

International Referee Development Program

Goal Referee Guide



Foreword

As a goal referee you may be one of many things; a spectator, a volunteer, a player on an off game, a referee, or someone's kid sibling roped into helping out on the weekend. The purpose of this short guide is to prepare you to effectively assist the referee team in assessing if a goal is good or not. This job is essential to a smooth running game.

Background

Throughout its history, the role of goal referee has been filled by helpful spectators or volunteers pulled from teams with a break. The game has continued to become more and more competitive and leagues have implemented standings, making the accuracy of scoring more and more important. Over time, the duties of the goal referee have been simplified to ensure that they are both clear and executed properly.

Professionalism

Before diving into the technical aspects of goal refereeing, it is necessary to first establish that the goal referee is an official. Like any official on the field, the goal referee must have an aura of professionalism when conducting his/her duties. Players, coaches, and spectators respect those officials that emphasize professionalism. Remember, everything that you do as a scorekeeper reflects upon your referee team.

As you, the goal referee, will more than likely be refereeing during a break between games. It is important that you bring along with you a plain shirt that you can wear, that does not affiliate you with any specific team. Referees should always be as neutral as possible.

Positioning

A goal referee should stand directly behind the middle hoop. There should be enough room between the goal referee and the hoops for play to take place, but not enough to inhibit the goal referee's view of the hoops. When in doubt, consult the head referee. The goal referee should not leave this spot (unless to get out of the way of play), only stepping out with the left foot to the left to get a better angle on the medium hoop or to the right with the right foot to get a better angle on the short hoop.

Duties

The goal referee should arrive on pitch ten minutes prior to the game. This is proper procedure for all referees, and the goal referee is no exception. The head referee will hold a referee meeting that the goal referee should be present for to be privy to any tournament specific rules or safety hazards as well as be positioned by the head referee.

The goal referee should always focus on the quaffle, the goal referee is not responsible for beats on the quaffle carrier or any fouls. They are solely responsible for if the ball went through the hoop. A goal is only good if the quaffle passes entirely through the hoop. It is important that the goal referee signals a good goal if, and only if, the quaffle has passed through the hoops entirely. Any body part of a player may accompany the quaffle through the hoop. A goal may be scored from either side of the hoops.

The goal referee is responsible for fixing the hoops when they fall or come apart. This should be done when play has left the area. If a hoop is damaged beyond being popped back in place and requires a replacement or tape, the head referee must be alerted so they can stop play to fix equipment.

Communication

A goal referee should always put their hands above their head to signal a good goal, even if they happen to see a beat on the quaffle carrier. It is not the job of the goal referee to monitor beats, and the head referee and assistant referees are charged with watching beats on the quaffle carrier. The reason the IRDP teaches this method is so the goal referee's job is as streamlined as possible. If the ball does not go entirely through the hoop, the goal referee must signal a no goal by waving it off.

Last season this team introduced a third signal. Occasionally, a goal referee may defer to the head referee for a goal call. To do this, the goal referee should extend their palm forward, facing up, as if to offer the decision to the head referee. This should only be done if the goal referee did not see what happened.

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