

Pre-game: (Numbers 2 to 8 spell OFFSIDE)

1. **Introductions:** Discuss specific competition rules to cover, tie breaking procedures, period lengths, ball size, age group and division.
2. **Offside:** Assistants always have offside decisions so be diligent! Stick with the second the last defender and run all balls down to the goal line. Signal for involvement only. Better a late signal than a wrong signal. If I overrule you don't be offended.
3. **Fouls:** Call what you see. Use the proper procedures to get my attention (I respond to the pop of the flag) and indicate the direction. Let me establish the type of game in the first ten minutes so you know what and what not to call.
4. **Free Kicks and Penalty Kicks:** On Free Kicks stay with the offside line. I'll be the goal judge. Keep the defenders honest on the Corner Kicks. Make all Goal Kicks and Free Kicks exit the Penalty Area before being played. On Penalty Kicks come to the intersection of the Penalty Area and the Goal Line to be the goal judge and keeper judge. I will take care of the kicker and encroachment.
5. **Substitutions:** All substitutions come in at the halfway mark. They must be ready before the stoppage otherwise they don't come in. They must call off their teammates and the player coming off needs to be almost if not all the way off the before the other players enters the field. A player does not have to exit at the halfway mark. Keep strict account of the number of players on the field.
6. **In Touch:** Give me a direction on balls that go into touch. If you don't know the direction put the flag straight up and I will call it. If I look to you for help, offer it. If I overrule you flag with me and don't take it personally. On throw-ins watch the feet, I will watch the hands.
7. **Deportment:** Don't comment to the crowd or the coaches about the calls. Support my calls even if I overrule you. Make sure the coaches and bench people behave themselves and give me a flag if you need any help. I will come over to discuss the issues. Give me facts, not opinions.
8. **Eye Contact:** Lets make eye contact on every stoppage. If I forget, give me a subtle reminder with a hand gesture such a pointing to your eyes. Watch the field, look for trouble, and don't chase balls. Talk to the players (you are not a mute), use your personality to assist in match control. Allow no dissent toward the referee team.
9. **Senior Assistant:** The senior assistant is _____. The senior assistant backs me up on time, the junior assistant on score.
10. **Fights:** Should there be fight the leading assistant gets jersey numbers and prevents others from joining in. Anybody joining the fight is gone. The trailing assistant controls the benches as best they can.
11. **Trends:** Look for trends, tactics or anything else that might help the referee team in the second half (such as offside traps, picking on a player, etc...).
12. **Be Diligent:** If a tight game be diligent in the second half. Don't let the intensity of the game get the best of you. If a blowout be diligent too. Don't let either side get out of control.
13. **End of Each Period:** At half time and at the end meet me in the middle. Refer any questions or comments to you about the game from coaches or staff to me. Should there be overtime we will discuss it further at that time.
14. **Feedback:** Feedback session begins when we are away from everyone so that we may discuss the issues (good and bad) with out reprisal.
15. The most important thing is that we understand each other, are comfortable with what I want and work together as a team. Most of all, try to enjoy yourself and have fun.
16. Question or comments?

Michael S. Metz - Grade 7 USSF Referee - AYSO Area Referee
9508 Peralta Rd. NE - Albuquerque, NM 87109

Phone: 505-822-8989 - Fax: 505-822-8988 – michael@michaelmetz.com - www.michaelmetz.com (referee.michaelmetz.com)