



WideWorld Sports Center

Top 10 Soccer Referee Mistakes

- 1 • Standing still and too close to the dasher boards, and failing to move around the field.**
- 2 • Failing to enforce the requirements of Section 4, “Players’ Equipment, ”** regarding shinguards, shirts, numbers.
- 3 • Over-using the whistle.** Don’t whistle everytime the ball goes out of bounds, if it is obvious, or make players “wait for the whistle” on every free kick, except for the over 30 women, they seem to like the wistle being used a lot.
- 4 • Allowing the play to get too rough.** Indoor soccer needs to be called tighter because of the artificial turf and boards.
- 5 • Failing to give clear and authoritative signals.** Signal with a straight arm and show your confidence!
- 6 • Failing to issue cautions and/or send-offs when clear misconduct occurs.** Don’t be afraid to show the appropriate card when misconduct occurs. It is the player’s fault, not yours!
- 7 • Failing to enforce the 5-yard distance** required on free kicks, corner-kicks, and kick-ins. It is important to protect the players’ right to a free and unobstructed kick. And this is especially true in indoor soccer. Part of this is being preventive with regard to encroachment. Tell the players to start backing up if they don’t right away — attackers should not have to “ask for ten.”
- 8 • Failing to keep a record of goals, bookings, and other information** (i.e., numbers of players who have been verbally warned) in the referee’s notebook.
- 9 • Kicking the game off on the hour, rather than six minutes after.** Give the teams their warm-up time.
- 10 • Shouting “Play On!” to indicate that no offense has occurred, or failing to do the same (and giving the correct arm signal) when the advantage clause *is* applied.** Say something different (“keep going!” or “no foul!”) if no foul has occurred, or if the offense was clear but trifling.