



Grade Related Performance Observations

This handout should be used as a reference for assessor observations when filling out written feedback.

Entry Levels

- Has an elementary knowledge of the game.
- Recognizes obvious fouls and misconduct but may not recognize subtle fouls, such as persistent infringement and tactical fouls.
- Keeps assistant referees in view while running the diagonal system of control but often has a diagonal that is rigid. Rarely does the referee go wide or deep into the corners or enter the penalty area when the game demands it.
- Does not recognize the need for a flexible diagonal.
- Has basic fitness but often runs at a constant pace or walks and doesn't demonstrate sprinting to recover from deep positions, when required.
- Gives a basic pre-game briefing which usually focuses on mechanics and signals for proper communication.
- Main focus is on fouls and lacks the personality to manage players when the game demands it.
- The referee is in proper uniform and gives a good first impression upon arriving at the pitch.
- Applies the Laws of the Game as written with little or no understanding of the spirit of the game.
- Deals with violent conduct and serious foul play for game control but lacks the experience to always recognize when they occur.
- Generally ignores coaches and doesn't have the courage or understanding to ensure they behave and are not abusive.
- Demonstrates fitness to run a flexible diagonal for the entire game and always keep the assistant referee in view.
- Has a work rate that varies from a jog, to a light sprint, to a full out sprint when the game demands it.
- Has a firm grasp of the Laws of the Game and understands when to invoke the spirit of the game versus the law while managing the game and the players.
- Demonstrates some personality in managing players and uses some preventative mechanics to avoid problems during the match.
- Demonstrates self confidence in decisions and is willing to be approached by players who have questions.
- Demonstrates a strong presence with the use of the whistle, appearance, and body language.
- Demonstrates the proper use of advantage.
- Demonstrates foul recognition and foul discrimination.
- Makes good use of cards for game control and demonstrates good card mechanics.
- Makes effective use of assistance given by assistant referees on offside and misconduct.
- Often ignores dissent rather than deal with it.



State and National Levels

- Demonstrates an understanding of subtle and tactical fouls.
- Demonstrates a high level of fitness and dynamic positioning to ensure a proper view of challenges.
- Demonstrates proper mechanics and positioning for static restarts.
- Uses personality to help defuse flash points and to manage players.
- Demonstrated consistency in foul recognition, foul discrimination and use of cards.
- Demonstrates the ability to read play and anticipate rather than react to game situations.
- Demonstrates good eye contact with assistant referees on all dead ball situations and makes good use of their assistance on offside decisions and fouls as appropriate.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the Laws of the Game, proper mechanics and procedures, knowledge of recent memoranda, and proper restarts for all situations. Is beginning to develop a solid and thorough understanding of the most recent teachings and directives from U.S. Soccer.
- Demonstrates some preventive refereeing skills.
- Capable of refereeing the highest level amateur games within the state and in regional and national tournaments. Assistant referee on higher level games including some professional games.
- Demonstrates pre-game planning and game preparation skills.
- Recognizes tactical play, player roles, and the tactics the teams are employing to achieve their goals.
- Demonstrates good fitness and a flexible diagonal to stay close to critical play without interfering with players' options and always has the assistant referee in view.
- Exhibits regular good physical presence, strength of whistle, body language and presence when making decisions.
- Makes use of personality to manage the game with calculated risk taking, 100% enforcement of misconduct and good game control.
- Demonstrates the ability to distinguish between trifling fouls and fouls that need to be called based upon the skill level of the players.
- Recognizes fouls that are reckless and meant to injure players and issues the appropriate cards in response to those actions.
- Demonstrates the use of advantage when appropriate and allows teams to take the quick free kick when they wish to do so.
- When cards are given, always sees player behavior modification.
- Demonstrates management of game techniques in recognizing gamesmanship tactics, simulations, delaying tactics, etc., which results in maximum playing time for both teams.
- Demonstrates a thorough verbal and relatively consistent application of U.S. Soccer teachings and directives on the field and during off-field discussions.