

Start of Play – The Ceremonial Coin Toss

Protocol

- ⚽ It is vital all games kick-off on time. In order to start the game on time you must be ready to walk out 5 minutes before the kick off.
- ⚽ Walk onto the field as a team with the two assistants
(Do not enter the field unless the nominated number of ground marshals are in attendance and escort the Match officials from the dressing room onto the field of play)
- ⚽ The referee should carry the ball & the Coin.
- ⚽ Blow the whistle to get the attention of the Captains
- ⚽ The referee should take control of the introductions. As the captains approach, the referee should meet the home captain and introduce him/her to the other captain first, and then the two assistants.
- ⚽ At the toss, the referee should let the opposing (or away) captain choose which side of the coin they want...
 - Then the referee tosses the coin and catches it in his/her hand - do not let the coin hit the ground and never give it to the players to toss
 - Get the winner to choose which goal (or end) they want to attack. The loser gets the kick-off.
- ⚽ Write the result of the toss in your notebook
- ⚽ Hold the ball while the teams get into their own half or prepare for the kick off
- ⚽ Shake hand with your AR's. After this the referee takes his / her position and the two AR's run off to the nets and then take up position at the second last defender.
- ⚽ Count the players and check that each team has maximum of 11 players on the park
- ⚽ Check that assistants are correctly positioned
- ⚽ Check that the coach, players etc are all in their technical areas (refer to the Technical Area Directive – whereby the referee walks to the Technical Area and state the expectations of behaviour in this zone)



KICK OFF POSITIONING

Hand the team the ball. For every kick-off:

- ⚽ all players, except the player taking the kick-off, must be in their own half of the field of play
- ⚽ the opponents of the team taking the kick-off must be at least 9.15m from the ball until it is in play
- ⚽ the ball must be stationary on the centre mark
- ⚽ the referee gives a signal (Start your watch and Blow the whistle to start play)
- ⚽ the ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- ⚽ a goal may be scored directly against the opponents from the kick-off; if the ball directly enters the kicker's goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opponents