

EDITION #2

ASSISTANT REFEREE SIGNALS

At the recent CDSRA sponsored outdoor refresher clinics, a portion of the session was dedicated to “Signals by the Assistant Referee”. All too often, this aspect of handling a match is taken for granted by the crew of officials. It can, however, be an instrumental factor during those critical moments, when teamwork, cooperation and clear communication is required among the officials working the game.

There are signals that have been recommended by FIFA, which are shown in the current Laws of the Game. These, however, only include the signals for throw in, offside and substitution. Now, we all know that there are also many other signals which the AR is expected to provide, therefore, this is why the CDSRA felt it was important to include this topic in the outdoor refresher clinics.

In an attempt to achieve consistency in what signals the Assistant Referees are expected to provide, the following recommendations were outlined at the pre-season outdoor refresher clinics.

GOOD GOAL:

- Quick 20 m sprint up field, while looking back at the penalty area for incidents.
- Flag pointing 45 down and in front of you.

GOAL KICK:

- Sprint to a point where you are “in line” with the edge of the goal area.
- Point flag horizontally across the field to the goal area.
- Your body and torso should be pointing up field (not across the field).
- Later, after inspecting the proper placement of the ball for the goal kick restart, move to being “in line” with the edge of the penalty (to ensure ball leaves the penalty area).

CORNER KICK:

- Sprint to end of field
- Point flag 45 down at the corner quadrant (regardless of where the ball went out)

INDICATING THAT THERE IS A SUBSTITUTION COMING UP:**INDICATING THE SUBSTITUTION PROCESS IS ONGOING:**

- The “pre-substitution” signal of an upcoming substitution is the FIFA approved substitution signal, but across your thighs.
- The FIFA approved signal (raised above your head) should only be used to get the referee's attention.
- Upon gaining the attention of the referee, drop the substitution signal to across your thighs (like the “pre-substitution signal). Keep it here while the substitution is taking place.
- Upon completion of the substitution process, drop the flag to your side.

SIMPLE FOUL:

- Flag straight up and then give the flag a “waggle”. This is only performed after:
- the AR determines that the Referee needs assistance and,
- the AR determines he/she has a better angle of view than the referee
- A secondary direction signal may have to be also provided.

FOUL THAT IS WORTHY OF A CAUTION:

- Same as the Foul mechanics, but also with your free hand, make a motion of “going to” your front breast shirt pocket (where many referees keep the yellow card).

FOUL THAT IS WORTHY OF A DISMISSAL:

- Same as the Foul mechanics, but also with your free hand, make a motion of “going to” your back rear shorts pocket (where many referees keep the red card).

FOUL COMMITTED BY THE DEFENDING TEAM IN THE PENALTY AREA:

- Flag straight down (between the legs) and then give the flag a “waggle”. Once again this is only performed after:
- the AR determines that the Referee needs assistance and,
- the AR determines he/she has a better angle of view than the referee.

FOUL AT THE EDGE OF THE PENALTY AREA:

- If the foul was inside, move further down the line toward the corner quadrant.
- If the foul was outside, take a few steps up the line away from the penalty area.

GOALIE MOVEMENT DURING A PENALTY KICK:

- Stand up straight and take one side step onto the field (you should be positioned approximately at the junction of the penalty area and end line).

TIME UP:

- Free hand across the chest