

Referee Assessment Focus Criteria 2009

1.0 REFEREE CRITERIA 1: PERSONALITY AND COMMUNICATION

1.1 Personality and Presence: Influencing the Future

- Referee varied personality to diffuse and prevent the next foul.
- Referee used personality/presence to influence the future with actions in the present.
- The referee used his/her personality/presence to influence outcomes and to channel players to act in a positive manner.
- Referee's personality offered a calming influence.
- Body language was appropriate for the moment.
- Referee utilized creative techniques and out-of-box thinking to prevent and manage situations in the game thereby aiding in game control and preventing escalation.
- Referee changed his/her temperament and approach as the game dictated/changed thereby sending effective messages to players/coaches.
- Signals were clear, effective and used to send messages as appropriate.

1.2 Communication

- Referee established an "open line of communication" with players and coaches without being overly communicative.
- Referee used all his/her communicative tools to "draw the line in the sand" so players and coaches knew what to expect.
- Used more than the whistle to communicate and manage the game.
- Utilized "down time" to manage players and the game.
- Knows when to use the "quiet word" vs. the public admonishment.
- Proactive communicator.

2.0 REFEREE CRITERIA 2: GAME CONTROL AND RISK TAKING

2.1 Misconduct: Game or Player Need It

- Got the 100% Misconduct situations correct.
- Identified the moment(s) of truth and acted upon them appropriately.
- Cautions were given because the game or player needed it.
- Used personality to manage/control the game versus card as the situation/game dictated.
- Referee got something in return for cards issued.
- Referee utilized preventative techniques to eliminate/prevent misconduct and aid in game control.
- Referee understood the "nature" of the misconduct and dealt with it appropriately (initiator, retaliator, and escalator/third man in).

2.2 "Big Picture" Approach in Game Context

- Used the "big picture" of the game to handle misconduct not ignoring the 100% misconduct situations.
- Exhibited the characteristics of a "proactive referee".
- Used discretion and common sense while taking a "big picture" approach to decisions given the atmosphere of the game and other game-related characteristics
- Decisions were fair to each team given the atmosphere of the game and other game-related characteristics.

2.3 Allowed Game Flow – Took Risks

- Allowed the game to flow.
- Was able to encourage game flow through risk taking because he/she was able to differentiate between the soft/trifling/minor challenges from those that were minimally careless and needed to be called.
- Took calculated risks to allow the game to flow without unnecessary stoppages and without endangering the safety of the players.

- Distinguished between trifling fouls that interrupt the flow of the game and the fouls, based on the game level, that needed to be called.
- Flow and risk taking were implemented in context of what the players were accepting.
- Utilized the right mix of flow and risk taking given the “big picture”: the more the game is in control the more flow/risk taking, the less the game is in control, the less flow/risk taking.
- Recognized and applied Advantage as required by the game.

2.4 Foul Recognition / Discrimination

- Discretion and common sense were exercised.
- Managed the game so that the entertainment value (for players and spectators) was maximized without disregard to game control.
- Decisions were delivered in a manner that communicated a message.
- Exhibited the ability to deliver messages in an appropriate way based upon the game, the situation, and the personality of the receiving player.
- Referee avoided decisions that may have been technically correct but practically wrong.
- Referee used consistency and applied equality and fairness in decisions so that players/coaches knew what to expect throughout the game.
- “Smelled”/anticipated the foul before it occurred.

2.5 Tactical Approach

- Referee understood the tactical/technical approach of the teams/players and adjusted his/her approach as the game required.
- Referee was cognizant of the systems of play and how they impacted his/her game plan.
- The ability to “read” the game and adjust his/her approach to the game as tactics changed was evident.
- A flexible game plan was utilized in keeping with the demands of the game.
- Was able to identify the “key” players.

3.0 REFEREE CRITERIA 3: TEAMWORK

- Referee empowered his team in a manner that provided the avenue for officials to participate in managing the game and ensuring “critical game decisions” were addressed appropriately.
- Referee fostered an atmosphere that prepared the team for the game.
- Referee brought important and critical information to the pregame meeting.
- Referee clearly discussed all critical situations in the pregame meeting and established an action plan to address them.

4.0 REFEREE CRITERIA 4: POINTS OF EMPHASIS

4.1 Tackles / Elbows/Contact Above the Shoulder

- Differentiated between fouls/misconduct that were “careless” and “reckless” versus “using excessive force” with the possibility of injuring the opponent.
- Referee identified and correctly dealt with elbows and tackles that endangered the opponent or that could injure an opponent.
- Referee utilized preventative techniques to ensure violence did not escalate.
- The degree of intensity of the foul was taken into consideration as was the excessive force that endangered the safety of the opponent.
- Referee was able to differentiate contact above the shoulder in which the arm/elbow was used as a tool versus a weapon (red card).

4.2 Dissent / Game Disrepute / Mass Confrontation

- Managed each area according to U.S. Soccer initiatives.
- Utilized proactive mechanics to defuse dissent-type situations prior to having to issue a caution.
- Took appropriate actions to keep game disrepute from escalating into mass confrontation.
- Dealt correctly with the instigator and escalator (third man in).
- Used the “Personal, Public and Provocative” criteria to determine whether a player’s conduct was dissent (cautionable) or offensive, insulting or abusive (red card).

5.0 REFEREE CRITERIA 5: BENCH CONTROL

- The referee dealt with coaches and players, within the technical area, according to directives.
- The referee used techniques to prevent escalation of improper behavior within the technical area.

6.0 REFEREE CRITERIA 6: FITNESS / WORK RATE / MOVEMENT / STAMINA AND POSITIONING

6.1 Fitness / Agility / Stamina

- Referee exhibited the fitness level needed to put him/herself in the best possible position to make the correct decision.
- Regaining position: The referee had the ability to “close down” counter attacks or long services through strong sprinting ability and the ability to anticipate and read the game.
- Hustle, energy, and urgency in movement exceeded the intensity and needs of the game.
- Referee consistently demonstrated the ability to change pace or speed as the requirements of the game dictated.
- Was able to keep the same fitness and agility levels for the total duration of the game.
- The referee’s agility allowed him/her to sidestep, back peddle and sprint as the requirements of the game demanded.
- Referee was mobile and was able to cover all critical areas of the field.

6.2 Positioning

- Took strategic positions that were needed to manage the game as well as enable him to manage the “next phase of play.”
- The referee’s positioning allowed him/her to “sell” decisions due to the closeness to play.
- Restart (free kick, corner kick, throw in, etc.) management positions enabled the referee to manage the wall, the kicker and the “drop/danger zone.”
- Positions did not interfere with the players or play.
- Exhibited the ability to anticipate and read play thereby enabling him/herself to be in the optimum position for the game at that time.
- The referee did not stand and watch but was constantly moving.

AR Assessment Focus Criteria 2009

1.0 ASSISTANT REFEREE CRITERIA 1: INVOLVEMENT / ASSISTANCE IN THE GAME

- AR read the game like the referee and tempered assistance accordingly.
- AR was involved as needed (versus over-involved) and provided assistance to the game/referee as needed.
- AR demonstrated the appropriate level of teamwork necessary to assist the referee in managing the game.
- AR was in the same “rhythm” of the game as the referee thereby providing the appropriate level of assistance/involvement.
- AR exhibited the courage to become involved in critical situations.
- AR participated in the “triangle of control” as dictated by the game.

2.0 ASSISTANT REFEREE CRITERIA 2: OFFSIDE

- “Wait and See” approach to offside decisions was applied.
- AR showed restraint in the application of offside. Flag was kept down, if in doubt.
- AR gave the benefit of doubt to the attack.

3.0 ASSISTANT REFEREE CRITERIA 3: POSITIONING / MOVEMENT

- AR was in correct position to support decisions.
- AR kept up with play for the entire duration of the game.
- Exhibited the ability to maintain the offside line throughout the match.
- AR was correctly positioned to make offside decisions.
- Followed every ball to the goal line and/or to the goalkeeper.
- Was able to keep his/her body square to the field through sidestepping as play dictated.
- AR displayed the ability to transition (from sidestepping to sprinting and from sprinting to sidestepping) and modify his/her running style to meet the demands of the match.

Fourth Official Assessment Focus Criteria 2009

1.0 BENCH CONTROL

- 4th official dealt with coaches and players, within the technical area, according to directives relative to bench decorum.
- 4th official used techniques to prevent escalation of improper behavior within the technical area.

2.0 ASSISTANCE TO THE REFEREE

- 4th official provided the appropriate level of assistance before, during, and after the game.
- Followed U.S. Soccer protocol in managing any instances of game disrepute and/or mass confrontation.
- Managed the substitution process as required.

3.0 ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

- Administrative duties were well handled.