



The Pre-Game Conference





The Pre-Game Conference



After finishing this training the student will be able to conduct a complete pre-game conference with their fellow referees.



The Pre-Game Conference

What is it?

1. A conversation where the referee and ARs (and 4th official) discuss the rules of the competition and procedures to be followed by each official (as prescribed in the USSF Guide to Procedures)





The Pre-Game Conference

What is it?

2. It's where the referee establishes how the team will work together.

It's tailored to fit the composition of the refereeing crew, age, levels of experience, and skill levels of the players.





The Pre-Game Conference

What is it?

3. It 's useful for the referee and AR to develop a checklist for topics to be covered in the pregame conference.





The Pre-Game Conference

This checklist of topics might include..

1. The 3 things for the AR to cover 100% of the time = **Offside**, **Goal Line** and **Throw-in**.
2. A review AR responsibilities on...
 - a) Fouls
 - b) Touch and Goal Lines
 - c) Substitutions
 - d) Bench control
 - e) Special situations
 - PK
 - Free Kicks near goal
 - Missed flag



The Pre-Game Conference

This checklist of topics might include..

3. Teamwork – how and when.
4. Communication – how and when..
 - a) Eye contact
 - b) Flag signals
 - c) Hand Signals
 - d) Vocal if necessary
5. Help when the referee needs it and don't help when he doesn't need it.
6. Help for AR when they need it and don't help when they don't it.



The Pre-Game Conference

Here is a minimum pre game conference between a referee and 2 adolescent ARs preparing for a youth match. As my AR – you should.....

1. Stay even with the second to last defender or the ball, whichever is closer to the goal. Offside is your call.
2. Follow the ball all the way to the goal line, you will be the first judge on the goal line.
3. On goal kicks and corner kicks – give me the signal if ball went out from your area. If it went out in my area, mirror my signal.
4. Watch the touchline. Ball out of play in your area, raise your flag and give me direction. If you don't know, I will decide. On my end, raise your flag only when I don't see the ball go out. If I look at you for help, give me direction. Confirm my decision with a flag signal.
5. On throw-ins, watch the field and I will watch the thrower (unless the play is close to you). I like 4 eyes on the field more than 4 eyes on a throw-in.
6. If you see a foul in your area, give me a flag. But, remember advantage. If you raise your flag and I wave you off, relax, I will take the heat.



The Pre-Game Conference

7. If you see a foul in the penalty area, look at me first, if I missed it, call it, I can always wave you off.
8. On PK's come in to the 18 and be the goal judge. I will take care of everything else.
9. On corner kicks, control encroachment - the 10 yards on your side. Watch the goal line on the kick, then go to offside position when the ball is clearly in play.
10. On substitutions, supervise the process when it's on your side. When it's complete, give me the signal and I will restart. Other AR – mirror when appropriate.
11. On goal kicks, don't be too picky by placement. Just let me know if it is persistently or excessively out of the goal area. Make sure the ball clears the penalty area.
12. Ball in the net – and goal is good, make eye contact and move up the line toward midfield. If you think the goal is not good – stand on goal line and make “let's talk” signal.
13. Every time the ball is out of play, look over the field, find me and make eye contact. Let me know you are ok.
14. On all kick-off's - count the players, make sure the keeper is ready and all is good, show my your flag as the signal we are ready to play.



The Pre-Game Conference

Where can you find out more about the Pregame Conference?

1. See <http://www.askasoccerreferee.com/?cat=29> – Entries related to Pregame
2. USSF Publications
(see <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Referee-Development/Instructional-Materials.aspx>)
 - Advice to Referees
 - Information for New Referees
 - Guide to Referee Procedures
 - Referee Administrative Handbook



The Pre-Game Conference Quiz

Name (Print): _____

Print this page, answer the following questions and bring with you to recertification.

1. Should you ever referee a game without a pregame conference?
2. What are three things the referee and AR should discuss in the pregame conference?
3. What should the AR do when the referee misses the AR's raised flag?
4. What should the AR do at every stoppage?
5. Should the AR raise their flag every time they see an infringement?