

Assistant Referee Information Guide



Role of the Assistant Referee

The primary role of the Assistant Referee is to support the referee at all times. It is a specialised role recognised as requiring a specific skill set, different to that of the match Referee.

Key responsibilities are summarised as indicating when:

- the whole of the ball leaves the field of play and which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in.
- a player in an offside position may be penalised.
- a substitution is requested.
- at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper moves off the goal line before the ball is kicked and if the ball crosses the line; if additional assistant referees have been appointed the assistant referee takes a position in line with the penalty mark.

General Guidance and Expectations

- Arrive at the ground at least 45 mins before kick-off.
- Meet the referee at the agreed location.
- Participate in the referee's pre-match instructions and warm-up as a team.
- Support the final decisions of the referee at all times within the match.
- The referee will rely on your decisions especially for offside, whether the ball is in or out of play, and when this was close to you, who restarts play. Look at the referee first before signalling.
- Being overruled/waved down by the referee may happen from time to time, this is ok. There may be an advantage for an offside for example, or they have seen something different from the view that they have. It is not personal.
- Avoid talking to spectators. This will distract you from your role.

Uniform

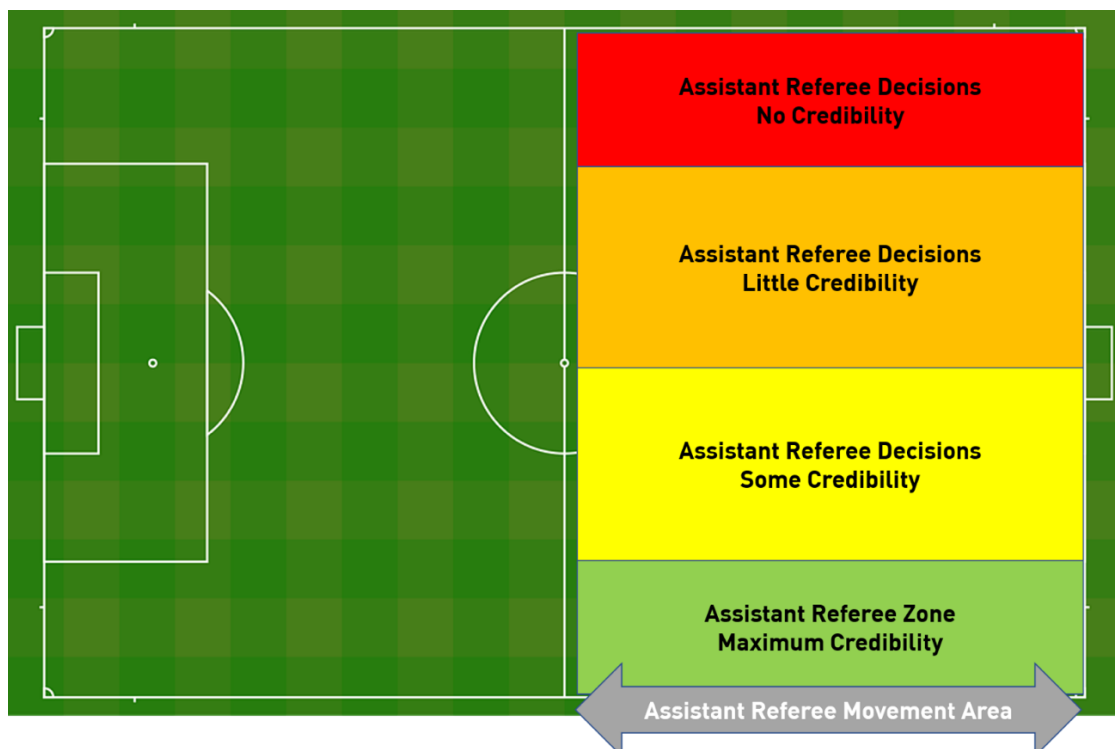
- Suitable footwear, ideally football boots.
- Shorts (Trackpants can be worn for Secondary School night games) that you can comfortably run in. You are moving 4 km-6 km per game.
- Shirt/jacket (keep warm).
- Watch.

Before the Match

- Walk out with referee and the teams with the flag is rolled up and in the hand furthest away from the referee.
- RESPECT Handshake.
- Coin toss.
- Check nets for any holes, overhangs etc (before both halves), and alert referee if there is any issue which needs to be addressed. Note this should be done earlier as well, the purpose of the check at this time is a final check after the teams have warmed up etc.
- Head to the touchline (you can cut the corner) and line up with the second to last defender.

Positioning and Movement

- Always stay in position, usually in-line with the second to last defender. Chase the ball back to the goal line, even if obvious.
- Where possible, move in a sideways motion, so that you are as square with the field of play. Check that your feet are square when moving sideways (one foot is not ahead of the other) throughout the match. To keep up with the offside line, you may need to sprint. Avoid moving backwards.
- Remain behind the touchline. If play is really close to you, take a few steps back.
- You cover half a field each, so do not go over halfway.



Signalling

What to do when signalling

- Always have eye-contact with referee, before signalling, so that you do not conflict. They have the ultimate say.
- The flag is the main communication tool to everyone.
- Keep the flag in the hand closest to referee, and change flag hand below your waist when you are changing direction.
- Nearly all decisions are made with right hand (exception defensive throw-ins or defensive free kicks).
- All signals are one part, except for offside, or close out of play decisions or goals
- Keep your index finger on handle to keep the flag straight, stand still and tall when signalling.
- See the end of this resource for Assistant Referee signals.

Offside

How is a player offside?

- A player is in an offside position, when they are closer to their opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second last defender, at the moment the ball is touched or is played by one of their team-mates.
- Exceptions are directly from a goal kick, corner or throw-in, or the opponent is level with the last two defenders, or in their own half.
- If a defender has left the field of play, they are considered to be on the touchline (or goal line) where they left for the purposes of offside. This is until the ball has gone out of play, or the defending team has possession of the ball and it has been played outside the penalty area.

What must a player do to be penalised for being offside?

- Being in an offside position alone is not enough to penalise a player for being offside. A player **must** commit one of the three listed offences in order to be deemed offside.

1. Interfering with play

- Playing or touching a ball passed or (last) touched by a team-mate.

2. Interfering with an opponent

- Preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision, or;
- Challenging an opponent for the ball, or;
- Clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent, or;
- Making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball.

3. Gaining an advantage

Playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when the ball has:

- Rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, match official or an opponent, or;
- Been deliberately saved by an opponent.

What do I do if a player commits an offside offence?

- 'Wait and see' for the offside offence to be committed.
- Stand still, raise the flag straight in the right hand up to signal to the referee.
- Once the whistle goes, indicate where the restart will be (far, middle or near).
- If not seen, keep the flag up unless the defence have an advantage or you are waved down by referee.

What do I do if I want to discuss an offside decision?

Unless play has stopped, you cannot do anything. If play has stopped, signal to the referee to chat. Give them facts (e.g. Blue #9 was in an offside position, but I could not tell if an offence was committed), avoid start with "I think". If in any doubt, the flag stays down.

Test yourself out online [HERE](#).

Goal-Kick and Penalty Kick

Penalty Kicks

- Watch for goalkeeper encroachment and ball over the line (goal scored).
- When the ball is kicked, the goalkeeper must have one part of a foot touching or in line with the goal line
- The goalkeeper encroaches if both feet are off the goal line, they make a big step and the penalty is saved you must raise the flag.
- Position:



Goal Kicks

- Check the ball is in the goal area.
- Run back to the offside line.
- Position:



Assistant Referee Signals

Substitution



Attacking Free Kick



Defensive Free Kick



Attacking Throw-In



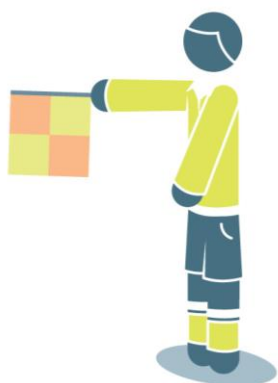
Defensive Throw-In



Corner Kick



Goal Kick



Offside

