

Preventive Refereeing and Referee Mechanics
Marco A. Dorantes, CONCACAF Instructor

1. Preventive refereeing for superior referees is avoiding violations of the Laws of the Game of which they have perfect knowledge. They must recognize possible infractions of the Laws seconds before they occur and, in a short time, must gain the advantage from the players. This is the essence of preventive refereeing.
2. Referee mechanics are the concepts which are given to referees with the objective of maximizing advantages. This will help them to develop technical expertise in order to control the game.
3. Ability to read and follow the play during the game:
 - a) Must be able to stay in the correct position in the field of play at the right time in order to identify and anticipate the incident.
4. Immediately after the start of the game, the referee must be able to impose his authority and gain the respect of the players with his absolutely correct decisions.
5. The referee must be able to prevent ungentlemanly conduct on the field of play.
6. To achieve all of the above, the referee must respect the player. This way, he gains respect for himself.
7. The referee must know the rules of the competition for the specific tournament.
 - a) The referee must know the rules and be familiar with the field of play and the stadium. The referee must know: the location of the dressing rooms for the officials, the players, entrance and exits to the field, security force, the game commissary, and the authorities for that event.
 - b) The referee must be familiar with the weather conditions and, accordingly, bring the correct clothes, including complete uniform and special shoes if needed.
 - c) Know the type of transportation for arrival and departure.
 - d) Arrive with sufficient time, two (2) hours in our area, and complete knowledge of kick-off time for the specific game.
 - e) To familiarize where the field is located with enough time to introduce modifications.
 - f) The referee must give instructions to the linesmen and fourth official with sufficient time to eliminate any doubt of the instructions and gain their respect.
 - g) The referee must organize, in advance, inspection of players' I. D. and their equipment.
 - h) The referee must be sure to have the forms for the game report.
 - i). The referee must make certain to take the complete referee's equipment: whistles, cards, pencil, notebook, and coin.

Game Planning

1. The referee must analyze teams style of play.
2. Are they quick, slow, strong?
3. Do the defenders play to intimidate the opponents?
4. Is there one or more trouble players?
5. Do they play the off-side trap?
6. Do they tactically encroach (on free-kicks)? Do they do it continuously?
7. Do they waste time deliberately at the re-start?
8. Are there any players that continuously fake injuries?
9. Does the coach have a tendency to coach from the sideline?
10. Is the crowd hostile to the referee's or linesmen's decisions?
11. Are the linesmen trustworthy?
12. Has the referee given the linesmen complete instructions?
13. Did they understand the instructions?
14. We must remember that the referee who runs during the game doesn't have to run after the game is over.
15. The referee shall always remember that the correct applications of the Laws of the Game give the capacity to protect the physical integrity of the players.
16. The referee must remember to always keep eye contact with the linesmen.
 - a) At the same time, not show disagreement with the decisions taken by the assistants, otherwise this will create a negative attitude.
 - b) Therefore, the referee must be able to know when to anticipate the linesmen's decisions if the referee is at a better angle and closer to the play.
17. During the game, he referee can talk to the players but it should always be firm and to the point. It should be kept to the minimum or avoided. It must be quick and precise.
18. The referee should not lose coolness, temperament, or character.

19. The referee must read the intention of the players when they are playing the ball.
- a) Be able to distinguish player's intention in playing the ball, the leg, or the opponent's head.
 - b) Also know when the ball is within playing distance.
20. Reasons why the referee must not lose eye contact with the ball.
- a) During a goal-kick, the referee must be in a position where the ball would land and should not lose visual contact of the ball and the players.
 - b) When the ball is in full possession of the goalkeeper, the referee must anticipate the intent in which the 'keeper will play the ball. (E.g. Will it be played long? Will it be played short or to a teammate? Only presence near the action will avoid delays.)
 - c) Only acting correctly during the sanctions will the referee demonstrate the capacity of following play.
 - d) The referee must be able to distinguish, regardless of the score of the game, that the members of the home or visiting team will play the ball differently and, in any case, not permit delays in restarting play.
 - e) The referee shall anticipate players' tactics to delay the game.
 - f) For this reason, The referee must not turn his back to the ball.
 - g) The referee must not interfere between the ball and the players.
21. The referee must be able to judge if a player is seriously injured and needs immediate attention.
- a) If this is the case, play must be stopped immediately and medical attention requested, especially in cases of fracture, head injuries, etc.
 - b) Referee Commission decision from March 19, 1983:

"The player will be removed and attended by the captain or the team's trainer."
22. The referee must be firm and consistent during the whole game and use the power given by the Laws of the Game.
- a) The referee must enforce the 10 yards from the ball to the wall and control the players that want to interfere at the taking of a free-kick without losing sight of the ball. This is one of the key moments to take control and be in charge of the match.
 - b) If it is necessary to use the cards, remember that each card must give a true value to the situation in hand according to the Laws of the Game.
 - c) When showing the card, the referee must always respect the player.

- d) On these occasions, the referee will show growing or decreasing personality in front of everyone.
 - e) The referee cannot use the cards as if involved in a poker game.
23. Using the cards correctly, the referee will establish the permitted level of play.
- a) Yellow card: This is not permitted!
 - b) Red card: This is the limit!
24. The tone of the whistle shall be strong and loud, especially in those plays where the ball is being disputed.
- a) The referee must remember that each whistle translates the tone of the language in which you are talking to the players.
25. When the whistle is blown, the referee is calling the attention of the players and must immediately indicate the direction with the free hand.
- a) The referee must, if necessary, admonish the player that deserves special attention to maintain good discipline and gentlemanly conduct.
26. The diagonal should be wide or close to the play, depending on the situation.
- a) The referee must be very careful to not away when players are restarting the game at throw-ins, corner-kicks, and goal-kicks.
27. At the time when advantage is applied, he referee should make an immediate evaluation if by doing so this is a worse punishment for the team committing the foul, but should not forget or lose track of the player that committed the foul.
- a) The referee should analyze performance during the game and determine if the same foul has been sanctioned at the halfway line as in the penalty-area.
 - b) When a fouls is sanctioned in the penalty area, it must be done with courage and personality. The referee should know how to handle the defending players and take the best position to avoid being confronted by them.
28. To keep control of deliberate time wasting, including substitution, the referee must make an effort to ensure that delay tactics are minimized.
- a) The flow of the game is influenced by the referee who knows how to impose personality intelligently.
29. The referee should always know how to distinguish between rough play, serious foul play, intentional fouls, and violent conduct.

30. The referee must be consistent and uniform in sanctioning the fouls and players from the beginning to the end.

a) Be efficient to immediately stop aggression against skilled players.

31. The individual perception is different in each person. It cannot be influenced to become a uniform perception; however, the interpretation of the Laws are intended to be clear and precise so that the referee makes an effort in applying them with tenacity and courage (and common sense).

32. The referee's opinion on the field of play must always be respected; however, the Laws of the Game are the basic steps to support this opinion. The referee is not there to judge them, neither to interpret them in his own way, but only to know the correct application.

33. The referee must be dynamic. If not, then the referee must act like a dynamic referee. A dynamic referee loves with passion the functions and people around him. That will make the referee a good friend, father, or head of the family and, above all, a better man.

The preceding is from a lecture conducted by Sr. Dorantes at the FIFA/CONCACAF/B. C. Soccer Association Referee Workshop held during May, 1989.