



TO DO JUSTICE TO ANY MATCH, IT IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE THE MATCH THAT BOTH UMPIRES SET ASIDE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR PREPARATION. SOME THOUGHT CAN BE GIVEN TO IT IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME, BUT MOST OF YOUR PREPARATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GROUND. THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU ARE CHANGED AND AT THE PITCH AT LEAST 45 MINUTES BEFORE THE START.

PRE MATCH and discussion points

we have no intention of telling you how to umpire – this will be done by our Coaches. What we **do** list here are a few “pointers” that are designed to stimulate your discussion before the action starts. This, we believe, helps us deliver a better product to the clubs.

PLEASE DO NOT SPEND TOO LONG ON ANY ONE ITEM IN THE DISCUSSION POINT LIST — YOU WILL NOT GET THROUGH ALL THE TOPICS.

Pre-match preparation begins with contacting your colleague a few days before the game to confirm when and where you will meet and to co-ordinate your dress. There are 3 things that underpin the management of a game by the umpires - Control, Consistency and Communication. Always remember that you are the “3rd team”. Support and be seen to support your colleague. Supporters, players and coaches will notice. It is worth remembering that you cannot make a bad game “better” and you cannot please everyone all the time. Good luck!

DISCUSSION POINTS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE GAME

Meeting point

Decide where to meet. 45 minutes before the start.

Match status

- It is dangerous to take preconceptions into a game. Discuss which team is likely to be stronger and their league positions.
- What style of play do you expect?
- How will we adapt if we guess wrongly?

Umpire attire

Make sure your choice of colour is suitable for teams and background..

League / Cup rules

League and cup rules (e.g. extra time)

DISCUSSION POINTS ON THE DAY OF THE GAME (includes COOPERATION and POSITIONING)

- Determine your areas of control Where are you likely to need help from your colleague?
- How do you want that help to be given?
- Consider your colleague’s distance from the offence and the size of the decision.
- Regular eye contact.
- Where will you be for set pieces?
- Your circle under your control?
- Your colleague’s circle?
- How you are going to support each other?
- What will you do if you see an offence in your colleague’s area of control that your colleague hasn’t spotted?
- How will you know if your colleague hasn’t spotted the offence?
- What will be your procedure for recording goals?
- What will the less engaged umpire do when a goal is scored at the other end?
- How will you communicate if you disagree on key decisions? (i.e. normally goals.)
- Consider what happens if you don’t show a card,

- what will you do if someone else commits the same offence?
- Agree in advance of the game starting and communicate to the captains...
- Substitutions need to be on the designated side of the pitch within 3m of halfway.
- Where the suspended players will sit / stand.
- Procedure if any U18s are suspended.
- Procedure for substituting goalies.
- Procedure for substituting goalies with out field players or kicking backs.

CONSISTENCY

Players get understandably upset if each umpire gives a different decision for the same “offence”. Most players will play within the boundaries that the umpires set. That becomes difficult when the boundaries of acceptable play appear to differ between colleagues.

Discuss what you will do if...

- players do not retreat 5m at a free hit before the ball is played?
- players are unable to retreat 5m before the ball is played?
- players knock the ball away, or move it to where they think a free should be taken?
- players commit a foul involving intentional or avoidable contact?
- players use intentional stick contact. Will you treat minor intentional contact differently to a major contact?
- players verbally intimidate each other?
- players repeatedly play the ball from the wrong place or hit a moving ball?
- players play the ball above shoulder height?
- players attempt to play the ball above shoulder height?
- there is player, coach or supporter dissent?
- a ball is lifted into player? Discuss the speed of the ball, height of the ball and the ability of the player to safely play the ball (this may be determined by the distance the ball has travelled).
- players “throw” an aerial ball? Consider the location of players in the take off and landing areas. the ball accidentally makes contact with a player’s foot?

For each of the examples consider location on the pitch,time in the game, any previous offences and the likely outcome if the offence wasn’t committed. When will you and your colleague use a loud whistle, advance the ball 10m, or give a card?

Consider when will you use a quick whistle and when will you play advantage. Sometimes the biggest advantage to the attacking side is that you delay giving a personal penalty (no matter how serious) until play goes dead. Use common sense!

COMMUNICATION

with players

As an umpire you will have a personal style when it comes to communication with players.

- Consider how you will speak to players if it is necessary.
- Will you verbally reprimand or just use whistle tone and cards?
- Will you approach players, invite them to join you in a neutral space or request they come to you?
- Do not invite dialogue. Do not ask questions, make statements.
- There can be a fine line between a relaxed light hearted attitude to the players and a familiarity that invites discussion of decisions.
- Above all remember to support your colleague in every way, both verbally and non-verbally.

Communication with your colleague

- Players, coaches and supporters will recognise when umpires are co-operating. Take time to exchange eye contact, wearing a cap or sunglasses may prevent this.
- Take time to ensure that your colleague knows to which player you have given a card and what reason.
- Double whistling – what will you do when you both blow together and point in opposite direction? Remember to give players time to get into position.
- How will you indicate to your colleague if you need to extend a yellow that he / she is controlling?

Whistle selection

- Try and use the same type of whistle.
- Is the venue known for difficulties with;-
- Two games going on at a time?
- Weather conditions?

League / Cup rules

- If appropriate agree with captains and coaches in advance of the game.

Players' Dress / Ground Equipment

- Confirm shirt numbering. Are there duplicates?
- Captains armbands.
- Goalkeeping smocks.
- Ball colour (different to the players' socks).
- Walk around the pitch during your chat to note obstructions etc.
- Pitch markings. You can do little about this other than advise the home team.
- Goals. Use your entitlements – the home team is responsible.
- Floodlights.

Deciding Ends

- Consider the location of crowd and bench.
- If you are the junior umpire consider expanding your skills by taking the side of the pitch with the benches.
- Sunlight, caps etc. Who takes the sun?

Timekeeping

THIS LOOKS LIKE A LONG TOPIC BUT IT SHOULD BE COVERED IN UNDER 2 MINUTES.

- Who to time the first half?
- What if under pressure after 35 minutes?
- What if PC in dying seconds? Who to blow?
- What if goal scored as last hit in normal time? Who to blow end of half?
- 1 or 2 minutes to go? Agree signal. Agree signal for half minutes.
- INJURIES
- Who will stop the game?
- Err in direction of caution especially (head injuries/U18s etc.).
- Ball out of cage?
- What signal will be used for the watch stopped / broken / not restarted?
- Blow the whistle to start and restart after goals or stoppages.
- Ensure your colleague is ready to restart the game.
- Coaches and managers keep time as well.

POST MATCH

KHUA believes it is essential to allow adequate time after the game to discuss the various incidents in the game with both your colleague and the players/coaches. You should use post match time wisely. You can learn as much in the bar as you can from the practical. Here is a short list to start you off on the post match experience.

- Discuss the game with your colleague.
- Support your colleague (even after the game is over).
- Talk to the coaches, captains and any other interested parties. Admit mistakes, if any!
- Do not abuse the KHUA badge you have earned (or are trying to earn).
- Follow the codes of conduct and KHUA will support you.
- Uphold the reputation of KHUA at all times.
- Support your colleagues from all previous matches at all times.
- Do not abuse a fellow umpire (remember this applies when playing as well).
- Remember your obligations if there have been red cards and/or MMOs.
- Make notes after the game while lessons and questions are fresh in your mind.
- There is always something new to learn.

FINALLY remember that your next game is the most important game of the season.

QUICK CHECK LIST FOR PRE MATCH

Control

Consistency

Communication

With the players

Use whistle

Use entitlements

With your colleague

Rules

Whistle

Players Equipment

Deciding ends

Timekeeping

Eye contact