

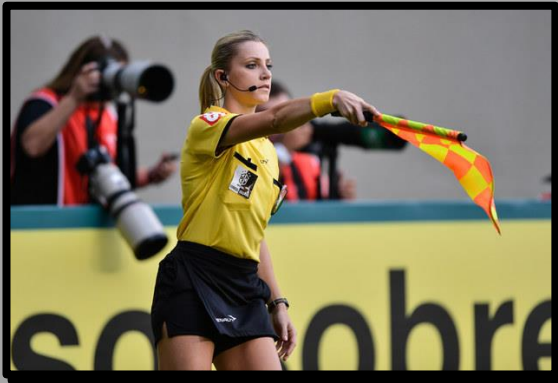


## MENTOR AREA

### *STAGE 4: Your first match on the line*

#### *PART 2: Running your first line*

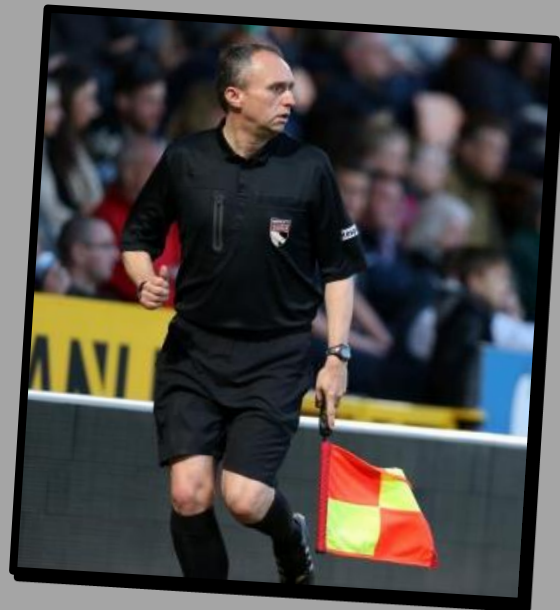
Acting as an Assistant Referee for the first time can be challenging but also extremely enjoyable. To help you, we've put together a guide that will outline what to expect and



give you some top tips to make your first match on the line a successful experience. When you arrive at the venue of the ground you should make yourself known immediately to your fellow officials. The Referee is in charge of the match official's team and will lead the three or four of you on the day, it's a good idea to let him/her know that this is your first match as an Assistant Referee as they will

then be able to help you through the experience. At some point in the pre-match process the Referee will address their fellow officials and convey what are known as 'Pre-Match instructions' to them, these will typically include:

- The Referee informing their assistants that they are to make all offside decisions and indicate an offence with the appropriate signal.
- The Referee outlining when they want assistant referee intervention in terms of fouls and penalty decisions and when they do not.
- The Referee indicating who will be responsible for leading judgements on throw-in decisions on each part of the pitch.
- The Referee outlining any administrative duties they wish you to perform such as keeping a record of substitutes, misconduct and goals scored alongside any other responsibilities they wish to allocate you.



During this briefing, be sure to listen very carefully as the referee will expect you to carry out these instructions during the game. It is important that you ask the referee for clarification at the end of this briefing, if there is anything that requires clarification or you have any further questions. You may also be asked to participate in a warm-up with your fellow officials, this helps present the image to those present and can be a good team bonding exercise so be sure to participate!

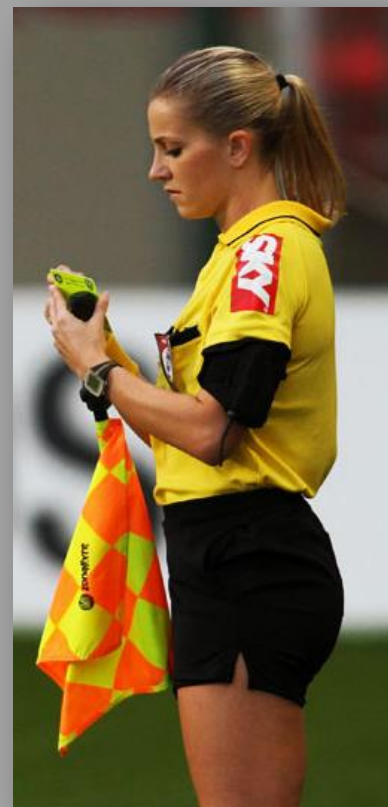
When you get onto the pitch, the referee will probably ask you to break and check the goal nets, once you have done this return to the centre and witness the coin-toss and handshake. Then, assume the position of being level with the second-to-last defender in the half to which you have been allocated to for the commencement of kick-off and make sure you are level with them during play.

When judging offside remember that it is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position, the player must interfere with play, an opponent or gain an advantage by being in that position. If you do believe an offside offence has been committed then raise your flag and indicate the position of the offside (far, middle or near) accordingly and make sure you hold your position until acknowledged by the referee.

With throw-in's, if the ball goes out of play then indicate which way the throw in should be awarded by the appropriate signal, making careful eye contact with the referee. If you are unsure which way the throw in should be awarded, then make clear eye contact with the referee but do not move your flag either way. The referee should lead with a signal which you should follow.

In terms of free-kick interventions, before signalling for a foul consider areas of credibility. By this it is meant, consider whether the referee is likely to have a better view of the incident of you and if he is likely to have seen it before intervening. When you do intervene make sure it is not after the referee declaring something such as 'no foul' as this undermines the two of you. If making a penalty decision, remember to look carefully at the referee and see if he wishes for assistance in this call before intervening.

Remember to try to carry out any other instructions the referee has given to you to the best of your ability including assisting with keeping a match record or with substitutions. Also, remember you are ultimately there to assist the referee so don't be offended if



occasionally he makes a different decision as he may have seen something you have not, it's nothing to worry about!

Above all, enjoy the experience! Working in a refereeing team can be very enjoyable, particularly if by working together effectively you produce an excellent officiating performance!

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