

PREGAME INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEUTRAL ASSISTANTS ONLY

Common Instructions used at U10 thru U14. Select those that suit you.

Change wording to suit

- Please “check-in” the teams and the goal structure, nets and penalty mark for safety issues and visibility. Keep flag tightly furled until just before KO.
- Return here (center mark) with a-game-ball, game card and captain.
- Please maintain the substitution tally. I’ll help you as needed.
- If attention is needed stand in the penalty-arc look at me. I’ll come over.
- When we break have a quick look at the corner flag, straighten it as necessary.
- Take up your patrol position on your touchline.
- Insure Keeper is ready and that the minimum of required players are on the field.
- When all is ready stand relaxed facing the field with UNFURLED flag in either hand down at side or with hand on watch. Do not signal, wave, yell out or nod. Your unmoving stance will indicate your readiness. If you’re moving around or not looking right at me I will NOT start the game.
- Keep your flag blatantly visible to me at all times, always unfurled.
- Talk to the players as necessary during the match. Keep your voice subdued.
- Stay even with the NEXT to last defender.
- Follow the ball to the goal line as is practical.
- Be mindful of spectators blocking your vision “down-the-line”. Call me over to help if necessary.
- Keep EVERYONE away from the goal line.
- NEVER stop your watch, If my watch fails I will point to it meaning you have the “time.”
- NEVER stop your watch (bears-repeating)
- As substitution time nears place your right hand behind your back. With 1 minute to go in each half, place your right fist over your left pocket.
- Indicate team entitled to throw-in directly. If unsure simply look at me, I’ll deal with it.
- If the ball skirts the line up in the vicinity of the far Penalty Area give me a “good-ball” signal if it stays in. Pop your flag immediately if it goes out.
- Indicate GK or CK as applicable. Be alert to changes.
- For CK stay behind the flag---do not-come up the goal line.
- Be alert to proper ball-placement for CK and GK. Indicate if improper BEFORE kick is taken. Once taken, let it go.
- Signal only for Offside involvement in active play. Be alert to wave-downs.
- If in doubt keep your flag down. You signal at the right time, I will NEVER miss a flag.
- Signal for foul play only if you are extremely certain I was screened regardless of the location of the incident. Be alert to wave downs.
- Don’t indicate improper Throw-Ins, period! -I’ll manage that exclusively.
- For PKs come to the intersection of the Goal Line and the Penalty Area line only. Watch for ball actually crossing the line. I’ll handle the rest!
- Meet in Center Circle promptly at end of each half. Furl your flag before moving off your line.

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Additional instructions for U16,19 Matches

- Be alert to foul language directed at a person! Signal if you feel it was hostile or combative and are POSITIVE that I could not have heard it.
- If you hear an “emotional outburst” or two a quick word from you such as “easy.. .easy No. 6...” ought to do it. If not call me over when play is stopped.
- Watch for “fouls from behind” and obstruction. If you feel I was screened and advantage is no issue signal quickly with one motion to the vertical to stop play.
- As you signal, raise you flag VERTICALLY on the side of your body that corresponds to the team entitled to the Free Kick. DO NOT indicate with a 45 degree-pointing of the flag. This mechanic will eliminate any conflicts that may arise. Be alert to wave downs.
- Watch for any contact with the Keeper. If you feel the attacker could have avoided contact but didn't and I am screened (such as at the halfway line) feel free to signal. Be alert to wave downs. -
- If keeper exceeds the “six-second rule” warn first. Signal subsequently
- If keeper appears to release ball slightly outside the PA, warn first. Signal subsequently.
- Be alert to Offside traps. Move fast.
- For fouls seen in the PA against the Attacking Team once I've whistled the foul, stand at attention, at a point on the touchline that's even with the *extension of the* so-called 18 yard line. If the contact occurred outside the PA but was close enough to create controversy stand on the-extension of the so-called 18 yard line but with legs spread.
- This physical distinction must be clearly seen by me or I'll decide every time AGAINST a PK. “If in doubt call out”