



GUIDELINES ON RUNNING THE LINE

Credit goes to: Pauline Lindsay, Raiders U14 Black for putting this together.

Before the game starts check with the referee how much assistance he expects from you. Some may only want your decisions on offside and when the ball is out of play, whilst others may expect assistance for any other infringements that may have occurred and not been noticed by him. In all circumstances remember that you are part of the referee's team and must work in accordance with his instructions. If you are not happy with the way things are progressing talk to the referee either at half time or full time. Never show that you are not in complete agreement with the ref to anybody around you.

FLAG MOVEMENTS

- Always hold your flag in the hand nearest to the half way line.
- Never roll the flag up. Always have it unfurled (this helps the ref as it is easier to see the whole flag and it also gives a distinctive snapping noise when raised which the ref can hear).
- Always raise your flag swiftly in a vertical position (there is no need to wave it around) keep it raised until the ref sees it and either follows your lead or acknowledges the flag and signals to you that it has been noted or you recognise an advantage to the team against which the offence was committed. Remember the ref is the boss and may choose not to follow your assistance.
- When signalling for a goal kick or a corner kick hold the flag in the hand nearest to the goal line.
- When signalling for a throw in always hold the flag in the correct hand. If the throw is to the right use your right hand, if to the left, use your left hand.
- If in any doubt on a decision follow the referee's signals (do not guess).
- When flagging always face the field square on.

OFF SIDE LAWS, RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

A player is in an offside position if he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than the ball unless:

- He is in his own half of the field.
- He has at least two opponents nearer to the goal line than him (this includes the goalkeeper - so always make sure if the keeper has come out field that another defender has taken his place in defence).

A player should only be penalised for being off side if:

- At the moment the ball is played by one of his team he is either interfering with play, an opponent or seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position.

A player can not be in an offside position from:

- A goal kick
- A corner kick
- A throw in

POSITIONING

When the play is in your half you should be in line with the second last defender (remember a goalkeeper counts as a defender).

When the ball is in the other half the defenders will also move up so you will probably find yourself nearer to the half way line.

Try to stand opposite where an offence has taken place i.e. if offside stand face on in line with the offence. If it occurred on the far side of the pitch hold the flag at about nine o'clock, if in the middle of the park about 2 o'clock if nearer your side of the pitch about 7 o'clock. This gives the ref and the players some idea of where the free kick should be taken from.

NEVER get caught watching the play - these children move quite fast and if you switch off even for a few seconds you will get caught out of position and be unable to make close decisions (especially off sides).

During a corner kick stand in line with the goal line behind the player taking the kick. Remember to watch if the ball swings out of play whilst in the air.

For a penalty your job is to watch for the ball crossing the line and watching for any forward movement by the goalkeeper. If a foul has been committed raise your flag where you stand (the ref will then realise there is a problem). If a goal is scored satisfactorily back peddle to your position (which shows the ref that you have not spotted any infringements).

ALWAYS REMEMBER

- A PLAYER CAN BE IN AN OFFSIDE POSITION BUT CAUSING NO INTERFERENCE WITH PLAY - DO NOT RAISE YOUR FLAG.
- A PLAYER DOES NOT HAVE TO BE BEHIND THE SECOND LAST DEFENDER TO BE ONSIDE, HE MAY ALSO BE IN LINE WITH HIM.
- IF A PLAYER IS IN AN OFFSIDE POSITION AND RECEIVES THE BALL FROM HIS PLAYER VIA A DEFLECTION FROM THE OPPOSITION HE HAS GAINED AN ADVANTAGE FROM BEING IN THE OFFSIDE POSITION - RAISE YOUR FLAG.