

DUAL-OFFICIATING SYSTEM

OBJECTIVE:

This material is meant to serve as an introduction to the dual system of officiating. Fundamentals of mechanics are presented so those unfamiliar with them will be motivated to study other material dealing with the subject.

Topics discussed within this material on the mechanics of the dual-officiating system include:

1. the necessity of a thorough pregame conference;
2. the positions and duties of officials on:
 - kickoffs;
 - goal kicks;
 - corner kicks;
 - penalty kicks;
 - free kicks;
 - throw-ins;
 - drop balls;
3. coordinating the use of the whistle in releasing the ball for play between the lead official (L) and the trail official (T);
4. the proper technique in making a call, and the importance of signaling;
5. handling substitutions.

PREGAME CONFERENCE:

Essential to competent officiating of any game is the pregame conference between the two officials. This is the time when an understanding is developed and difficult rule interpretations are discussed.

The head referee is responsible for conducting the conference and is responsible for the overall management of the game. The head referee conducts the pregame instructions with the timer, scorer, coaches and team captains, and also handles the coin toss. The head referee will be assisted in these duties by the referee. The head referee and the referee should inspect the field together, with the referee calling any irregularities to the attention of the head referee. The head referee will request the game management to make any necessary corrections. The referee is specifically responsible in instructing the ball holders and in carrying out other duties directed by the head referee. The head referee will speak with both teams and coaches prior to the game about good sportsmanship.

A very important responsibility of the head referee is to make decisions on any points not specifically covered in the rules. The head referee is the final authority on any rules interpretations necessary during the course of the game. Another important responsibility is ruling on legality of player equipment. Particular attention should be given to casts, bandages and padding protecting injuries.

The head referee and the referee have equal responsibility and authority in calling fouls. The judgment or decisions by either official cannot be questioned or set aside by the other, but joint counsel is often helpful when conducted by the two referees away from everyone.

NOTE: A reserve official may be assigned to a tournament in order to assure game officiating continuity in the event one of the assigned officials is unable to officiate as assigned. When a reserve official is assigned, the tournament authority will clearly state the officiating position to be assumed by the reserve official in the event a referee or assistant referee is unable to officiate. The reserve official is under the jurisdiction of the referee and performs those duties assigned by the referee. The reserve official's normal station is at the table inside the officials' area during play.

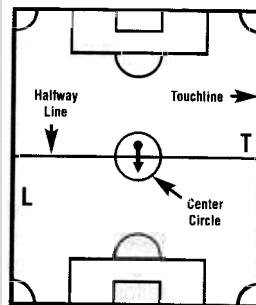
KICKOFFS:

Diagram 1
Positions for Kickoff

To start each period and after goals, the position of the officials should be as shown in Diagram 1. With the ball moving in the direction indicated, the trail official (T) should be near the touchline and standing on the halfway line (with all players on the halfway line in front of him/her to rule on encroachment of the halfway line and the center circle). The lead official (L) shall be positioned 10 to 20 yards from the halfway line and inside the touchline in the defensive team's half of the field. Before the lead official indicates being prepared for the kickoff, he/she shall check with both team captains, scorer and timer (if they are on his/her touch line) to obtain a "ready" sign from them. Having obtained these "ready" signs, the lead official shall signal to the trail official everything is set. The signal is an extended arm parallel to the ground pointing in the direction the kick will be taken. The trail official, after receiving the "ready" signal from the lead official, will sound the whistle to declare the ball is "ready-for-play."

Should the timer and scorer be located on the trail official's touchline, he/she will check with them before releasing the ball for play.

MOVEMENT PATTERNS:

In the dual system, there is always a lead official (L) and a trail official (T). One should be able to draw a diagonal line between the two officials through the ball at anytime.

For the best coverage, it is essential that proper officiating mechanics be understood and used. The lead official normally is ahead of the ball on plays to his/her right. He/she is responsible for covering the touchline and nearer goal line. In addition, the lead official must be in position to rule on offside. This means the lead official must assume a position to know the position of the most advanced offensive player relative to the deepest two defenders at the same time the ball is played in the attacking half of the field.

The trail official will normally be behind the ball on plays to his/her left. Attention will be directed to play around the ball. The penetration of the trail official will depend on the type of game being played (kick and run vs. ball control) and the physical ability of the official.

Penetration of 20-30 yards by an official will help "box" the play and preclude any guessing or missed calls from the touchline. At some time, the trail official will become the lead official and will have to rule on goal line plays to the right. Of course, the position of the ball will dictate which official will be responsible for off-the-ball coverage. Alert off-the-ball coverage is the hallmark of the dual system. In games played in halves, officials should exchange field sides at halftime and "lead" to their left starting the second half, assuming they were leading to their right in the first half

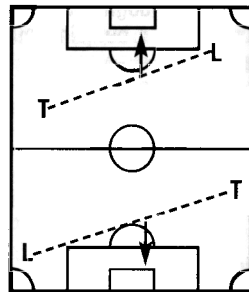


Diagram 2
General Movement of
Officials During Play

MAKING THE CALL:

- A. When a foul is observed that is to be penalized, an official will:
 1. give a short, sharp blast of the whistle;
 2. give time-out signal if appropriate;
 3. visually indicate the direction and type of free kick (direct or indirect) or the direction and spot of the throw-in;
 4. visually indicate signal for foul;
 5. when required, the lead official should give a sharp blast of the whistle declaring the ball "ready-for-play." Do not wait for the defense to set up.
- B. Official's procedural guidelines to issue a card:
 1. stop play;
 2. stop the clock;
 3. hold a yellow, red card or both as the situation warrants with arm fully extended above the official's head;
 4. indicate player(s);

5. record player's name and jersey number;
6. inform player of the reason for the caution or disqualification;
7. inform the scorekeeper, both coaches, and his/her partner;
8. restart game promptly.

FREE KICKS:

When the ball has been properly placed, the trail official shall signal to the lead official. It is suggested the trail official indicate the ball is "ready-for-play" by giving the appropriate free-kick signal.

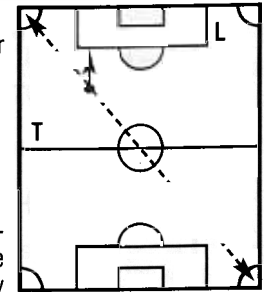


Diagram 3
Position on Free Kicks

GOAL KICKS:

The trail official is responsible for declaring the ball "ready-for-play." The position is near the top of the penalty area approximately halfway between the touchline and the penalty area. See Diagram 4. He/she is responsible "to see the kick clears" the penalty area before it is played a second time.

The lead official should be approximately at the halfway line near the touchline. The position will be determined by the kicker and wind conditions. The main observation will be the players around where the ball will be kicked, watching mainly for illegal pushing.

If the ball should be kicked to the goalkeeper's right, perpendicular to the touchline, the lead official should see that the ball clears the penalty area before it is played a second time.

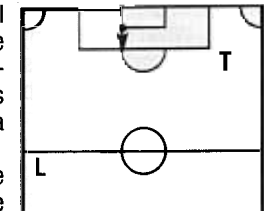


Diagram 4
Position for Goal Kicks

CORNER KICKS:

The lead official is responsible for declaring the ball "ready-for-play" on all corner kicks, if a second whistle is required. The position will be approximately the same whether the kick is taken from the right side or the left side. See Diagrams 5 and 6. Also, he/she is responsible for the flight of the ball from the right or the left. The lead official will be positioned on the goal line near the goal post between the post and the outer edge of the penalty area. When the ball is kicked from the right, the lead official will pivot after the ball has been kicked to observe play while continuing to observe the ball to determine where it will land. As soon as the official knows the ball will land in the field of play, forget the ball and direct attention to players around where the ball will land. The trail official will be positioned near the top of the penalty area on his/her side of the field regardless of whether the kick is taken from the right or left. On kicks taken from the right, the trail official should observe action on the goalkeeper and play around the goal area. The trail official shall assume a position which does not interfere with play, but allows observing fouls in the goal area.

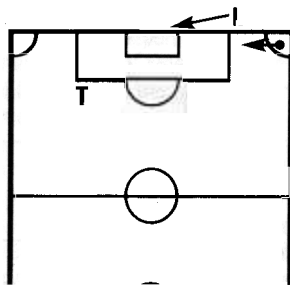


Diagram 5
Position for Corner Kicks from the Right

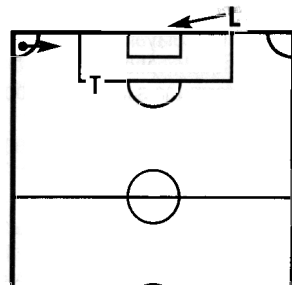


Diagram 6
Position for Corner Kicks from the Left

When the kick is taken from the left side, the responsibilities are slightly different. The placement of the ball on kicks taken from the left is the responsibility of the trail official. When it is properly placed, the trail official will give a signal. After the ball is kicked, the lead official observes action on the goalkeeper as well as follows the flight of the ball to rule on the ball over the touchline. The trail official observes action in the penalty area, giving special attention to play in the goal area. If a second whistle is required to begin play, the lead official should delay slightly before declaring the ball "ready-for-play" to give the trail official an opportunity to assume proper position. This is another clear case of "looking off the ball."

THROW-IN:

The official responsible for the touchline from which the throw-in is made will be primarily responsible for judging if the throw-in is performed correctly. If the attack is coming toward the official, he/she must be positioned to be the lead official and must anticipate development of play. When the attack is away from the official, that official need only rule on the legality of the throw-in. The official on the opposite touchline will observe players in the general area around the throw-in, watching for holding, pushing, etc.

PENALTY KICKS:

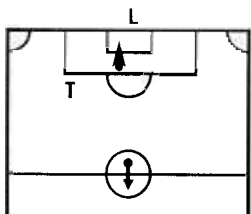


Diagram 7
Positions for Penalty Kick

The lead official shall be positioned near the goal post on his/her side of the field and is responsible for declaring the ball "ready-for-play" after it has been placed by the kicker. The main responsibilities of the lead official are to act as goal judge and to see that the goalkeeper stands on the goal line and does not move off the goal line before the ball has been kicked. The trail official shall be positioned near the top corner of the penalty area opposite the lead official. See Diagram 7. The responsibility is

primarily to watch for infringements of the penalty area and quarter arc by members of either team and infractions by the kicker. As soon as a penalty kick is indicated, the official closer to the ball shall pick up the ball and take it to the penalty mark. Both officials will assist the players in assuming positions for the kick. The lead official will hand the ball to the kicker and instruct the player to place the ball and then walk to the goalkeeper making sure the goalkeeper is ready and understands that the ball will be released by the whistle.

HANDLING SUBSTITUTIONS:

The official responsible on the side of the field where substitutes will be entering will beckon the players onto the field. The official responsible for the re-start will sound the whistle.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECLARING THE BALL "READY-FOR-PLAY" WHEN A RESTART WHISTLE IS REQUIRED:

Situation	Official
Start of each half	Trail
Kickoff after goal	Trail
Drop Ball	Trail
Goal Kick	Trail
Corner Kick	Lead
Penalty Kick	Lead
Free Kick	Lead
Throw-in	Official responsible for ruling on the legality of the throw.

POSTGAME DUTIES:

1. After verifying the score, leave the field together immediately.
2. Do not seek out coaches, players or anyone else nor allow anyone in the dressing room.
3. Do not make statements to the media or anyone else.
4. File necessary game reports immediately.

DIAGONAL-OFFICIATING SYSTEM

The diagonal system is of one referee and two qualified assistant referees. Referee's duties prior to and during the game are as written for the head referee in the dual-officiating system within this rules book.

It is important that the three officials meet before any game. The head referee must indicate clearly how each assistant referee may best help. The referee is required to meet with timer, scorers, ballholders and captains to remind them of their responsibilities and answer questions. Referee shall meet with both teams and their coaches to discuss unsporting conduct and penalties for failure to act in a sportsmanlike way.

The assistant referees are assistants to the referee, their duties (subject to the decision of the referee) shall be to indicate when the ball is out-of-play and which