

# **EDITION #1**

## *MANAGING FREE KICKS*

Free kick management is one of the most challenging and important aspects of refereeing. This is particularly relevant in the indoor game, where the management of free kicks can be critical to establishing and then maintaining effective match control. With the rules of the indoor soccer allowing direct scoring from all free kicks (remember, there are no indirect free kicks with the current indoor rules), it is in your best interests to be efficient and effective in your free kick management. With proper free kick management, you will be “in charge” and “in control” during these situations, which can occur at any time throughout a game. Seize this opportunity to shine, because this will, in turn, help your overall match control and earn respect from the players of both sides, regardless which way the original foul went.

Remember that when a free kick is called, usually all eyes turn to the referee because the play is now stopped and the ball is “dead”. Field players, spectators, subs on the bench, coaches, all look to the referee to see what the call was and how the referee is now going to handle the ensuing free kick. During these times, you are now “on stage”, therefore, it is important to look and feel confident and experienced.

Consider the following practical pointers, if you want to enhance your techniques in free kick management:

### ***THE MECHANICS OF MANAGING A TYPICAL INDOOR FREE KICK: A CHECKLIST***

- A clear whistle that is appropriate for the offence
- A good clear directional arm signal
- Move to the spot where the restart will take place (spot the ball precisely)
- If required, deal immediately with players who delay the restart
- If required, deal immediately with players who fail to respect the required distance
- If required, provide assistance to the correct location of the FK
- Allow the attacking team to have a quick FK
- If no quick FK opportunity occurs fairly soon, establish a “ceremonial” FK
- Prevent offending players from coming into the 15 foot zone, who are outside
- Remove players presently within the 15 foot zone
- Ensure the wall is 15 feet back

- Be aware of attackers in the wall
- Be aware of attackers in front of the goalie
- Ensure the ball has not been moved by attacking players
- Ensure attacking players wait for a restart whistle
- Go to a suitable “drop zone” position, depending on “read” of the situation
- Be prepared for a possible shot on goal (remember: all FKs are direct)
- Once again, be aware of players who delay the restart
- Give a clear restart signal
- Once again, be aware of players who fail to respect the required distance
- 5 second countdown
- be mentally prepared to deal with an infringement of some sort
- watch for 2nd touch by kicker

**TIPS:**

- control the situation but don't restrict teams or players
- “presence lends to authority”
- take your time, don't get caught up in the excitement/rush of the players
- stay calm, cool and collected
- be prepared to deal with questioning and dissent from both sides:

a) attackers (location of FK, harsher sanction)

b) defenders (questioning call, location of the FK)

- use AR, if necessary, for proper location of FK & to watch in front of goalie and off the ball/off the wall