



Mini Outdoor Game Day Checklist

Receiving your first assignment is an exciting and daunting moment in any referee's career. To help reduce stress and confusion, the following checklist will guide you through proactive tasks to complete to help you be successful from the moment you arrive at the field till the moment you leave.

The information provided is based on an overall guideline and can be completed in an order that works for the game. Certain situations may require adjustment due to unforeseen circumstances. If working with a crew (Assistant Referees), remember to work as a team!

For additional support, please use your personal Refcentre account – **REFEREE RESOURCES** article to find documentation and guides based on areas of this checklist.

Prior to Game:

- ✓ **Pack referee bag** (jerseys, dark shorts, dark soccer socks, whistle, wrist watch, cards, pen/pencil, Law/rule book, ball pump and gauge, flags, coin)
- ✓ Confirm time of assignment, teams, field, age, referee crew (if applicable)
- ✓ Check for potential traffic delays and weather forecast
 - If weather is currently bad, call local field closure lines to confirm if games will be cancelled third party.

Arrival at Game (Ideally 30 minutes prior to Kick-off):

- ✓ Find correct assigned field, greet referee crew and find area to place referee bags.
- ✓ Do quick **walk of field** to make sure there are no issues with lines, visible holes or safety issues, garbage on field, nets safe, etc
- ✓ Approach team officials/coaches and **introduce yourself**
- ✓ Ask for **game sheets** and start process of **checking player cards** if applicable
 - Visual check for **equipment issues or jewelry**
 - Make team aware of process for late players after game starts.
- ✓ Gather **game balls** from home team generally, and check air pressure in each
- ✓ Walk to centre field as a team and **call captains** from each team an complete **coin toss**
 - *Don't forget the game ball!*
- ✓ **Count players on field** before starting to avoid too many or not enough players
- ✓ **Strong whistle to start the game!**

Halftime

- ✓ Remember to **Hydrate!**
- ✓ **Confirm any numbers** you've written down from the first half



Post Game:

- ✓ Observe actions of players leaving the field, completing handshakes, etc
- ✓ Confirm all notes taken before adding them to game sheets
- ✓ Separate game sheets if required and return to both teams.
- ✓ Return game balls if still within possession

Additional Notes:

If situations occur prior to, during the game, or after involving a player, coach, spectator or referee, this can be written on the game sheet if comfortable to do so. This can include:

- ✓ Actions that may require discipline (threats, abuse, maltreatment, send-offs)
- ✓ Major injuries
- ✓ Game anomaly (field issues, outside agent interference, stoppages of the game for irregular situations, etc)

Sending a detailed misconduct report or email after the game to your local assignor or a league official is strongly recommended.