

American Youth Soccer Organization

Referee Pre-Game Instructions To Assistant Referees and Pre-Game Duties

Match:

Age and type (discuss anything out of the ordinary, tournament rules, etc.)
Duration (time for each half)
Expected match difficulty

Officiating:

Selection of Senior and Junior Assistant Referees
Backup of match time
Diagonal to be used

Duties of Assistant Referees:

Primary in and out of play judges
Primary goal judges
Follow the ball through the goal line
Signal for goal scored
Position and duties:
 During active play
 Position with second to last defender during active play
Offside
 Active participation (review)
 When to hold signal
 When to put flag down
Goal kick
Corner kick
Penalty kick
After a goal is scored
Free kicks
Throw-ins
 Who watches the feet and who watches the upper body
Goalkeeper possession/punt
 Verify that the goalkeeper does not handle the ball outside of the penalty area.
Substitutions
Foul recognition
What to do to get Referee's attention to discuss
 Misconduct out of the view of the Referee
 Anything else which needs to be brought to the Referee's attention

Before the Match:

- Referee and Assistant Referees arrive 20 to 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the match
- Referee and Assistant Referees inspect the field
- Referee and Assistant Referees inspect the players equipment and obtain match ball.
- Referee discusses pre-game instructions with assistants
- Referee and Assistant Referees enter field together and move to center spot.
- Referee carries match ball, introduces officiating team to captains, and conducts coin toss.
- Assistant Referees have flags furled.
- Officials record results of coin toss.
- Assistant Referees perform final check of nets and move to touch lines, note the substitutes then move to take the offside position.
- Assistant Referees unfurl flags and hold them straight down in view of the Referee to signal readiness to start.
- Referee makes eye contact with each assistant referee to ensure readiness.