

Guide for Fourth Officials



United States Soccer Federation

Objective

The participant will be able to list the duties, responsibilities and techniques of the 4th official.

History

- **1991** - *Introduced*
- **1995** - *Given official status*
- **1996** - *Able to submit reports*
- **1999** – *technical area/direct communication with the referee*
- **2000** - *Assist with enforcement*
- **2001** – *Monitor bleeding, injury and equipment changes*

Characteristics

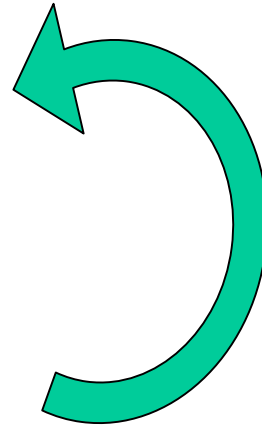
- Appearance
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Total Concentration

Pregame Duties

- Early Arrival
- Part of Referee Crew
- Liaison to Participants
- Help Referee and Assistant Referees
- Game Balls

Game Duties

- Manage Substitutions/Balls
- Observe :
 - Home Team Bench
 - Visitor's Team Bench
 - Referee/Assistant Referee
 - Game
- Keep Record
- Manage Off-Field Activities



Postgame Duties

- Observe Postgame Activity
- Complete Records
- Check with Referee/Assistant Referee
- Followup with Participants
- Participate in Debriefing
- Return Game Balls

Techniques

- Deal Primarily with Coach
- Establish Rules Early
- Avoid Giving “Orders”
- Speak Quietly, with Respect
- Smile!
- “Presence Lends Conviction”
- “When All Else Fails” – Report to Assistant Referee/Ref

Summary

- **Responsibilities**
 - Appearance/Professionalism
 - Communication/Total Concentration
- **Duties**
 - Pregame
 - Arrival/Liaison/Assistance
 - Game
 - Subs/Balls/Observe/Record
 - Postgame
 - Observe/Followup
- **Techniques**
 - Take Charge/Be There/Smile/Use Ref-Assistant Referee