**Flag procedures**

**USSF Guide to Procedures (4-15-13 edition)**

Text is verbatim except for text in square brackets [like this]

Assumes the referee is running the left diagonal. If the referee is running the right diagonal, the AR signals for GK and offside are made with the left hand.

| **Page** | **Situation** | **Procedures** |
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| 4 | General mechanics | Signals: • All referee hand signals are given with the arm straight at the indicated angle or direction, with the fingers fully extended.• Assistant referee flag signals follow the same pattern with the flag held as an extension of the arm. |
| 7 | Prior to kick off —pregame ceremonies | Referee team enters field together and moves to center mark for any pregame ceremonies. Assistant referees have flag furled at side, record results of coin toss, perform final check of nets. |
| 8 | During minute before kick off | Assistant referees move to correct position on touch line (in line with second to last defender), unfurl flags and hold them straight down in view of the referee to indicate readiness for the initial kick-off (correct number of players, clearly identified goalkeeper, etc.) |
| 10 | General positioning during play | • Flag held straight down and always visible to referee• If a signal is to be made, stops, faces the field, makes eye contact with the referee, and signals with the correct hand |
| 17 | TI on referee’s end of touch line | • If ball passes out of play and immediately returns to the field, signals with a vertical flag in the hand indicating the direction of the restart, then drops the flag when acknowledged by the referee • Provides confirming flag signal after referee indicates throw-in decision. If referee makes obvious eye contact to ask for assistance before indicating a decision, uses signal to establish direction which was agreed to in the pre-game conference, and then provides confirming throw-in flag signal after referee indicates decision. |
| 18 | TI on AR’s end of touch line | • Signals with flag 45 degrees upward in the direction of the throw-in • If the ball passes out of play and immediately returns to the field, signals with a vertical flag until acknowledged by the referee, then flags in the direction of the throw-in • Drops flag when it is clear that restart and direction are established• If the referee does not see it, maintains the signal in accordance with the pre-game conference |
| 19 | Offside | • Raises the flag vertically with the right hand• If the referee misses the flag, stays at attention with the flag raised until the defense gains clear possession or until a goal kick or throw-in is awarded to the defense• After making eye contact with the referee, indicates the location of the offense by dropping the flag at an appropriate angle to a point in the field (far, middle, near side) |
| 20 | GK | • Points flag horizontally (right hand) toward goal area if ball crosses assistant referee’s side of the goal line or if referee makes eye contact to ask for assistance• Provides confirming flag signal (right hand) after referee indicates a goal kick restart when ball crosses referee’s side of goal line• If the ball passes out of play and immediately returns to the field, signals with a vertical flag (right hand) until acknowledged by the referee, then points flag horizontally toward goal area |
| 23 | CK on referee’s side of field | • Provides confirming flag signal (45 degrees downward toward near corner) after referee indicates a corner kick when ball crosses referee’s side of goal• If referee makes obvious eye contact to ask for assistance on correct restart, signals for corner kick and maintains the signal as referee indicates decision• If the ball passes out of play and immediately returns to the field, signals with a vertical flag until acknowledged by the referee, then gives the corner kick flag signal•[If necessary] Steps upfield from goal line to avoid pointing the flag off the field |
| 24 | CK, AR’s side of field | • If the ball passes out of play and Immediately returns to the field, signals with a vertical flag until acknowledged by the referee, then points the flag 45 degrees downward in the direction of the near corner• [If necessary] Steps upfield from goal line to avoid pointing the flag off the field |
| 25 | Goal | If the ball briefly but fully enters the goal and is continuing to be played, raises the flag vertically to get the referee’s attention and then, after the referee stops play, puts flag straight down and follows the remaining procedures for a goal |
| 27 | Apparent goal to be disallowed | Signals the referee according to the situation.• If the *scorer was offside* at the moment the ball was passed to him or her, ***signals offside*** • If there was a *foul by an attacker*, stands at ***attention with the flag held straight down at the side***• If a player *other than the scorer was in an offside position* and, in the opinion of the assistant referee, was *interfering with play or with an opponent*, stands at ***attention with the flag held straight down at the side*** |
| 28 | Foul observed by referee | [If referee needs assistance to determine if the foul occurred inside or outside the penalty area:]• Responds to eye contact by the referee requesting assistance regarding the location of the foul either by standing with the flag held clearly downward at the side (to indicate that the infringement occurred outside the penalty area) or...• By holding the flag across the lower body as shown on the right (to indicate that the infringement was committed by the defense inside its penalty area) |
| 29 | Foul indicated by lead AR | [Lead AR:]• Determines that the infringement was not or could not be seen by the referee and that, per the pregame conference, the referee would likely have stopped play for the infringement if it had been seen• Signals with the flag raised vertically in the hand appropriate for the restart direction and, after making eye contact with the referee, gives the flag a slight wave• If the referee stops play, signals with the flag held 45 degrees upward in the direction of the restart if the foul was committed by any player outside of the penalty area or by an attacker inside the penalty area • If misconduct is observed associated with the foul, makes eye contact with the referee and advises either a yellow card by placing the free hand over the badge on the left jersey pocket or a red card by placing the free hand on a back pocket on the shorts • Indicates the location of the restart if necessary• If the referee does not see the signal, continues to hold the flag straight upward in accordance with the pregame conference[Trail AR:]Mirrors the lead assistant referee’s flag signal if this is not seen by the referee and, upon making eye contact with the referee, directs the referee’s attention to the lead assistant referee |
| 30 | Foul indicated by trail AR | [Same as above but Trail and Lead AR roles reversed] |
| 35 | Advantage applied | In the case of fouls or misconduct not seen by the referee, determines whether the referee would not have applied advantage and stopped play for the offense if it had been seen (keeps flag down and does not use the verbal/hand signal for advantage)  |
| 36 | PK | • Assists the referee in determining whether a goal is scored and whether the goalkeeper has moved illegally • If the goalkeeper moved illegally and thus prevented a goal from being scored, stays in position and signals by holding the flag across the lower body as shown |
| 37 | PK indicated by AR | • Signals with a flag straight up• Upon making eye contact with the referee, gives the flag a slight wave• If referee stops game, assistant referee first indicates penalty kick by holding flag across the lower body and then begins walking toward the corner flag |
| 40 | Substitutions | • Gives the substitution signal and holds it until eye contact is made with the referee • Other assistant referee mirrors the signal if the referee is not looking in the necessary direction, directs the referee’s attention to the opposite side of the field when eye contact is made • When acknowledged by the referee, lowers the flag |
| 43 | End of game | • Join the referee on the field• Flags are furled |