



National Referee Course

Refereeing as a Team and Preparing for
National Assessment

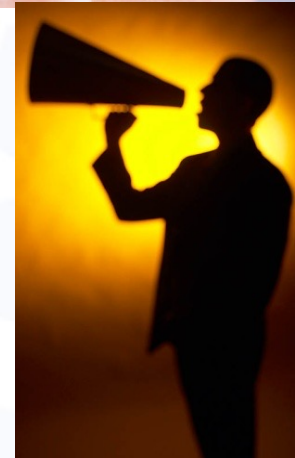
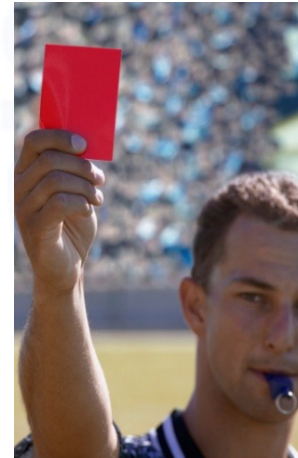
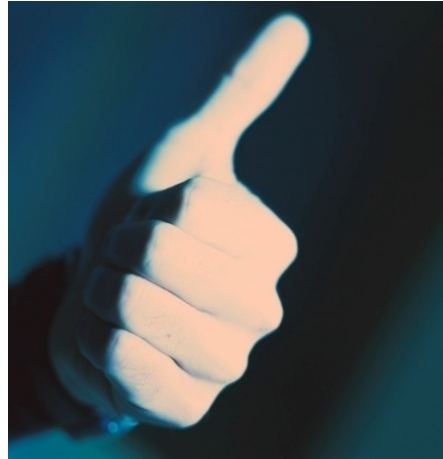
The Referee Team

- In 16U & 19U matches, there is a need for more sophisticated communication and cooperation
- It is a faster paced match with more complex play
- The players are more skilled (usually) and play is more physical
- There is a greater potential for violence
- There is potential for more gamesmanship
- Players will recognize referee inconsistency
- AR's are incredibly important at this level...

Refereeing as a Team - It's All about the *Communication*

- Good coordination and communication among the Referee team will help you avoid problems as the games get more complex, as they do in 16U/19U
- What are some of the match incidents where communication (or lack of it) has gotten you out of trouble (or in it)?
- How did you address it going forward?
- What are some of your communication tools?
 - Which ones should you use more of? Less?

Team Communication Tools



Officiating as a Team is Referee Cooperation

The Key to Referee cooperation is communication:

PRE-GAME PRE-GAME PRE-GAME

- Your pre-game gets the Referee and the ARs “on the same page” and defines everyone’s responsibilities
- Use a checklist if you need to until you get it down (and even then, don’t be afraid to keep using it)
- AR’s should be active participants in a DISCUSSION. It’s NOT A LECTURE by the Referee...

PreGame



EVERYONE PLAYS®

BALANCED TEAMS

OPEN REGISTRATION

POSITIVE COACHING

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT



The Officiating Team

- Pre-Game
 - Does the pre-game cover everything for this game?
 - Rules of Competition?
 - Non-standard signals?
 - Confrontation plan?

Pre-Game Considerations...

- You have a free kick near the goal. Who does what?
 - Considerations?
- How does the AR communicate that he or she needs to talk to the referee? How and where do the referee and AR meet?

What does USSF Say for Referee Team Responsibilities?

- Who identifies throw-in infringements?
- Who judges offside infringements?
- Who handles encroachment on a PK, and what is the signal?
- May an AR make an advantage decision?
- May an AR call a foul a PK?
- Who keeps track of Substitutions?
- Who keeps track of goals scored?

Unofficial Signals

- Laws 5 and 6 describe the authority, powers and duties of the Referee (Law 5) and Other Match Officials (Law 6).
- *IFAB Guidelines for Match Officials* provides the standard communication practice
 - However, the officiating team may use unofficial means of communication
 - Should you? Why or why not?
 - Different Senior Referees (including National Assessors) have different views....
- What unofficial signals do you use?
 - When? / Why?
 - How do you introduce these signals to the referee team?
 - What if you are the AR and the Referee wants you to use some unofficial signals?

Working Together As A Referee Team

- Before the Match
 - What should you cover?
 - Considerations?
- During the Match
 - Referee – When should I look at my AR? When and where do I need help?
 - AR - How can I help the referee?
- Half-Time
 - How can we improve?
 - Where did we have trouble?
- After the Match - Hand shake. Paperwork

Coordination Areas for the Referee Team

- Signaling
 - Order of signaling
 - Eye contact
- Record Keeping
 - Trail, Lead, Center (TLC)
 - Two sets of eyes on field at all times...
 - Mass confrontation
 - Very few get this right in the moment as it's a hectic time full of activity. PREGAME.



Referee Tips

- Did you research the teams?
 - Identify skilled players?
 - Identify problem players?
- How are you managing the players?
- How are you managing the coaches? Spectators?
- Are you making adjustments as the game progresses? Half time discussion.
- ARE YOU DELIVERING JUSTICE TO/FOR THE PLAYERS?
 - If you are not, then the players will. And that is when things get out of hand...
- Are your decisions being ACCEPTED by the players? If not, why not?
- Are you having FUN out there? If you are, it's A LOT easier to manage the game...



Assistant Referee Tips

- You are there to ASSIST the Referee. NOT Referee the game...
- Follow instructions from the pre-game to the letter
- Concentrate the entire game (don't daydream) and keep your eyes on the field
- Stay with the offside line (mainly 2nd to last defender) - right with, no cheating....
- Follow the ball to the goal line
- Side step only when it makes sense – RUN when you need to
- Talk to the players when necessary
- Manage the wall in your quadrant
- Call fouls when required (per pregame)
- Manage the substitutions and touchlines
- Make things EASIER for the Referee, NOT harder



Assistant Referee Tips

- Fouls called by the Assistant Referee (per pregame)
 - Did the referee see it?
 - Would the referee call it?
 - Is it trifling?
 - Should advantage be considered?
 - Will it matter?
- Subtle Signals (per pregame)
 - Play on?
 - Time expired?
 - Indirect Free Kick?
 - Penalty Kick?
 - Caution?
 - Send Off?
 - Throw in?



Brian Hall's (Who?) Four Key Decisions

- The Referee Team **MUST** get these right!
 - Goal / No Goal
 - PK / No PK
 - Send off / No Send off
 - Offside / No Offside
- These are all likely Key Match Incidents (KMIs) and we've got to get them right...

Scenario I

- You are the Referee on a 16U match

Just as the Red player releases the ball on a throw-in, the AR raises his flag and wiggles it. The ball is headed toward a couple of Red and Blue players who are jockeying for position. When you blow the whistle, the AR points his flag (45° up) toward the Red goal.

- What's the restart?

Scenario I cont....

- You are the AR on a 19U match
 - Just as the Blue player releases the ball on a throw-in the Red defender steps right in front of him to impede the throw. You raise the flag and wiggle it. How does the Referee distinguish between a bad throw-in and the infraction along the touchline?
 - In that vein, how do you indicate that an offense is an IFK?

Scenario 2

- You are the AR in a 16U match

The referee has awarded a PK to the Red team. On the taking of the PK, the Blue goalkeeper left her line forward with both feet before the ball was kicked and subsequently made the save. In your opinion the movement by the GK directly contributed to the save.

- How do you deal with this?
- What if the ball goes in the net?

Scenario 3

- You are the AR in a 19U match

The Red attacker misplays the ball to a Blue defender who clears the ball 50 yards downfield to a teammate. The Referee follows play. Behind his back the obviously frustrated Red player violently shoves the Blue defender to the ground. They are about 40 yards away from you.

- What do you do? When do you do it?

Scenario 4

- You are the AR in a 19U match

A Red player in an offside position interferes with the Blue opponent and you raise your flag.
The referee does not acknowledge your signal.

- So now what?

How long do you hold the flag?

Should the other AR “echo” the signal?

Scenario 5

- You are the AR in a contentious 16U match. The Referee stops play to deal with misconduct; referee's attention focused on players involved.
- What is your responsibility?

Preparing for National Assessment

- You have all been assessed as part of your Advanced upgrade
- How many of you enjoyed being assessed?
 - Why or why not?
 - What did you learn?
 - What did you ignore?
- The National Assessment process is tough (and it's meant to be), but it should be helpful in your development as a Referee

Preparing for National Assessment

- What is a National Assessment about?
 - Match Management
 - Player Management
 - Coach and Touchline Management
 - LOTG knowledge and implementation (and judgment when implementing or not...)
 - Professionalism and referee team communication
- What is the criteria?
 - Your AYSO National Assessor will apply National Assessment Criteria which you can read in the National Referee Program
 - For me, it's simply "Do you carry yourself like a National Referee?"

The Success Path to National Assessments

- Are you ready?
 - How many Upper Division Matches have you refereed? How did they go? What can you improve on before your assessment?
 - How many UD games have you AR'd? Have you really mastered being an AR?
 - Find and work games with mentor(s). Do some practice assessments..
 - Are you physically fit? Are you able to be close to play in a 19U Boys match?
 - Do you know the Laws of the Game? Practical Guidelines for Match Officials? Guide to Procedures? Major LOTG mistake is tough to overcome...
- Do not sleep on the AR assessment. This is trickier for more people than you think

Your National Assessor

- Wants you to succeed – view him/her as your Referee Coach
 - They are giving up their time (and probably driving a pretty long way) to come work with you
 - Think of them as an Instructor on the field...
- Will assess only today's match and discuss areas of improvement
- Is a neutral observer and may view your work differently from others

Communicate with Your Assessor

Contact your Assessor before the game

Confirm Location and Time of your assessment and give the assessor the names of the referee team

Discuss expectations and ask questions

- Can I wear a hat / sunglasses?

Tips for Success for Assessment as the Referee

- Choose experienced ARs who you have worked with before
 - Pick people who will support you as AR's; not act like the Referee...
- The match should be your first game of the day (this is important)
 - Get to the field early
 - Prepare the referee team - same uniform, correct badge, equipment
 - Perform a thorough field inspection – include discrepancies in the pre-game
 - Efficient team check-in
 - Enter and leave the field as a team – control the game ball
 - Be close to play and show your fitness throughout the game (especially late...)
 - Show courage AND judgment (both ways – hard calls. Know the why...)
- Allow time for debrief (do you want your AR's to attend the debrief?)

Tips for Success for Assessment as the Assistant Referee

- Choose an experienced Referee (ideally a National or strong National candidate) and another experienced AR who you have worked with before
- The match should be your first game of the day (this is important)
 - Get to the field early
 - Follow the direction of the Referee - same uniform, correct badge, equipment
 - Enter and leave the field as a team – flags rolled
 - Stay locked in to the offside line throughout the game. Don't daydream. Be fit
 - Don't referee the game. You are the Assistant Referee
 - Do what the Referee asks you to do (what did she say in the pregame?)
- Allow time for debrief (do you want the rest of the Referee team there...)
- DO NOT SLEEP ON THE AR ASSESSMENT. IT'S TRICKIER THAN YOU THINK...

Other Stuff for Assessments

- Don't argue with the assessor (even if you disagree with their point of view)
- Don't take things personally
- May I officiate a Girls game for one of my National assessments?
- Do I need to show cards to pass my Referee assessment?
- What is an "assessable match"?
- May I officiate in another Section for one of my National assessments?
- Resources:
 - ayso1ref.com/ AYSO Section 1 National Referee Assessment and Certification Policy and Procedures
 - aysosection10.org/ AYSO Section 10 National Referee Certification Process
 - ayso-section11.org/Section11 National Referee Assessment Guidelines

Section 1 National Assessment Policy

- Candidates should complete the National Referee course, written examination, and physical fitness test prior starting the assessment process. This significantly improves the assessment experience.
- Candidates should coordinate the assessment match with their ADRA ***at least three weeks*** in advance.
- National Referee Candidates must:
 - ✓ Have a minimum of one year experience (time in grade) as an Advanced Referee before assessments for upgrade will be authorized
 - ✓ Request assessments when ready through his/her Area Director of Referee Assessment
 - ✓ Have passed the written examination and the physical fitness test and have completed all three assessments required for this upgrade within three years (36 months) prior to the date he/she submits the completed upgrade application

Your Section Staff

- Section Referee Administrators:

- Section 1 Rick Roberts sra@aysos1.org
- Section 10 Chris Doucette agreferee@yahoo.com
- Section 11 Ben Murray sra@aysos11.org

- Section Directors of Referee Assessment:

- Section 1 Al Prado sdra@aysos1.org
- Section 10 Miller Newlon wmnewlon1@sbcglobal.net
- Section 11 Jim Cowart srda@aysosection11.com

Final Thoughts

- Each of you have come a REALLY long way from being a Regional Referee
 - Take a moment to appreciate all the work that you have put in to get here (and the sacrifices your family has endured). Your regions/area and, more importantly, the kids appreciate it...
- The National Assessment process is a CHECKPOINT (actually 3 checkpoints) on your Referee journey. That's all it is...a CHECKPOINT
- Your assessed games are NOT going to be the last games you're ever going to referee (at least we hope they're not), so don't treat them as such
 - If they go well, great. If they don't, then take the feedback and get back in the saddle when you're ready. People WANT you to get there and WILL HELP you get there.... If you keep at it, you WILL get there...
- It's a pretty cool fraternity/sorority, so keep at it....