

**Club
Match Official
2023/24**



The aims and objectives of the workshop and booklet are:

- To give you greater confidence when being called to 'step in' as a match official
 - To understand the role of the Referee
 - To effectively communicate as a Referee
 - To learn how to be an effective Club Assistant Referee
 - To understand what offside actually is!
 - To gain greater knowledge in the Laws of the Game (LOTG)
- To inspire you to complete the FA Referee Course!

The booklet highlights where additional information can be sourced from for further learning and understanding, along with how to begin the process of becoming a qualified Hampshire FA Referee.

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Powers and Duties:

As a Club Referee, you become the Referee for the relevant match, thus you have all the powers and responsibilities of a qualified Referee for that match. The Referee:

- Enforces the Laws of the Game
- Acts as timekeeper for the match
- Controls the match in cooperation with the assistant referees and fourth official (if applicable)
- Ensures the ball meets the requirement of Law 2
- Ensures that players' equipment meets Law 4
- Stops, suspends or abandons the match
- Stops the match when a serious injury occurs
- Reports all other acts of misconduct by Managers, Clubs or Spectators
- Takes disciplinary action against players, substitutes or substituted players

Compulsory Equipment:

It is recommended that you ensure you have access to the following for every game you watch, in case you are asked to referee the match:

- Whistle(s)
- Watch(es)
- Red and yellow card
- Notebook (or other means of keeping a record of the match)



Referee Signals:



Throw in



Corner kick



Indirect free kick



Advantage





Direct free kick



Goal kick



Penalty

Whistle technique:

Situation	Explanation
Calling the Captains	Make sure you allow plenty of time to complete the coin tossing ceremony prior to kick-off. Call the captains to the centre-circle with a loud and confident blow of your whistle - make sure everyone hears it.
Starting and restarting the game from kick off	A short sharp blow on the whistle can be used at the kick-off to commence the start of each half or when restarting the game after a goal has been scored.
Ball in/out of play	There is no need to always blow your whistle to award or indicate a throw-in, goal kick or corner, but you will need to do so on some occasions. Use the whistle if players continue playing, but do not realise (or believe) that the ball has gone out of play over a boundary line.
Player trying to restart from wrong place	If a player looks as though he/she will restart the game from the wrong position (for example, when taking a throw-in), use the whistle to indicate that he should readjust his position to the correct location.
Offside	Stopping play for offside (particularly if Club Assistant Referees are used) will normally result in some verbal comment or other. One way to defuse this is to blow the whistle very loud and long.
Stopping trouble	The whistle is an important tool when dealing with trouble high spots. Blowing it loud and long will impart a message to the players that the Referee deems it to be a serious offence, and that they must stop immediately.
Minor offence	A single short blast is used to inform players of minor offence like a push or trip that was not reckless or violent but still needs to be penalized with a free kick.
Misconduct	If a foul escalates to misconduct requiring the issue of a caution or send-off, a long and hard whistle is used to make sure everyone is aware that you have seen the offence and are going to take care of it. There should be differentiation between a whistle for a yellow card and a whistle for a red card.
Penalty Kick	Perhaps the most intense whistle is for a penalty kick. This whistle is usually extremely loud and long with the referee sprinting to the penalty mark to indicate the penalty kick.
Half time and full time	Players know exactly when a Referee has blown to end the game; because this signal is unique and recognised by all.

Remember that the whistle is the referee's primary tool (but not the only tool) of communication. Every player, coach and spectator should be able to tell what event has occurred and what the repercussions of the event will be by simply listening to the referee's whistle.

Note: adapted from www.kenaston.org



Role of Club Assistant Referee:

Indicate when:

- the whole of the ball leaves the field of play and which team is entitled to a corner kick, goal kick or throw-in
- a player in an offside position may be penalised
- a substitution is requested

As a Club Assistant Referee you will not be asked to signal for fouls. If you do signal for fouls you will be ignored.

Club Assistant Referee Signals:



Throw in



Goal Kick



Corner Kick

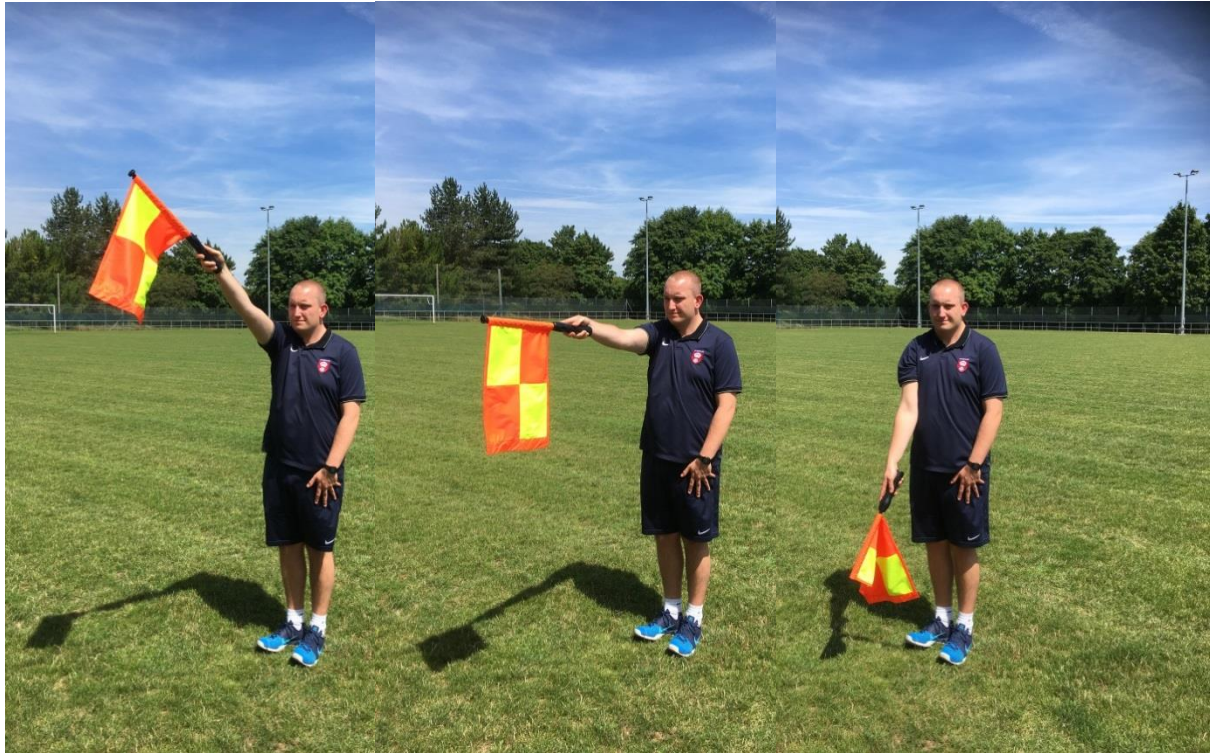


Substitution

Signalling for Offside:



Raise flag to alert Referee to stop play, after Referee's whistle, signal where the offside offence was as per below:



Far side

Middle

Near side

1. Offside position

It is not an offence to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if:

- any part of the head, body or feet is in the opponents' half (excluding the halfway line) and
- any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent
- The hands and arms of all players, including the goalkeepers, are not considered.

A player is not in an offside position if level with the:

- second-last opponent or
- last two opponents

2. Offside offence

A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched* by a teammate is only penalised on becoming involved in active play by:

- interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a teammate or
- interfering with an opponent by:
- preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or
- challenging an opponent for the ball or
- clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent or
- making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball

**The first point of contact of the 'play' or 'touch' of the ball should be used*

or

- gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when it has:
- rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar or an opponent
- been deliberately saved by any opponent
- A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save by any opponent) is not considered to have gained an advantage.

A 'save' is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).

In situations where:

- a player moving from, or standing in, an offside position is in the way of an opponent and interferes with the movement of the opponent towards the ball this is an offside offence if it impacts on the ability of the opponent to play or challenge for the ball; if the player moves into the way of an opponent and impedes the opponent's progress (e.g blocks the opponent) the offence should be penalised under Law 12
- a player in an offside position is moving towards the ball with the intention of playing the ball and is fouled before playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the foul is penalised as it has occurred before the offside offence
- an offence is committed against a player in an offside position who is already playing or attempting to play the ball, or challenging an opponent for the ball, the offside offence is penalised as it has occurred before the foul challenge

3. No offence

There is no offside offence if a player receives the ball directly from:

- a goal kick
- a throw-in
- a corner kick



4. Offences and sanctions

If an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick where the offence occurred, including if it is in the player's own half of the field of play.

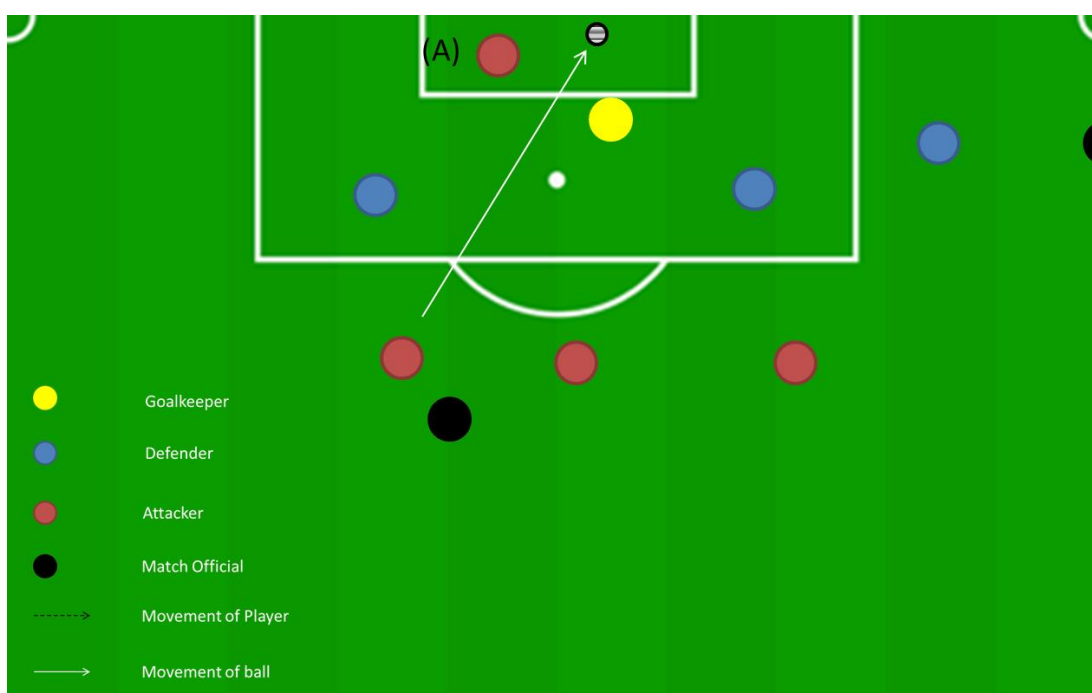
A defending player who leaves the field of play without the referee's permission shall be considered to be on the goal line or touchline for the purposes of offside until the next stoppage in play or until the defending team has played the ball towards the halfway line and it is outside their penalty area. If the player left the field of play deliberately, the player must be cautioned when the ball is next out of play.

An attacking player may step or stay off the field of play not to be involved in active play. If the player re-enters from the goal line and becomes involved in play before the next stoppage in play, or the defending team has played the ball towards the halfway line and it is outside their penalty area, the player shall be considered to be positioned on the goal line for the purposes of offside. A player who deliberately leaves the field of play and re-enters without the referee's permission and is not penalised for offside and gains an advantage, must be cautioned.

If an attacking player remains stationary between the goalposts and inside the goal as the ball enters the goal, a goal must be awarded unless the player commits an offside offence or Law 12 offence in which case play is restarted with an indirect or direct free kick.



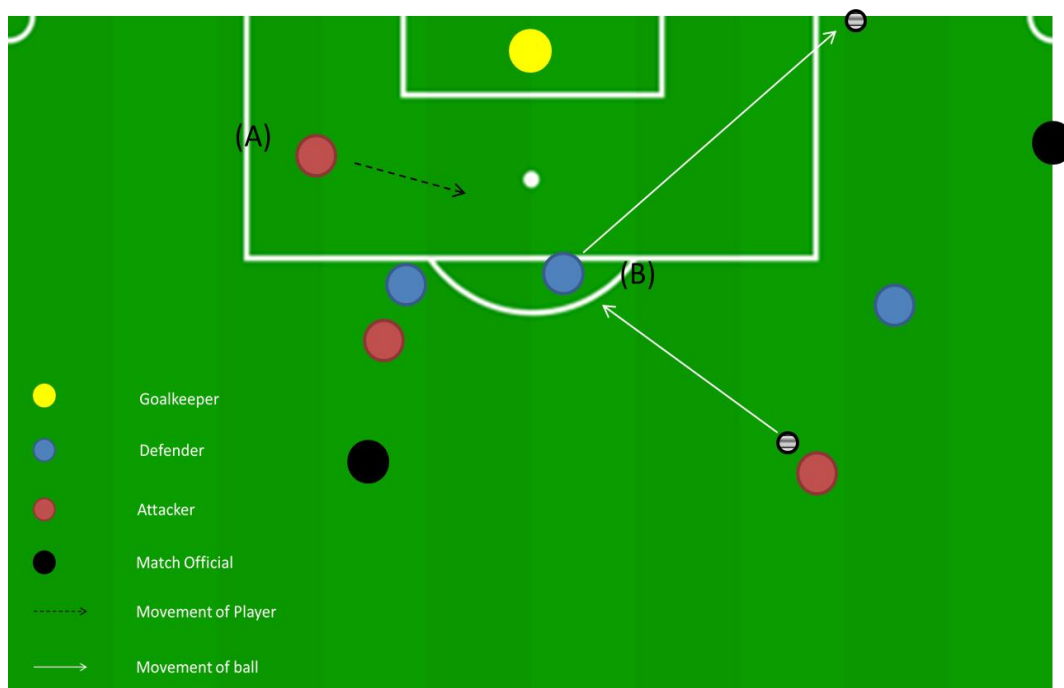
Offside offence- An attacker **in an offside position (A)**, not interfering with an opponent, touches the ball. The AR must raise the flag when the player **touches the ball**.



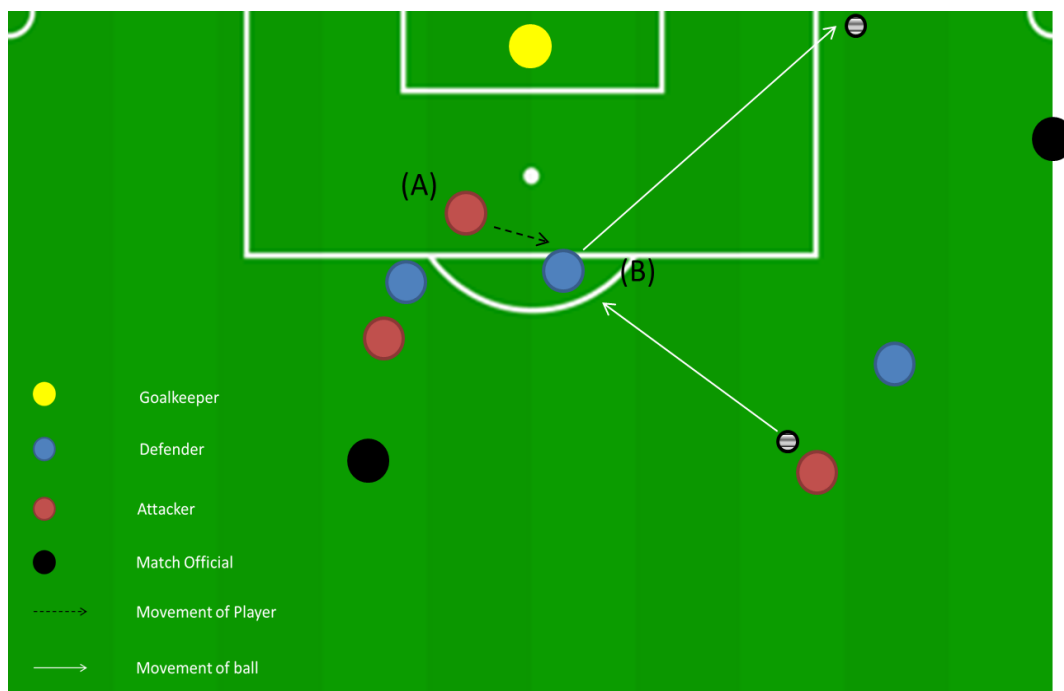
Not offside offence- An attacker **in an offside position (A)**, not interfering with an opponent, **does not touch the ball**. The player did not touch the ball, so it cannot be penalised.



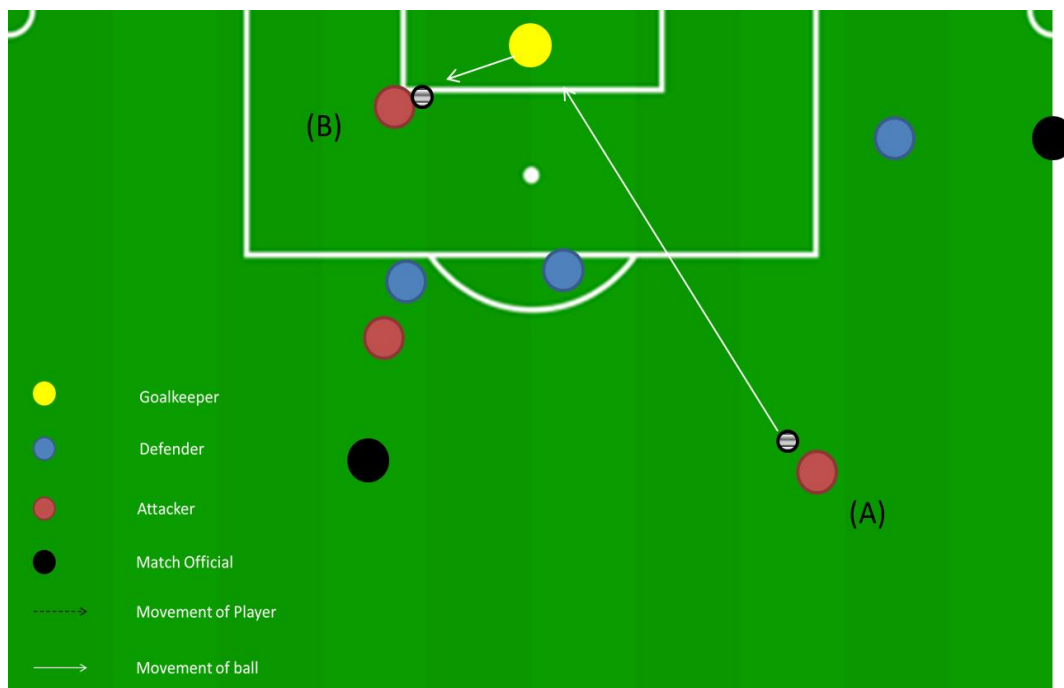
Not offside offence- An attacker **in an offside position** (A) is **not** clearly obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball.



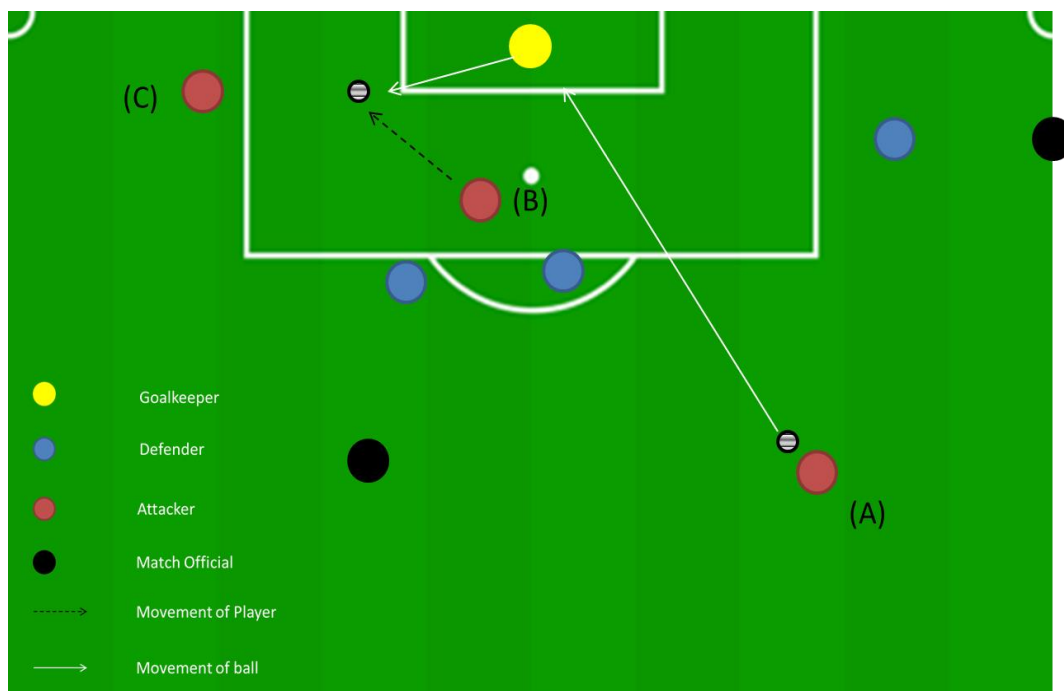
Not offside offence, corner kick- An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball but does not prevent the opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. (A) is **not** challenging an opponent (B) for the ball.



Offside offence- An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball preventing the opponent (B) from playing or being able to play the ball by challenging the opponent for the ball. (A) is challenging an opponent (B) for the ball.



Offside offence- An attacker **in an offside position** (B) is penalised for **playing or touching the ball** that rebounds, is deflected or is played from a deliberate save by the goalkeeper having been **in an offside position** when the ball was last touched or is played by a team-mate.



Not offside offence- The shot by team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper, (B) is in an onside position and plays the ball, (C) **in an offside position** is not penalised because the player did not gain an advantage from being in that position because the player did not touch the ball.

Note- The text regarding the offside law has been taken directly from the IFAB Laws of the Game 2022/2023 (pp. 93-95). The pictorial examples are adapted from the guidance with the Laws of the Game which can be found (with more examples) on pages - 193-199.

Further guidance and FAQs can be found at:

[Documents | IFAB \(theifab.com\)](https://www.theifab.com/Documents/)

Throw ins

Procedure:

At the moment of delivering the ball, the thrower must:

- face the field of play
- have part of each foot on the touchline or on the ground outside of the touchline
- throw the ball with both hands from behind and over the head from the point where it left the field of play



Correct



Correct



Correct



Incorrect



Incorrect

TEMPORARY DISMISSALS

Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sin bins' - will become mandatory for matters of dissent across all of grassroots football from 2019/20 season.

Dissent - by word or action - which is a behavioural matter rather than a football matter. By reducing dissent, it is hoped to improve the retention of referees while improving the image of the game.

Dissent can fall into two categories:

Word - clearly dissenting using words in relation to an opinion or decision made by the referee.

Action - clearly dissenting an opinion or decision made by the referee, by for example throwing or kicking the ball away.

How long are players sin binned for?

10 Minutes in Adult Football.

8 Minutes in Youth Football.

When does the Sin Bin Time Start?

The Sin Bin Time starts from when the referee recommences the game - play restarts.

The referee is the sole judge as to when the Sin Bin starts to when the Sin Bin has finished.

Please see the infographic for more information

Sin Bins

Temporary Dismissals - otherwise known as 'sin bins' - will become mandatory for matters of dissent across all of grassroots football from the 2019/20 season.



HOW DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE SIN BIN?



Players will only go in to the sin bin for dissent cautions



For use of words or gestures questioning or undermining the ref's decisions



EXAMPLES OF DISSENT

- Shouting at the ref
- Questioning ref's ability
- Slamming the ball in to the ground
- Sarcastically clapping a decision

DURATION OF A SIN BIN



For matches of 90 minutes, players spend 10 minutes in the sin bin



For matches of all other lengths, players spend 8 minutes in the sin bin



If the sin bin period has not expired at the end of:

- 1st half:** Continues into 2nd half
- 2nd half:** Continues into extra time
- Extra time:** Player can participate in penalties

THE MATCH DAY PROCESS



Dissent



Dissent caution: Ref issues a yellow card and directs the player to the touchline



Player can't be substituted until period expires and not if all subs have been made



Whilst in the sin bin, if the player commits a yellow or red card offence they can't take any further part in the game and can't be substituted



If the player commits a 2nd dissent caution and has already been booked, they will take no further part in the game and can't be substituted



If the player commits a 2nd dissent caution and no other offences, they will receive a 2nd sin bin. After which they can't take any further part in the game but can be substituted



If the player commits a yellow card offence on the field of play in addition to a period in the sin bin, they will continue to play



Ref decides when player returns to play

FOUL AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE IS STILL A RED CARD OFFENCE!



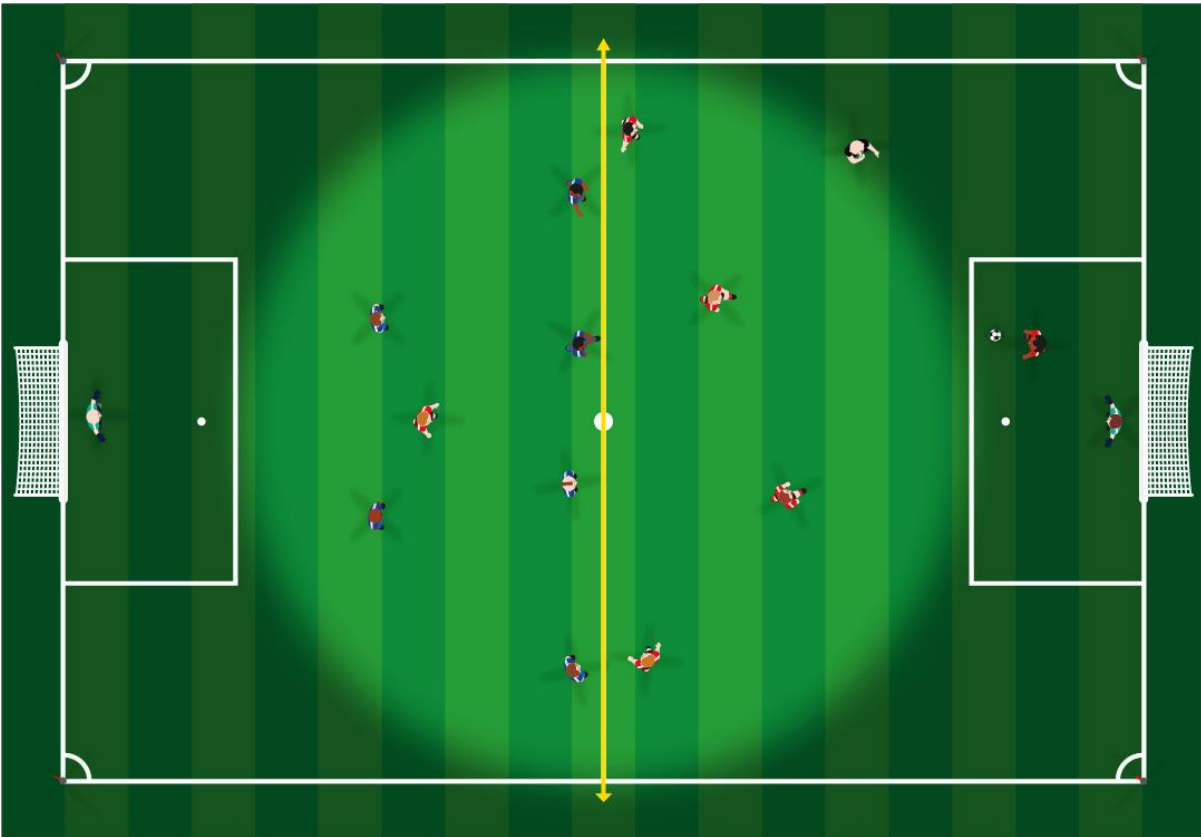
Additional Guidance Mini Soccer

Law 14 Throw Ins



- If a player touches the ball out of play over the touchline a throw in is awarded to the opposition.
- Throw ins can be a difficult technique to learn for younger players so **retakes** are allowed. Referees should offer guidance to help children learn the game.

Law 15 Goal Kick



- The team without the ball must retreat to their own half until the ball is in play.
- This is known as the Retreat Line (pictured).
- Once the ball is in play, the team without the ball can try and win it back.
- As with all the Laws of Development Football, the referee should help the players learn the game.

Optional Power Play Law



Development football is designed to create the best learning and fun experience for young players. To ensure an imbalance in ability does not spoil this, the FA has approved 'Power Play' as an option that mini-soccer and youth leagues can adopt.

- If a team is losing by a four-goal difference, they can put an additional player on – so 5v5 becomes 6v5.
- If the score returns to less than a four goal difference the team takes off a player. It does not have to be the last player to come on.
- If a team goes on to be losing by a six goal difference a further additional player can be added – so 6v5 becomes 7v5.
- The main aim of the Power Play option is that all players are being challenged and enjoying the game.
- Power Play is available through all mini-soccer football formats 5v5 and 7v7.

Moving forward:

As a Referee and Club Assistant Referee, it is vital that you know and understand how to apply the Laws of the Game. This booklet and the Club Match Official Workshop only scratch the surface in looking at the Laws of the Game.

In order to access a copy of the Laws of the Game, please log on to the following link:

<http://www.theifab.com/document/laws-of-the-game>

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – if you have any concerns about anything you have seen or heard, please do not hesitate to contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer via safeguarding@hampshirefa.com or by phone – 01256 853012/853022



U18 Referee – Armbands

The Referee Recruitment and Development Committee at Hampshire FA agreed that under 18 referees are given the opportunity to wear the U18 Referee – Armband when officiating in the County.

These armbands were first shown during the Respect Fixture between Portsmouth FC and Peterborough FC on Saturday 7th December 2019.

The aim of these armbands is so that U18 match officials can be clearly identified as such, with the aim of improving your match day experience and along with the FA Respect Programme it is hoped to further improve the experience for all involved in the game.



Leagues, Clubs, Managers and Coaches are reminded that they should respect the decision of the match official. Many officials are new to the game, and they are learning, they like players will make mistakes. Please therefore encourage officials and support the FA's Respect Programme and ask all Managers, Coaches and players behave in a manner that respects this. Where a referee is clearly identified as being under 18 and an offence is committed by participants or indeed clubs this will be seen as an aggravating factor, and that the individual wearing the Armband is under 18 years of age and therefore a minor.

Summary:

- As the Referee on the day, you have the same authority and responsibility as a appointed Referee
- Be prepared to step in last minute!
- As a Club Assistant, you are there to support the Referee, not insist on the Referee
- Offside may not have been what you thought!
- Do you have a good understanding of the Laws of the Game? You can complete an online Laws session - [online learning Laws of the Game](#)

Should you have any further questions then please contact:

Referee Development Manager: Andy Moisey at Andy.Moisey@HampshireFA.Com
Telephone: 01256 853005



