

Subject: Training in Game Day Duties and Practical Exercises for Officiating a Game

Lesson Objective:

The participants will demonstrate their skills and knowledge by refereeing a game or serving as a linesman for a game.

Equipment and Materials to Teach the Lesson:

Flags; personal referee gear, including such things as whistles, coins, watches, uniforms, pens/pencils, pad, cards, etc.; plus two teams properly prepared to play a full-field game (approximately one-and-one-half hours) and a field marked and equipped in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

Approximate Time Needed:

About four-and-one-half hours, depending upon the number of participants and the facilities available. The lesson should be continued until the instructors are satisfied that all the referees know their jobs, as both referees and linesmen, at the Referee Class 1 level. The exercises may be conducted in any order. Ideally, the field session will stretch out over two half-day periods.

N.B. Exercise 1, dealing with Serious Foul Play and Violent Conduct, will require 45-50 minutes. Exercise 2, Offside, will require 30-40 minutes. Exercise 3, Pass to the Goalkeeper, will require 30-40 minutes. Exercise 4, Kicks from the Penalty Mark, will require 30-40 minutes. Exercise 5, a full-field game, will require 90-100 minutes.

Learning Set:

Inform the participants that they will be serving both as referee and as linesman during different phases of these exercises. Tell them that the players have been instructed to break some of the Laws of the Game (emphasis on certain violations during the appropriate exercise periods) and it is their job to respond as they have been taught. Those who are not serving as referees or linesmen should be standing on the touch lines observing either the referee or linesmen and, in their mind, critiquing what is going on, deciding what they would do in specific situations. At the conclusion of this activity, after everyone has had a chance to referee and serve as a linesman, there will be a critique on each individual.

Strategies to Actively Involve the Participants:

Participants will serve as the referee and/or as a linesman for approximately 10 minutes at a time during the exercises. At the end of that time, they will go to the touch lines and be replaced by someone else until everyone has an opportunity to serve as both a linesman and a referee. It may be that not every referee will be able to have an active role in each exercise, but each participant should be prepared to help his classmates toward a positive experience.

Information: Facts, Concepts, Skills to be Taught:

The materials and equipment listed above should be provided to the class members, if they do not already have them. The instructors should then break the class into groups for practice in each of the planned activities. (The class should have been given homework on preparing for each of these exercises.) The players in the specialized events should be briefed thoroughly prior to the start of each exercise on what they are expected to do.

Closure:

At the conclusion, after all participants have had the opportunity to participate in the activities, they will have reported to them what they did well and what they need to work on. It is important to emphasize those things that they did well. For those things where they were judged to need improvement, it is important that the person giving the critique be as specific as possible as to what they want the participant(s) to do. There is no need to dwell on precisely how the participant(s) did poorly; we need to dwell on how they are to do it correctly.

Note on Preparing for the Exercise:

The teams selected should be old enough to challenge the candidates. Coach them to commit fouls and infractions that may be obvious—but they should not be dangerous to any players. Inform them that the referee/linesmen teams will be changed periodically. All exercises other than the full-field game should be conducted in half-field situations to keep the participants occupied.

The instructor-in-charge should have at least four assistants (either instructors or senior referees) to make the process go more smoothly.