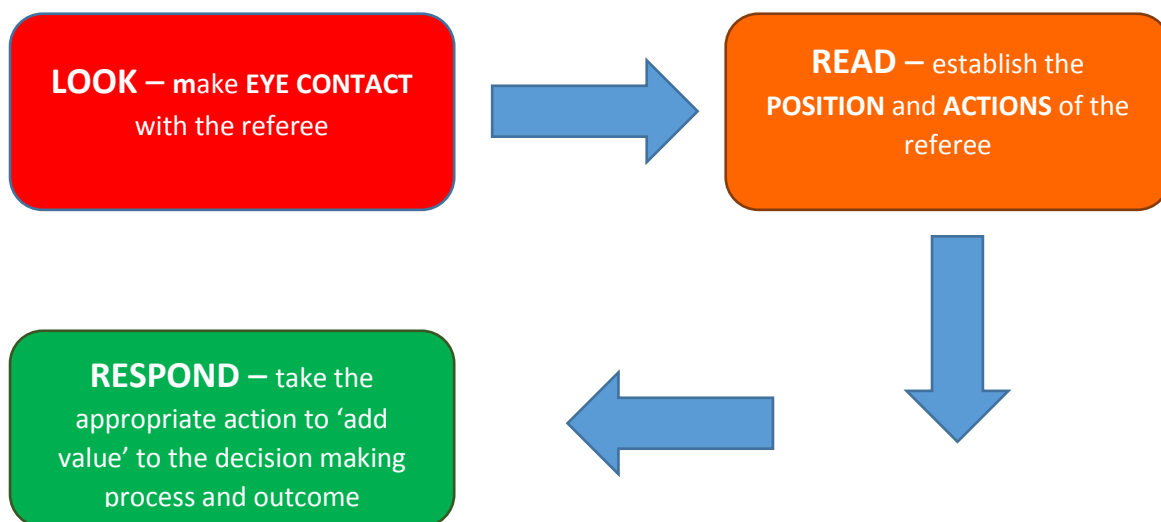


# FA Guidelines for Assistant Referees

## Fouls in and around the Penalty Area:

### Additional Guidance

Before indicating with a flag signal that a foul challenge has occurred, assistant referees should always adopt a simple process:



By adopting the LOOK, READ, RESPOND process the assistant referee should understand how best to assist the referee in any particular match situation.

## Fouls in and around the penalty area:

In situations where a foul is committed by a defending player **near to** or **inside** his/her own penalty area, it is **ONLY** when the assistant referee is **leading the decision making process** because:

- *it is clear that the referee has not seen the foul, and*
- *the **assistant referee is better placed** to make the judgement, and*
- ***a flag signal is necessary** to indicate publicly that a foul has taken place,*

the actions of the assistant referee should be as follows:

If the foul is **INSIDE** the penalty area **and** the assistant referee is **leading the decision making process**.



Raise the flag in the same hand that will be used for the remainder of the signal and agitate/wave the flag to indicate a foul has been committed - the flag **should not** be placed across the chest.

Where available it is recommended that the electronic beep is used and/or the 'communication system' is used to advise "penalty, penalty, penalty"



Following the signal for the foul the assistant referee should make a **clear physical movement** along the touchline towards the **corner flag post** keeping alert in case the referee does not see or over-rules the flag signal

When the situation is calm and only then move to the standard position from which to monitor the penalty kick

The foul is **OUTSIDE** the penalty area **and** the assistant referee is **leading the decision making process**.



Raise the flag in the same hand that will be used for the remainder of the signal and agitate/wave the flag to indicate a foul has been committed.

Where available it is recommended that the electronic beep is used and/or the 'communication system' is used to advise "attacking free kick, outside, outside, outside"



Following the signal for the foul the assistant referee should make a **clear physical movement** along the touchline towards the halfway line to a position **level with the front edge of the penalty area** and stand still

## INSIDE? or OUTSIDE?

Where a referee penalises a defending player near the boundary of the penalty area and **seeks guidance** from an assistant referee concerning the exact location of the offence, if in a **credible position to assist**, the assistant referee's action should be as outlined above **without the flag being raised**.

In the picture below, whilst the **referee** would be expected to **recognise that an offence** has taken place, the **assistant referee** is credibly positioned to offer advice regarding the **location of the offence** i.e. inside or outside.

