

Assistant Referee Signals

- **Ball over touchline in AR's quadrant** and direction of throw-in is known [*Flag pointed in the direction ball to be thrown, 45° above horizontal, eye contact with referee. If ball goes over the touchline and quickly back in then use the basic flag signal until acknowledged by referee, then flag the direction for the throw-in.*]
- **Ball over touchline in referee's quadrant** and direction is known [*No flag signal unless the referee looks to AR for help or the referee requested AR signals in this situation during the pregame discussion. If a signal is made, raise flag to vertical position, eye contact with referee, direction shown by hand (unless during the pregame discussion the referee requests the direction to be signaled with the flag).*]
- **Ball over touchline or goal line and direction of restart unknown** [*Vertical flag, eye contact with referee*]
- **Offside and portion of field where it occurred** [*Vertical flag, wait for whistle, eye contact with referee, then signal field location: 45° above horizontal for far third of field, horizontal for middle third, and 45° below diagonal for near third*]
- **Corner kick on AR's side of the field** [*Flag pointing toward near corner, 45° below horizontal, eye contact with referee. If ball crosses goal line and quickly comes back onto the field then raise flag, eye contact with referee, wait for referee to stop play, point flag toward corner 45° below horizontal. Flag position is the same regardless of the assistant referee's position along the touchline.*]
- **Corner kick on other side of the field** [*Signal only if the referee looks to AR for help then signal as above*]
- **Goal kick** [*Flag is horizontal, pointing toward goal area, eye contact with referee. If ball goes over the goal line and quickly comes back in then use the basic flag signal and signal for the goal kick when referee stops play.*]

Assistant Referee Signals

- **Goal** [*Eye contact with referee, turn and sprint along the touchline about 15 yards toward halfway line with flag down (not tucked under the arm)*]
- **Goal when ball enters the goal and quickly comes back out** [*Flag vertical, eye contact with referee, flag down, run up touchline when referee stops play*]
- **Apparent goal to be disallowed** [*If referee has stopped play, stand in place. If scorer was offside, AR signals for offside as above. If there was a foul by an attacker, AR stands at attention **with no flag signal**. If player other than the scorer was in offside position and, in the opinion of the AR, was interfering with play or an opponent, AR stands at attention **with no flag signal**.]*]
- **Improper throw-in and other infractions** [*Flag vertical, wait for whistle, eye contact with referee, give proper restart signal. There is no officially stated signal for this situation so we default to the basic AR signal of raising the flag to get the attention of the referee.*]
- **Foul indicated by AR resulting in a free kick** [*Flag vertical, eye contact with referee, wait for whistle, wiggle flag slightly, signal direction of free kick with flag 45° above horizontal. If free kick is to be indirect use signal agreed to in pregame discussion*]
- **Foul indicated by AR resulting in a penalty kick** [*Flag vertical, eye contact with referee, wait for whistle, wiggle flag slightly, lower the flag, AR walks to the corner flag and stands in front of the flag.*]
- **Substitution** (“free” substitution) [*Flag stick held between the hands horizontally above the head, eye contact with referee. Signal is held only until acknowledged by the referee.*]

Characteristics of U-12 Players

Physical/Gross Motor Development:

- **Still a little uncoordinated**
- **Soccer skills are being refined.**

Social and Emotional Development:

- **Boys are not sure if they are young men or bigger boys.**
- **Girls are not sure if they are young women or bigger girls.**
- **They both start becoming attracted to the opposite sex.**
- **They have a strong need for recognition from fellow players.**
- **They are starting to develop trust in themselves.**

Cognitive/Thought Development:

- **Some players drop out to pursue other interests.**
- **They find it difficult to control their emotions when under pressure or in adverse conditions.**
- **They have less regard for adult values.**

General:

- **Mental and physical skills are becoming more balanced.**
- **Children at this age are still self critical, so referees must be positive in their approach.**

OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

LOCATION OF BALL	TEAM POSSESSING BALL	
	Our Team	Opponents Team
Attacking Third	SCORE ADVANCE POSSESSION	REGAIN DELAY
Midfield	ADVANCE POSSESSION	DELAY REGAIN
Defending Third	POSSESSION ADVANCE	STOP SCORING REGAIN

ATTACKING OBJECTIVES:

SCORE –

The ultimate objective of the game is to score the most goals.

ADVANCE –

The ball must be advanced to be within scoring distance.

POSSESSION –

Possession of the ball must be maintained in order to advance within scoring distance.

DEFENDING OBJECTIVES:

STOP SCORING –

The ultimate objective can be restated as preventing the opposing team from scoring the most goals.

DELAY –

When the opposing team gains possession of the ball, their advance must be delayed to gain time to organize the defense.

REGAIN –

Regaining possession of the ball is the defensive objective once the defense is organized.

Referee and Assistant Referee Communication

“Ready to start” before each kick off:

The referee assumes position for the kick-off and establishes eye contact with each assistant referee. Assist referees unfurl their flags, holding them straight down in the hand closest to the referee.

Ball still in play:

Assistant referee moves with play offering no signal or offers an agreed upon signal such as a slight motion with the free hand in the direction of play.

Infraction seen by assistant referee:

Raise the flag vertically and wave slightly. After the referee stops play, signal the direction of the restart with the flag at 45 degrees above horizontal.

Infraction seen by assistant referee but referee does not see flag:

Raise the flag vertically and wave slightly. If the referee does not see the trail assistant referee's signal, the lead assistant referee replicates the signal. After the referee stops play, the lead assistant referee points with the free hand at the trail assistant referee. This communication should be used for serious breaches of the Laws such as misconduct, which is important for the referee to handle immediately.

Infraction inside the penalty area, indicated by the referee:

IFK: *The referee indicates the direction and position of the kick, and then indicates the indirect free kick.*

PK: *Referee stops the game, points clearly to the penalty mark, and moves into position to supervise the taking of the kick.*

PK: *If the referee needs help deciding whether the foul was inside the penalty area, the referee stops the game and looks to the assistant referee for information while moving to the spot of the foul. The assistant referee moves the flag from a position alongside the leg to a position in front of the body, centered and pointing downward.*

Referee and Assistant Referee Communication

Infraction inside the penalty area, indicated by assistant referee:

PK: Indicate an infringement with the flag straight up and a slight wave. When the referee stops the game, the assistant referee establishes eye contact with the referee, walks to the corner flag post, and stands in front of the flag.

If the referee does not stop play, the assistant referee must decide whether the flag signal has not been seen or has been seen and dismissed. If the assistant referee decides the referee does not wish to stop play for a penalty kick, the assistant referee should lower the flag and resume appropriate positioning. If the assistant referee decides the referee has not seen the signal that an infringement has occurred, she should hold the flag up for a brief time, such as 3 seconds, long enough to afford the referee an opportunity to see and respond to the signal. If play continues and the referee does not acknowledge the flag, the assistant referee should lower the flag and resume normal positioning.

Direct free kick signaled by the assistant referee:

Raise the flag vertically and wave slightly. After the referee stops play, signal the direction of the restart with the flag at 45 degrees above horizontal. If the referee does not acknowledge the signal, the assistant referee should hold the signal 3-5 seconds, then lower the flag and resume normal positioning.

Indirect free kick signaled by the assistant referee:

Raise the flag vertically and wave slightly. After the referee whistles, signal the direction of the restart with the flag at 45 degrees above horizontal.

If the indirect free kick is to be taken by the attacking team near the opponent's penalty area and the ball might be kicked directly into the goal, the referee may ask for assistance. A prearranged signal such as raised eyebrows, or a request, "Assistant referee?" communicates the need for assistance. The response, "Indirect," or prearranged gesture such as holding the free hand in front of the shoulder in a mini-indirect free kick signal, may aid communication.

No infraction:

Establish eye contact between the referee and assistant referee. "No flag signal" is the recommended communication from the assistant referee. An agreed upon signal, such as a slight motion with the free hand in the direction of play, is acceptable to indicate play should continue.

Referee and Assistant Referee Communication

No offside (assistant referee is indicating to referee):

Assistant referee moves with play offering no signal, or offers an agreed upon signal such as a slight motion with the free hand in the direction of play.

No offside (referee decides not to penalize and overcalls assistant referee):

Wave down assistant referee's flag signal for offside with an agreed upon signal such as lowering the outstretched arms or showing a subtle "thumbs up."

No score; ball failed to enter goal:

Eye contact between the referee and assistant referee, assistant referee offers no flag signal, or offers an agreed upon signal such as a slight motion with the free hand in the direction of play.

No score; ball entered goal and the player scoring the goal was offside:

Eye contact, the assistant referee indicates with an offside signal.

No score; an attacker fouled or an attacker other than the scorer was in an offside position and was involved in the active play by interfering or gaining an advantage:

The assistant referee stands in place at attention, no flag signal. Use this communication whether the players move to positions for a kick-off or the referee stops play. The referee considers information from the assistant referee and signals the appropriate restart.

Time remaining:

Show the appropriate number of fingers held against the shorts, pointing down. This signal is often difficult to see. The fingers may need to be shown against the shirt, slightly above waist level.

Time expired:

Use a prearranged signal such as a closed fist on the shorts or the fist covering the referee badge.

"I don't know":

*Eye contact; use a prearranged signal, which may be as simple as no flag direction. Example: The referee knows the ball went out of play of the touchline but could not determine which team last touched the ball. The referee's look toward the assistant referee is the prearranged request for information. The assistant referee did not see who touched the ball last and communicates this by *not giving a direction for the throw-in*. (A blank stare suffices.) If the assistant referee needs to inform the referee that the ball went out of play over the touchline but the referee is better placed to know who takes the throw-in, the assistant referee *raises the flag vertically to indicate the ball went out of play*. When the referee acknowledges the signal, the assistant referee lowers the flag without indicating direction.*

ATTACHMENT NUMBER 1: Description of Ref Ball

Purpose: Offer an outdoor exercise that assists the students to understand the diagonal system of control, relationship of the referee to the ball and the assistant referees.

Equipment: The exercise should take place on a soccer field. Assistant Instructors should act as Assistant Referees with flags and take up the usual position on a left diagonal.

Instructions to Participants:

1. Class is broken down into teams of two
2. One individual is designated as the ball and one as the referee
3. The referee should take a position at a specified distance from the ball (10 yards, 15 yards, etc.)
4. The ball is directed to run anywhere on the field.
5. If the ball intends to make a radical change of direction, they should clap their hands one step before making the move. This allows the referee to anticipate a change.
6. The referee should attempt to run with the ball:
 - a. Maintaining a good relationship with the ball between the referee and the assistant referee.
 - b. Remaining the prescribed distance from the ball

Conduct:

1. All teams are to be on the field at the same time. At the beginning they should be placed in various locations on the field.
2. The lead instructor blows a whistle and the teams should begin to run.
3. After a few minutes the lead instructor blows the whistle, referees and balls should stop and freeze in position then:
 - a. Check the referee's position relative to the ball and the assistant referee
 - b. Pace off the distance from the referee to the ball and determine if the proper distance has been maintained.

After several repetitions the referee and ball will change positions and repeat the drill.