team! Lots of eye contact for communication.