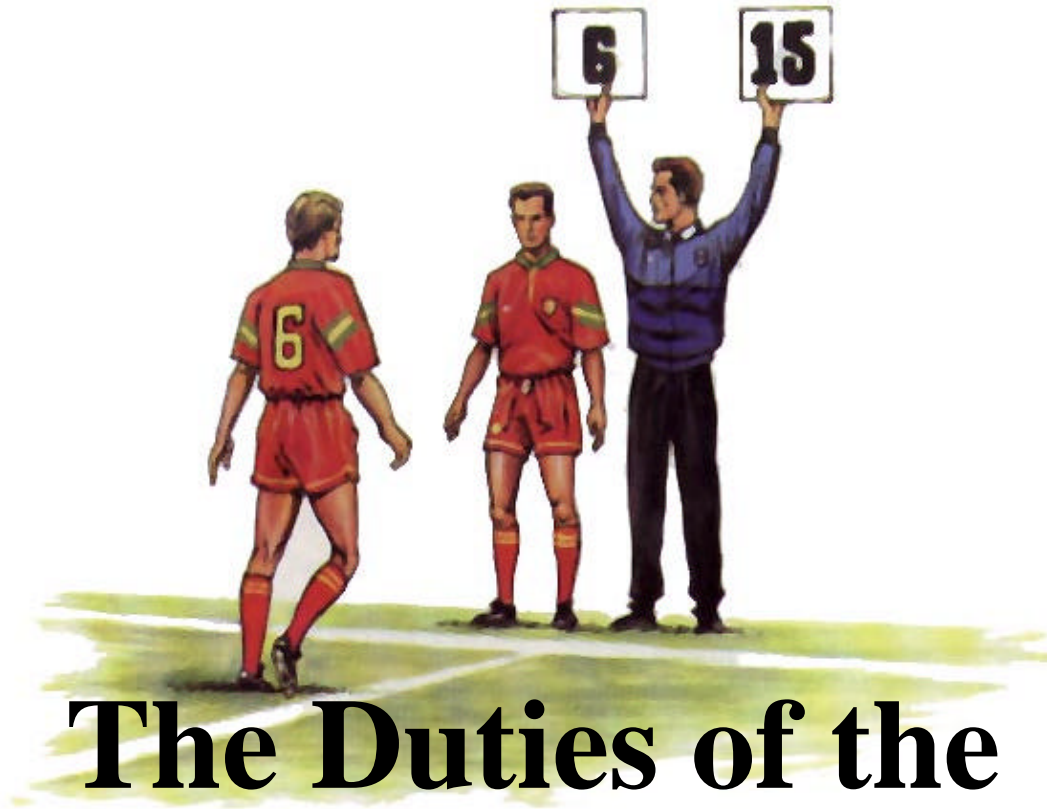


United States Soccer Federation



The Duties of the Fourth Official

OBJECTIVE

You will be able to list the duties of the fourth official and be able to apply this understanding the next time you are assigned as a fourth official.

WHAT IS A FOURTH OFFICIAL?

The fourth official may be appointed under the rules of a competition and shall officiate in the event of any of the three match officials being unable to continue.

The organizer, prior to the start of the competition, shall state clearly whether, in the event of any referee being unable to continue, the fourth official would take over as the match referee or whether the senior linesman would take over.

The fourth official shall assist the referee with any administrative duties before, during, and after the match, as required by the referee.

The Fourth Official is an integral part of the officiating team

The same:

- Knowledge of the Laws and the rules of competition**
- Professional conduct and dress**

Duties prior to the game

- Arrive with the officiating team**
- Participate in field inspection**
- Be prepared to officiate**
- Wear appropriate track suit ***
- Obtain number kit**
- Obtain and inspect game balls**

Duties prior to the game

- **Contact competition security**
- **Assist in checking lineups and player passes**
- **Assist in checking of player equipment**
- **Accompany other officials to center circle for Natl' Anthem and coin toss ***

Duties during the game

- Observe and record appropriate information on the log sheet**
- Assist in control of the benches**
- Assist with substitution procedures**
- Informs the referee of irresponsible behavior by any occupant of technical area**

At half time

- **Gather equipment**
- **Go to the dressing room or with the referee**
- **Compare game notes**
- **See to refreshments for the officials**
- **Return directly to your station**

Substitution Procedure

- **Inspect substitute's equipment**
- **Inspect substitute's pass and substitution ticket and verify information**
- **Inform near AR of substitution request**
- **Stand behind halfway line flag with substitute until referee signals for substitution**

Substitution Mechanics

- **Assistant Referee signals for substitution**
- **Referee acknowledges**
- **Fourth official displays number of player(s) being substituted, lowers it when player moves**

Substitution Mechanics

- **Prevents substitute from entering the field until player being substituted has left field**
- **Collects player pass**
- **Allows substitute to enter after referee signals**
- **Records information in game log**

When a goal is scored

- Controls the bench area**
- Allows no one to enter the field**
- Records time, team, and player**

If an injury occurs

- Control the bench areas**
- Go to the person(s) most likely to enter the field**
- Prevent entry until the referee signals; allow only authorized persons on to field**
- If the player is replaced . . .**
- If the player off for attention...**

Signals used by Trainer during an injury

- **Ambulance**
- **Physician**
- **Splints**
- **Spine board**
- **Stretcher**

Player required to leave field to adjust equipment

- Have adjustment made**
- Check to see it is correct**
- Bring player to the halfway line**
- Keep player off until referee grants permission**

When a serious foul, caution, or sending-off occurs

- Go to the appropriate bench area**
- Maintain calm and control**
- Meet sent-off player and escort to security**
- Record time, team, player number, reason for action, location**

Near the end of the game

- **Look for security**
- **Continue to observe**
- **Record any misconduct or incident**

Duties after the game

- **When the referee leaves the field, gather all equipment and follow him**
- **Submits a report on any misconduct out of the view of the referee and ARs**
- **Must advise referee and ARs of any report being made**

Kicks from the Penalty Mark

- Assist in keeping players of record on the field**
- Keep substitutes off the field**
- Control the bench during the taking of the kicks**
- Record the results**

Summary of Major Responsibilities

- **Bench control**
- **Control of substitutions**
- **Record keeping**
- **Source of neutral information**