



**Optus Small-Sided Football**  
**INSTRUCTING REFEREE RESOURCE**



**FOOTBALL  
FEDERATION  
AUSTRALIA**

**'yes'  
OPTUS**



The main role of the instructing referee is to control the game to ensure it is played fluently and instruct and correct the players (with minimal blowing of the whistle) on how to behave and what the rules are, e.g. what a foul is, what a free kick is and how to throw in etc... Should these indiscretions happen a second time the referee should stop the game and apply the appropriate action and decisions. This person can be a club official, capable parent, older child or player, beginning or official referee from the federation or association.

## The basic laws and playing conditions;

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- Start of play & re-start after a goal – Kick forward to a team-mate from the middle of the halfway line.
- Ball crossing the touch line – Throw in. Defenders should be 4.5 metres away from the ball.
- Ball crossing the goal line after touching the defending team last – Corner kick. Defenders should be 4.5 metres away from the ball.
- Ball crossing the goal line after touching the attacking team last – Goal kick from anywhere inside the penalty area.
- Goalkeepers - The goalkeeper is permitted to handle the ball anywhere in the penalty area. To restart play after a save or gathering the ball with their hands, the goalkeeper is not permitted to kick the ball directly from their hands. The ball must be thrown or rolled from the hands or played from the ground with their feet.
- Offside – No offside
- Fouls and misconduct – Indirect free kicks are awarded for acts of fouls and misconduct with defenders 4.5metres away from the ball. For deliberate or serious acts of handball or fouls and misconduct in the penalty area a penalty kick is awarded from an 8m spot with a goalkeeper in position – all other players must stand behind the half way line.

## The instructing referee should;

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- Promote player development, participation and fun
- Ensure the correct number of players are on the field
- Most fouls and misconduct at this level are not deliberate and serious. Give advantage to the attacking team and let the game flow, limiting stoppages.
- Instruct players in the first instance before blowing the whistle
- Ensure team officials and parents create a positive playing environment for the children
- Ensure team officials and parents uphold a player development and participation focus rather than emphasising winning and losing
- Ensure a safe playing environment for the children
- Praise and encourage both teams
- Be enthusiastic, consistent and approachable