

## The Keys to Successful Refereeing

1. Be in charge. The referee is in charge of the game and his/her calls dictate how the game will be played. Do not allow things to get out of hand early on. Avoid advantage until game control is established.

2. There are certain key periods during the game when a referee has to work extra hard to stay on top of things. The 1st Fifteen minutes of the each half is very essential as the Referee establishes game control and flow. The Last 15-20 Minutes of each half is even more demanding as fatigue becomes a factor, resulting in mistakes & frustrations.

3. Try to stay within 5 to 10 yards of play whenever possible. Imagine that a television camera is following the play. You want to be on the fringes of the picture to the side, so that you have a good view of the action.

4. Prevent violence by preventing frustration. Calling the simple holding fouls will reduce a player's tendency to lash out at the player holding him with an elbow. Once game control has been achieved, then the referee can allow the game to flow more freely.

5. Stamp out serious foul play & violent acts that have no place in the game, including over the ball tackles, tackles into the Achilles tendon, elbows to the head and off the ball fouls.

6. Dissent cannot be tolerated. These include abuse of Assistant Referees, visible gestures, confrontations in the face of the referee, and packs of players chasing an official.

7. Get 10 yards during free kicks. Failure to do so undermines credibility of the referee and results in the erosion of control.

8. Communication and teamwork with Assistant Referees is vital. Make sure that eye contact is established and information exchanged at every stoppage.

9. Read the body language of players: Deal with trash talking, prevent off the ball holding/pushing, and diffuse aggressive attitudes that do not belong in the game.

10. All players must be protected. Referees insure that skillful players will have the opportunity to exhibit their athletic abilities. If we provide a safe environment for the talent to be showcased, then the game will flow and that is what makes the game a joy to watch.

The games thus far have shown a heightened level of intensity and skill level as compared to years' past. There has been displayed a discrepancy between the world-class marquee players and others on the field, which has led to unexpected circumstances for the referee teams. "Expect the Unexpected."

The Referees need to do with what sells in the particular game you are refereeing, we are not being judged on isolated incidents. Do not referee by incidents, but referee the game as a 'whole'. CONSISTENCY Referees need to pay particular attention to four game critical decisions

a. send off/no send off

b. offside/no offside

c. penalty kick/no penalty kick

d. goal/no goal

Each of these situations can have a tremendous impact on the game, so officials must concentrate on being in position and getting these calls correct.

Expect the unexpected. Be mentally prepared for anything and alter position accordingly. Get as close as possible to the goal in situations when you know there is little time left and teams are pressing for the tying goal.

Be aware of tactics used to slow down and intimidate" attacking " players.

Prevent these unlawful attempts to prevent players from becoming frustrated and taking the law into their own hands.

Maintain levels of concentration at all times. Do not turn your back on the ball after a goal is scored.

Be vigilant in dealing with foul play that is violent or likely to injure an opponent

The performances of the assistant referees over the past week have improved.

However, we cannot assume a matter of fact attitude. We still need to concentrate and not to relax during the ninety minutes in order to have similar performances in the future. We cannot revisit the 3 goals pulled back because of AR errors the last several weeks.

If the assistant or the 4th official is in a better position than the Referee to

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judge the play this must be done in the best interests of the game. Fourth officials may go to the AR or they may go directly to the Referee. Assistants must get more involved and call fouls they are in a better position to judge.

Congratulations to assistant referees for getting a significant number of important calls right. Referees need to reinforce this aspect of teamwork in the pregame conference.

Mechanics that are outlined in the "Guide to Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials" need to be adhered to.

Communication between Referee and Assistant is degraded if assistants do not use these signals. Of particular concern is the mechanic that should be employed when a ball entirely crosses a boundary line and then quickly returns back into play. Also, the correct Assistant Referee signal when signaling a penalty kick.

With regard to the recent FIFA circular, ARs and 4th officials must become more involved in the game. If there are serious off the ball fouls, the other crew members must intervene to get this information to the referee as soon as possible. In these situations, the officials must tell the referee whether they would give a yellow or red card for the incident. ARs must make calls on fouls when they have a better view of an incident. The bottom line is getting the call right!

Be particularly alert for fouls committed by players fighting for position on the ground while the ball is in the air.

Refer to notes to assessors on topics page of web. Pay special attention to the most important factors. Positioning problems should not be enough to cause the referee to fail an assessment unless these problems led to missed calls that effected outcome of match. Match control and proper orchestration of the match are primary considerations.

Administrative details must not be allowed to overshadow the referee's performance on the field. Delegate responsibility in pregame so that you can concentrate on the game.

For long crosses into the penalty area we must keep our eyes on the ballplayers. This is where the action is. Too many attackers are being displaced from optimum scoring positions while the ball is in the air.

In cases of a ball coming back into the field of play after crossing the goal line for a goal, AR must stop and raise flag to indicate that the ball has gone out of play, make eye contact with the Ref, then sprint up the touchline after the whistle.

When AR raises flag to call for a penalty kick, he should remain in that position until the referee has indicated a penalty kick before assuming his position for a penalty kick.

Assistant referees are again reminded to adhere to the mechanics that are laid down in the Procedures booklet for universal communication. Our level of communication is degraded when we do not use the standard signals.