

Field Observation Narratives

Observing the Area Referee Candidate

Recognize that candidates are being critiqued on their ability to successfully referee a TYPICAL U12 AYSO game. The observation should focus mainly on the candidates' basic understanding and application of the "mechanical" aspects of refereeing, the Laws of the Game, and the Diagonal System of Control.

Appearance

The Area referee candidates shall arrive at the game properly attired and have the required equipment.

Pre-game

Area referee candidates should:

- a. arrive at the game at least 20 minutes before it starts, be properly equipped and be ready to walk onto the field
- b. administer the field, players and field equipment inspection
- c. provide simple but acceptable pre-game instructions to their assistant referees
- d. demonstrate acceptable techniques during the coin toss, and leadership in acquiring game cards and game ball
- e. properly position themselves for the kick-off, and direct the referee team and the players as to their position for the kick-off

Fitness

In general, candidates are expected to:

- a. keep up with play while traveling the diagonal
- b. sprint as required
- c. demonstrate the rudiments of anticipating play

Attitude

Candidates:

- a. must practice the "AYSO Team" philosophy at all times
- b. should be friendly and accommodating to fellow referees, players and coaches
- c. while indicating some nervousness, must demonstrate an aura of authority

Courage, Character, and Consistency

Candidates must:

- a. demonstrate their willingness to call fouls equally for both teams when they occur
- b. be capable of recognizing and dealing firmly with any challenges to their authority on or off the field, and interference from the sidelines

Positioning, Mechanics, and Signals

Candidates must:

- a. demonstrate their knowledge of the operation of the diagonal system of control
- b. position themselves correctly in advance of restarts
- c. direct assistant referees to preferred positions during a restart by the attacking team near the opponent's goal
- d. orient themselves in a manner that maximizes their eye contact with their assistant referees
- e. indicate their awareness of proper restart signals and show a measure of professionalism while executing them
- f. use the whistle in a manner that reflects the seriousness of the offense

Accuracy of Decision

Candidates must:

- a. consistently recognize and whistle fouls which occur in a TYPICAL U12 AYSO game including penal and non-penal fouls
- b. Recognize the difference between offside position and offside participation
- c. apply the proper penalties and restarts

Control

Candidates should demonstrate that they have full control of the game at all times by:

- a. starting and stopping the game on time
- b. stopping and starting quarters and halves on time
- c. controlling substitutions
- d. handling injuries
- e. being aware of the readiness of players and the assistant referees
- f. providing sufficient whistle signal level so that players are aware that the referee has made a call

Conclusion

- a. To satisfy the field certification requirements at the Area level while refereeing a TYPICAL AYSO U12 game, candidates must be reasonably successful in demonstrating:
- b. knowledge of the Laws
- c. Law application
- d. the mechanics of the diagonal system of control
- e. proper positioning for restarts