

REFEREE'S SINGLE SHEET SUMMARY

OFFSIDE

OFFSIDE POSITION

- Player is in opponent's half of the field, AND
- Player is closer to opponent's goal line than the ball, AND
- Player is closer to opponent's goal line than either of the last two opponents

Offside position is determined at the moment the ball is played or touched by a teammate. Offside position by itself is not an offense.

OFFSIDE OFFENSE

- Is in offside position when ball is played or touched by teammate, and then:
 - Interferes with play (plays the ball); OR
 - Interferes with an opponent (keeps them from playing the ball); OR
 - Interferes by otherwise gaining an advantage (ball rebounds to them)
- Restart: IFK for opponents where offside player interferes

Cannot be offside if a player receives the ball directly from a GK, TI, or CK.

REFEREE TEAM MECHANICS AND SIGNALS

REFEREE POSITIONING

- Left (standard) diagonal: run toward left corner flag; try to stay to the left of ball
- Right diagonal: run toward right corner flag; try to stay to the right of ball
- During dynamic play try to be approximately 10-15 yards from play
- Try to keep play between the referee and the lead assistant referee

ASSISTANT REFEREE POSITIONING

- Default position: stay even with second-to-last defender to watch for offside (the last defender is usually, but not always, the goalkeeper)
- If the second-to-last defender moves into the opponent's half of the field, stay at the halfway line
- If the ball moves closer to the defenders' goal line than the second-to-last defender, stay even with the ball – all the way to the goal line if necessary

REFEREES SHOULD...

- Look at the lead assistant when the ball is played forward
- Look at the lead assistant when a goal is scored
- Occasionally look back at the trail assistant
- Look at both assistants when the ball is out of play
- Give them a smile or a subtle "thumbs up"

ASSISTANT REFEREES SHOULD...

- Raise the flag with a deliberate (not hasty or exaggerated) motion
- Make eye contact with the referee whenever they signal
- Watch players who are behind the referee's back
- Mirror the foul/misconduct signals of the other assistant referee that the referee can't see
- Always be prepared to signal if the ball goes out of play and the referee looks to you for help

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM AN OLD REFEREE

- Be a thinking referee/assistant referee at all times
- Keep the game safe, fair, and fun – in that order
- If it looks unsafe, blow the whistle even if you're not sure what foul to call – player safety is your most important job
- If you're not sure about a foul or offside, don't blow the whistle
- Don't let the sidelines get out of hand... you may have a thick skin, but their next referee could be 12 years old
- Want to be better? Get a mentor to help you; study the Laws of the Game, read the US Soccer Guide to Procedures... and take an AYSO referee upgrade course
- Smile – If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong

