

Observing the National 2 Referee Candidate

Recognize that candidates are being critiqued on their ability to successfully referee a TYPICAL U16 AYSO game. The observation should focus mainly on the candidate's basic understanding of the "philosophical" aspects of refereeing, the spirit and intent of the Laws of the Game, and the effective use of the Diagonal System of Control.

Appearance

National 2 referee candidates shall arrive at the game properly attired and have the required equipment.

Pre-game

National 2 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, and require correction or marking of unsafe conditions before the game is allowed to begin
- c. provide general, but acceptable pre-game instructions to their assistant referees that include:
 - positioning on restarts, offside, goals and fouls close to the goal line
 - signaling on restarts, offside, goals and fouls close to the goal line
 - assigning senior assistant referee time keeping
 - substitution mechanics
 - entering and leaving the field as a team
- d. show acceptable techniques during the coin toss
- e. exhibit leadership in acquiring game cards and game ball
- f. verify proper position of players and assistant referees for kick-off
- g. assume correct referee position for kick-off

Fitness

In general, candidates are expected to:

- a. be within 15 - 20 yards of play
- b. generally travel the diagonal while demonstrating their ability to cover the extremes of the field when required
- c. sprint and back-pedal as required
- d. demonstrate their ability to anticipate play by positioning themselves in advance of 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 including introducing assistant referees to team captains during the coin toss
- c. must demonstrate and be perceived by players and coaches to be confident

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, and when it is appropriate, to deviate from the diagonal to follow play
- b. position themselves correctly in advance of restarts
- c. be capable of back-pedaling
- d. direct assistant referees to preferred positions during a restart by the attacking team near the opponent’s goal
- e. consistently orient themselves in a manner that maximizes their eye contact with their assistant referees
- f. indicate their awareness of proper restart signals and show a measure of professionalism while executing them
- g. use the whistle in a manner that reflects the seriousness of the call

Accuracy of Decision

Candidates should:

- a. recognize and whistle less obvious as well as obvious fouls
- b. have no difficulty distinguishing between penal and non-penal fouls
- c. be alert to, and deal with, subtle fouls
- d. demonstrate the ability to distinguish between fouls and aggressive play
- e. distinguish between offside position and offside participation
- f. apply the proper penalties and restarts
- g. demonstrate the use of advantage

Control

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

- a. starting and stopping halves and the game on time
- b. controlling substitutions
- c. handling injuries
- d. being aware of the readiness of players and the assistant referees
- e. providing sufficient whistle signal level so that players are aware that the referee has made a call
- f. using dialogue to warn players of pending infractions in lieu of constant whistling
- g. being aware of, and dealing with infractions away from play
- h. properly managing the 10-yard rule

Conclusion

To satisfy the field certification requirements at the National 2 level while refereeing a TYPICAL AYSO U16 game, candidates must be very successful in demonstrating:

- a. knowledge of the Laws
- b. proper application of the Law
- c. the mechanics of the diagonal system of control
- d. proper positioning for restarts
- e. variation of positions as required from reading the game
- f. control of players' behavior

Observing the National 2 Referee Candidate as an Assistant Referee

Recognize that candidates are being critiqued on their ability to successfully perform as assistant referees in a TYPICAL U16 AYSO game. The assessment should focus mainly on the candidate's basic understanding of the "philosophical" aspects of being assistant referees, understanding the spirit and intent of the Laws of the Game and the effective use of the Diagonal System of Control.

Appearance

National 2 assistant referee candidates shall arrive at the game properly attired and have the required equipment

Pre-game

National 2 assistant 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. In response to directions from the referee, inspect players and field equipment
- c. Be attentive to the referee's pre-game instructions, and when in doubt, ask questions
- d. Assume proper position for the kick-off

Fitness

In general, candidates are expected to:

- a. Maintain a position opposite the second to the last defender unless otherwise directed by the referee
- b. Follow the ball to the goal line
- c. Sprint and side-step as required
- d. Demonstrate their ability to anticipate play by positioning themselves in advance of play
- e. Correctly position themselves for restarts

Attitude

Candidates should:

- a. Maintain an even temperament in the presence of sideline and player criticism or misconduct Practice the "AYSO Team" philosophy at all times
- b. Exhibit an appropriate professional attitude and a spirit of cooperation and support for the referee team.
- c. Assist the referee, not insist

Courage, Character, and Consistency

Candidates must:

- a. Maintain their composure and attention to their responsibilities
- b. Demonstrate a willingness to make consistently fair and unbiased decisions

Positioning, Mechanics, and Signals

Candidates must:

- a. Demonstrate their knowledge of the operation of the Diagonal System of Control
- b. Correctly position themselves in a manner that maximizes eye contact with the referee
- c. Correctly position themselves in advance of restarts
- d. Indicate their awareness of proper restart signals and show a measure of professionalism while executing them
- e. Consistently maintain the flag unfurled and on the field side while moving up and down the field

Assisting – Offside, Goal Line, and Touch line

Candidates should:

- a. Provide timely and accurate assistance to the referee for ball out of play across the touch line or goal line and indicate the proper restart
- b. In response to the referee's direction, provide "play-on" signals for play along the touch line and goal line, and for on-side
- c. Provide accurate assistance for offside calls (participating players)

Assistance: Fouls and Misconduct

Candidates must:

- a. Indicate a willingness to flag infractions which are out of view of the referee
- b. Ask for support when sideline interference is interrupting the game and their concentration

Conclusion

To satisfy the field performance requirements at the National 2 level while refereeing a TYPICAL AYSO U16 game, the candidates must be very successful in demonstrating:

- a. Full support for the referee
- b. Knowledge of the Laws
- c. Application of the Laws
- d. The mechanics of the Diagonal System of Control
- e. Proper positioning for restarts