

## Pre-game Instructions to Assistant Referees

**Introductions:** Discuss competition specific rules such as tie-breaking procedures and period lengths.

**Offside:** AR's decision. Stick with second-to-last defender and run balls down to the goal line. Only signal involvement and/or advantage. Hold the flag straight up until I whistle, I wave you off, or play goes the other way. If I wave you off, don't take it personally.

**Fouls and Misconduct:** Call what you see. Use proper signaling procedures. Allow me to establish the game in the first ten minutes. Don't be mute, talk to the players. Use your personality to help control the match. Let's talk if you think it was in the PK area or a Card offence.

**Free/Penalty Kicks:** Stay with the offside line on free kicks. Keep defenders honest on Corner kicks. Come to the intersection of the Penalty area and Goal line on Penalty kicks. You be the goal and keeper judge. I will watch the kicker and encroachment.

**Substitutions:** All substitutions come in at the halfway mark. They must be ready before the next stoppage in play or they don't come in. Make sure there is no confusion about who is coming off and going on, and how many.

**In Touch:** Give me direction on your half of the field; hold flag straight up on my half. If I look to you for help, offer it. If I overrule you, flag with me and don't take it personally. Watch the feet on throw-ins, and I'll watch the hands.

**Department:** Support my calls even if I overrule you. Make sure coaches and bench exhibit proper behavior, and give me a flag if you need help. Give me facts not opinions.

**Eye Contact:** Let's make eye contact on every stoppage. If I forget, remind me with a subtle gesture. Watch the field for trouble, and don't chase balls.

## Pre-game Instructions to Assistant Referees

**Introductions:** Discuss competition specific rules such as tie-breaking procedures and period lengths.

**Offside:** AR's decision. Stick with second-to-last defender and run balls down to the goal line. Only signal involvement and/or advantage. Hold the flag straight up until I whistle, I wave you off, or play goes the other way. If I wave you off, don't take it personally.

**Fouls and Misconduct:** Call what you see. Use proper signaling procedures. Allow me to establish the game in the first ten minutes. Don't be mute, talk to the players. Use your personality to help control the match. Let's talk if you think it was in the PK area or a Card offence.

**Free/Penalty Kicks:** Stay with the offside line on free kicks. Keep defenders honest on Corner kicks. Come to the intersection of the Penalty area and Goal line on Penalty kicks. You be the goal and keeper judge. I will watch the kicker and encroachment.

**Substitutions:** All substitutions come in at the halfway mark. They must be ready before the next stoppage in play or they don't come in. Make sure there is no confusion about who is coming off and going on, and how many.

**In Touch:** Give me direction on your half of the field; hold flag straight up on my half. If I look to you for help, offer it. If I overrule you, flag with me and don't take it personally. Watch the feet on throw-ins, and I'll watch the hands.

**Department:** Support my calls even if I overrule you. Make sure coaches and bench exhibit proper behavior, and give me a flag if you need help. Give me facts not opinions.

**Eye Contact:** Let's make eye contact on every stoppage. If I forget, remind me with a subtle gesture. Watch the field for trouble, and don't chase balls.

## Pre-game Instructions to Assistant Referees

**Introductions:** Discuss competition specific rules such as tie-breaking procedures and period lengths.

**Offside:** AR's decision. Stick with second-to-last defender and run balls down to the goal line. Only signal involvement and/or advantage. Hold the flag straight up until I whistle, I wave you off, or play goes the other way. If I wave you off, don't take it personally.

**Fouls and Misconduct:** Call what you see. Use proper signaling procedures. Allow me to establish the game in the first ten minutes. Don't be mute, talk to the players. Use your personality to help control the match. Let's talk if you think it was in the PK area or a Card offence.

**Free/Penalty Kicks:** Stay with the offside line on free kicks. Keep defenders honest on Corner kicks. Come to the intersection of the Penalty area and Goal line on Penalty kicks. You be the goal and keeper judge. I will watch the kicker and encroachment.

**Substitutions:** All substitutions come in at the halfway mark. They must be ready before the next stoppage in play or they don't come in. Make sure there is no confusion about who is coming off and going on, and how many.

**In Touch:** Give me direction on your half of the field; hold flag straight up on my half. If I look to you for help, offer it. If I overrule you, flag with me and don't take it personally. Watch the feet on throw-ins, and I'll watch the hands.

**Department:** Support my calls even if I overrule you. Make sure coaches and bench exhibit proper behavior, and give me a flag if you need help. Give me facts not opinions.

**Eye Contact:** Let's make eye contact on every stoppage. If I forget, remind me with a subtle gesture. Watch the field for trouble, and don't chase balls.

## Pre-game Instructions to Assistant Referees

**Introductions:** Discuss competition specific rules such as tie-breaking procedures and period lengths.

**Offside:** AR's decision. Stick with second-to-last defender and run balls down to the goal line. Only signal involvement and/or advantage. Hold the flag straight up until I whistle, I wave you off, or play goes the other way. If I wave you off, don't take it personally.

**Fouls and Misconduct:** Call what you see. Use proper signaling procedures. Allow me to establish the game in the first ten minutes. Don't be mute, talk to the players. Use your personality to help control the match. Let's talk if you think it was in the PK area or a Card offence.

**Free/Penalty Kicks:** Stay with the offside line on free kicks. Keep defenders honest on Corner kicks. Come to the intersection of the Penalty area and Goal line on Penalty kicks. You be the goal and keeper judge. I will watch the kicker and encroachment.

**Substitutions:** All substitutions come in at the halfway mark. They must be ready before the next stoppage in play or they don't come in. Make sure there is no confusion about who is coming off and going on, and how many.

**In Touch:** Give me direction on your half of the field; hold flag straight up on my half. If I look to you for help, offer it. If I overrule you, flag with me and don't take it personally. Watch the feet on throw-ins, and I'll watch the hands.

**Department:** Support my calls even if I overrule you. Make sure coaches and bench exhibit proper behavior, and give me a flag if you need help. Give me facts not opinions.

**Eye Contact:** Let's make eye contact on every stoppage. If I forget, remind me with a subtle gesture. Watch the field for trouble, and don't chase balls.

## Pre-game (cont.)

**Dissent:** Allow no dissent toward the referee team.

**Fights:** Should a fight occur, the leading assistant gets jersey numbers and prevents others from joining the fight. The trailing assistant controls the benches as best you can.

**Be Diligent:** Stay in the game! Don't let either side get out of control. Look for trends, tactics, or anything else that might help the referee team in the second half.

**End of Each Period:** At half time and at the end, meet me in the middle. Refer all questions or comments from the coaches or staff to me. Should there be an overtime period, we'll discuss it then. Any feedback session will begin when we are away from everyone so we may discuss the issues (good and bad) without reprisal.

**Senior Assistant:** The senior assistant is \_\_\_\_\_, and will back me up on time, the junior assistant on score.

**TEAMWORK:** The most important thing is that we understand each other, you are comfortable with what I want, and we work together as a TEAM. Most of all, enjoy yourself and have fun. Questions or comments?

© 2002; Content by: Michael Metz Layout by: Albert Tillery  
For members of New Mexico Soccer Referee Association

## Pre-game (cont.)

**Dissent:** Allow no dissent toward the referee team.

**Fights:** Should a fight occur, the leading assistant gets jersey numbers and prevents others from joining the fight. The trailing assistant controls the benches as best you can.

**Be Diligent:** Stay in the game! Don't let either side get out of control. Look for trends, tactics, or anything else that might help the referee team in the second half.

**End of Each Period:** At half time and at the end, meet me in the middle. Refer all questions or comments from the coaches or staff to me. Should there be an overtime period, we'll discuss it then. Any feedback session will begin when we are away from everyone so we may discuss the issues (good and bad) without reprisal.

**Senior Assistant:** The senior assistant is \_\_\_\_\_, and will back me up on time, the junior assistant on score.

**TEAMWORK:** The most important thing is that we understand each other, you are comfortable with what I want, and we work together as a TEAM. Most of all, enjoy yourself and have fun. Questions or comments?

© 2002; Content by: Michael Metz Layout by: Albert Tillery  
For members of New Mexico Soccer Referee Association

## Pre-game (cont.)

**Dissent:** Allow no dissent toward the referee team.

**Fights:** Should a fight occur, the leading assistant gets jersey numbers and prevents others from joining the fight. The trailing assistant controls the benches as best you can.

**Be Diligent:** Stay in the game! Don't let either side get out of control. Look for trends, tactics, or anything else that might help the referee team in the second half.

**End of Each Period:** At half time and at the end, meet me in the middle. Refer all questions or comments from the coaches or staff to me. Should there be an overtime period, we'll discuss it then. Any feedback session will begin when we are away from everyone so we may discuss the issues (good and bad) without reprisal.

**Senior Assistant:** The senior assistant is \_\_\_\_\_, and will back me up on time, the junior assistant on score.

**TEAMWORK:** The most important thing is that we understand each other, you are comfortable with what I want, and we work together as a TEAM. Most of all, enjoy yourself and have fun. Questions or comments?

© 2002; Content by: Michael Metz Layout by: Albert Tillery  
For members of New Mexico Soccer Referee Association

## Pre-game (cont.)

**Dissent:** Allow no dissent toward the referee team.

**Fights:** Should a fight occur, the leading assistant gets jersey numbers and prevents others from joining the fight. The trailing assistant controls the benches as best you can.

**Be Diligent:** Stay in the game! Don't let either side get out of control. Look for trends, tactics, or anything else that might help the referee team in the second half.

**End of Each Period:** At half time and at the end, meet me in the middle. Refer all questions or comments from the coaches or staff to me. Should there be an overtime period, we'll discuss it then. Any feedback session will begin when we are away from everyone so we may discuss the issues (good and bad) without reprisal.

**Senior Assistant:** The senior assistant is \_\_\_\_\_, and will back me up on time, the junior assistant on score.

**TEAMWORK:** The most important thing is that we understand each other, you are comfortable with what I want, and we work together as a TEAM. Most of all, enjoy yourself and have fun. Questions or comments?

© 2002; Content by: Michael Metz Layout by: Albert Tillery  
For members of New Mexico Soccer Referee Association