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Pre-Match Club Assistant Referee Instructions Guidance

Referees will ask club Assistant Referees to carry out their duties in accordance with the following instructions, based on the requirements of Law 6. The below are guidelines that can be used where appropriate and where the referee and assistants feel comfortable to deliver according to these instructions. **The key is to keep your instructions clear and simple.**

Pre-Match

All administrative duties and safety checks (players' equipment and goal nets) should be carried out by the referee.

Prior to the coin toss, identify who the 2 assistants are going to be. Try to get them both together and give your instructions to both of them at the same time.

- **Introduce yourself, and get their names**
- **Thank them for giving up their time to help**
- **Explain that their help is important in helping you to referee the match successfully**

Below are some suggestions about what you might like to cover with them.

Position

"If you could position yourself on the touchline closest to where your left back would be playing throughout the match and do your best to stay in line with the second rearmost defender, this will aide your credibility in giving decisions."

Offside

"If you could indicate to me when you believe a player has committed an offside offence by raising your flag, I will acknowledge you by awarding an indirect free kick for offside, or allow play to continue if there is an advantage or you are incorrect in law. If you are not in a credible position, I may also acknowledge you but allow play to continue."

Ball out of the field of play

"When the ball goes out of play, please raise your flag to advise me so and if you know the direction, Indicate a direction. If you are not confident on the direction then please gain eye contact with me and I will take the lead."

When the ball enters a goal

"If there is a contentious goal line decision and if you are in a credible position, I may ask for your assistance. If you can advise me, please raise your flag, if not please do not guess and I will make the decision."

Fouls & Misconduct; Free Kicks and Penalty kicks

"It is most likely today that all fouls and misconduct will be given by me, for the sake of consistency throughout. It will also decrease the pressure on you. Albeit you may have a different view on an incident, please leave these decisions to me and as the referee I will take responsibility."

What if the club assistant changes?

At the stoppage in play, take the time to have a brief chat with the new club assistant to outline your expectations and attempt to achieve consistency.

Post Match

Most importantly, thank the club assistants for their support.



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