**Successful Refereeing**

**10-Point Plans**

**Pre-match Instructions**

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| **No.** | **Point** | √ |
|  | Any pre-match preparation should be conducted on the field of play allowing the assistants the opportunity to visualise different situations. Try to do this at least 45 minutes before the kick off. Assistants should take the opportunity to patrol the touchlines where they are operating to ensure all is safe. |  |
|  | The most senior assistant should operate on the side of the field with the dugouts / technical areas for both halves. The senior assistant should keep a full match record (taking note of cautions/red cards/substitutions), whilst the other assistant should take the role of the referee’s eyes and ears. |  |
|  | Substitutions should be made cleanly from the half-way line, with the existing player leaving the pitch before the substitute player goes on. The time of the substitution should be recorded. |  |
|  | Assistant referee’s take the outside rights (right wings). On arriving on the pitch the tam should break, check nets (again after half time) and then reconvene t witness the coin toss. |  |
|  | All goal kicks and corner kicks should be correctly flagged. Monitor all goal-kicks from the 18 yard area and then adjust your position in-line with the second rear-most defender. |  |
|  | To ensure the correct award of throw-ins the pitch should be divided into thirds; the referee taking one third and the assistants taking one third each. The referee will look to the assistant for all decisions in their own third. When decisions are being made in the middle of the pitch, eye-to-eye contact is a necessity. Discrete signals which point in the direction of the thrown can be given by the referee and assistants are encouraged to look at the referee before signalling. If the assistant sees something the referee has missed, then the assistant should lead the referee in. If for any reason there is a difference of opinion, the assistant referee should drop their flag and go with the referee’s decision. In front of the dugouts / technical area, the referee and assistant should be patient, making eye-to-eye contact and get the decision correct to make sure complaints from both dugouts do not follow. |  |
|  | Offside decisions are left to the assistant for the duration of the match, unless a wrong application of law is observed. If this happens the referee should ask the assistant to drop their flag. If there is a stoppage in play, the referee my come over and explain the reason. Take your time with all offsides, the only time a quick flag is encouraged is if there is the possibility that the attacker and goalkeeper may collide. |  |
|  | The area in which I would expect assistants to flag for a free kick is in the area from the edge of the 18-yard area to the half-way line, as this gives the assistant the most credibility. When doing to it is important to take into account the proximity of the referee; the necessity of assistance increasing the further the referee is from the incident. When giving free kicks it is important to keep on the move and not to be caught static. If there is an opportunity to play advantage then the referee should do so. |  |
|  | With penalty kicks there are 4 possible situations:* The referee knows that there is a penalty kick and gives the decision
* The referee knows that it is not a penalty and will be “cutting the grass” to let everyone know that they will not be giving the decision (no input is required here).
* The referee is unsure whether it is a penalty and will be looking at the assistant inviting them in, if the assistant thinks it is a penalty they should put their flag across the chest, the referee will give the penalty and should curve their run in front of the assistant to help prevent any players disputing the decision.
* The ball has been played forward and the referee is not up with play. If the referee indicates a foul, clarity will be required from the assistant to indicate whether the offence is inside or outside the area. He referee will look over to the assistant for the appropriate signal. Following this the assistant should act as a goal judge.

When the penalty is being taken the assistant should observe the goalkeeper’s movement, if there is concern and reason for a retake the assistant should stand their ground, ensuring the referee knows they are not happy. In this scenario it is important to be consistent and sensible. |  |
|  | Mass confrontation could occur in any game and it is difficult to dictate exactly where an assistant should stand. It is important for the assistants to get into a position that allow maximum view – ideally the officials will form a triangle with the confrontation wedged in between. If the officials are stood together then it is obvious that this is the wrong position. In this situation it is important to be patient, deal with any red card offences initially, then ay cautions and finally ensure play is restarted correctly. |  |