

The Area Referee



The Area Referee should have a basic understanding and a good application of the “mechanical” aspects of refereeing, the Laws of the Game, and the diagonal system of control.

1. Pre-game
Area Referees should arrive at the game at least 15 minutes before it starts, inspect players’ equipment, and provide simple but acceptable pre-game instructions to their assistant referees.
2. Fitness
The Area Referee is expected to keep up with play while traveling the diagonal, sprinting as required, and demonstrating the rudiments of anticipating play.
3. Attitude
The Area Referee should be friendly and accommodating to fellow referees, players, and coaches, and, while indicating some nervousness, demonstrate an aura of authority.
4. Courage, character, and consistency
Area Referees should demonstrate their willingness to call fouls equally for both teams when they occur, and be capable of dealing firmly with any challenges to their authority.
5. Positioning, mechanics, and signals
Area Referees should demonstrate a knowledge of the operation of the diagonal system of control, consistently orient themselves in a manner that maximizes eye contact with their assistant referees, apply proper restart signals, and take proper positions for restarts.
6. Accuracy of decision
The Area Referee should consistently recognize and whistle typical fouls, including penal and non-penal fouls, recognize the difference between offside position and offside participation, and apply the proper penalties and restarts.
7. Control
The Area Referee should have full control the game through starting and stopping the game on time, controlling substitutions, handling injuries, being aware of the readiness of players and assistant referees, and providing sufficient whistle signal level so that players are aware that the referee has made a call.