

PRE-GAME INSTRUCTIONS

The pre-match instructions should cover the duties, responsibilities, and means of communication for the referee team. Depending on the familiarity of team members, the level of competition, and the importance of the match, the pre-game instructions can take place 15 minutes to an hour prior to the game.

A typical Pregame would discuss:

1. Officials work together as a Team.
2. AR's duties are to assist the Referee by
 - Indicating out-of-bounds and restarts
 - Indicating offside
 - Indicating fouls and misconduct the Referee could not or did not see
 - Indicating substitutes
 - Recording game information (one writes, others watch)
 - Keeping backup time and indicating time remaining
3. Indicate goal/no goal.
4. Indicate offside, not offside position (delay okay).
5. Indicate fouls only if the Referee needs assistance (screened, out of view).
6. If waved off or overruled, put the flag down and stay calm.
7. Review positions on corner kicks, goal kicks, close-in kicks, penalty kicks.
8. Always make eye contact when signalling.
9. Make frequent eye contact throughout the game.
10. Talk to the players as needed.
11. Mirror each other's signals when necessary.
12. Do not permit dissent, delay, encroachment, interference with the keeper, discussion of judgment calls.
13. At the end of the half and match, move quickly to halfway circle (nearest to the ball collects it).
14. Enter and leave as a Team.

The keys to being a successful team are preparation and communication.