

The Pre-Game Conference

What every referee crew should do
before each match



Starting the Day

- Every Crew is expected to be at the assigned field 30 minutes before scheduled kick-off.
- Remember, professionalism is key to the success of your crew, and the match at hand.
- Above all, consider safety for everyone involved over all else.
- Always, arrive as a team, and leave as a team.
- A job well done, is a game well enjoyed by all.

Arrival at the Field

- Crew meets in the parking lot.
- With all your gear, walk onto the pitch with a clear and confident mind.
- Observe any possible problems around the field of play.
- **BE IN UNIFORM!!!**



Inspecting the Field

- Referee inspects the general field surface and line markings.
- AR's inspect the goals and their anchors, as well as corner flags and markings.
- Look for anything not secure, or that might pose danger to anyone.



Inspecting Teams and Equipment

- Line teams up to view them as a whole.
- Check uniforms for compliance:
- Shirt, Shorts, Socks, Shin Guards, Shoes.
- Have players remove jewelry; if it is dangerous it must be removed, it cannot be taped.
- For select games, call off player cards to ensure players are present. Hold cards until after the match.
- Collect game balls from home team and secure captains.
- If there is a color conflict, the home team must change.

Crew Mechanics Discussion

- Determine Diagonal: Referee to run Right/Left of facing goal.
- Establish AR's zone for fouls and infringements.
- Instruct AR's to mirror each other or not for unseen signals.
- Discuss certain focus for referee and AR on Foul Throw-Ins and Corners.
- Establish AR positioning on all general re-starts; including GK's, FK's, Corners, and especially Penalty Kicks.
- Determine how substitutions will be handled throughout the match.
- Establish any special signals needed.

Talk About Offside

- Assistant Referees responsibility.
- AR's should only signal when offence has been committed, not just because someone is in the offside position.
- Trail AR should mirror if signal unseen.
- Do not SNAP your flag! It is the referee's job to look to the AR for signals. Just hold your spot until whistle or waved down.
- AR's **MUST** stay with 2nd to last defender or the ball, which ever is closest to the goal line!!!

Game Administration

- Referee keeps official time and record.
- Have one AR back-up time.
- Have other AR back-up record.
- Team-Side AR handles substitutions if prescribed by referee.



The Coin Toss

- Referee Calls captains to half-line off field.
- Shake hands and introduce each other.
- AR's stand at either side of referee.
- Away captain call coin in the air.
- Winner decides which goal they will attack.
- Inform captains what color they will be called during the match.



Let the Game Begin!



Always Remember!

- Referee crews arrive at the field as a team, and leave the field as a team.
- Stick together in your decisions, and support each other on the field and off.
- Don't be afraid to talk to each other. The more input you have from you referee team, the better each decision will be made.
- Always avoid conflict. Safety is key, not just for the players, but for your team as well.