



Club Linesman

Nobody wants to be one!



The following is a list of the main responsibilities of a Club Linesman
(hardest job in the world)

&

Top-Tips on the Laws of the Game.



This will hopefully keep the spectators off your back!!

1. Laws of Association Football (LOAF) – only 17 of them to learn. Law 6 refers to the Assistant Referees. Worth a read; available on-line on the FA.com website.
2. The referee should speak to the two assistants before the game and instruct them both on their duties. Most refs will tell you:
 - a. To indicate ball in and out of play, both touchline (throw-ins) and goal line (corners and goal kicks).
 - b. To indicate foul throws when one or both feet are over the line and on the pitch
 - c. NOT to give other fouls or penalties (refs responsibility).
 - d. If a penalty, to stand on the ' T ' of goal-line / penalty area and keep an eye on GK staying on line.
 - e. Indicate if a player is offside (the problem area !!)
3. The ref normally asks for the linesman to officiate the side of the team's own Left Back. But he could ask you to run the Right back side; depends on the ref.
4. Positioning – the linesman should always be level with the 2nd last defender (the GK normally being the last). Constantly moving up and down with the person. Stand perpendicular with the touchline so you are looking directly across the pitch and move sideways 'crablike' (unless you are sprinting down the line!)
5. Keep the flag **unfurled**, in front of your body at all times. Ref can see it there and can hear it if you wave it or raise it quickly. As you change running direction, change the hand holding the flag so it remains in sight of ref.
6. The **whole** of the ball has to cross **whole** of the line either on the ground or in the air.
 - a. Point left / right to indicate direction of throw. (10 or 2 o'clock)
 - b. Point down at corner flag to indicate a corner (7 o'clock)
 - c. Hold flag out horizontal in front of you to indicate a goal kick – do this parallel with goal area line.

Be clear with your signals. Stand firm with the flag held high. Don't 'waggle it' at hip height and then put it down. Was it or wasn't it?

7. Foul throws – ref normally picks up the throwing movement and foot off the ground. Linesman takes the feet positioning. Both feet must be **on** or **behind** the line. **Not over** the line and on the pitch.
 - a. wave the flag to get the refs attention and then indicate direction of the decision (10 or 2 o'clock)
8. **Offside** – normal advice from referees is to wait a second or two to be fully sure that the person who is in the offside position is **active** in the game – is he interfering with play, interfering with an opponent or gaining advantage? [The maxim for Off-side is 'better late than wrong'](#).

If in your opinion he is Offside, raise the flag, keep it raised and stand still until the ref acknowledges the indication and either awards the free kick or decides not to give it and to play on.

[If the Ref decides to play on, then accept the decision with good grace and catch back up with the last but one defender. It is the referees decision to award the offside or not, not yours.](#)

If the ref awards a free kick for Offside, lower the flag to indicate where on the field the offence occurred. Far side (High), Centre field (Horizontal) or Near side (Low).
 You cannot be offside from any of the following:

- a. Throw in
- b. Goal Kick (from the ground after ball goes out of play)
- c. Corner Kick
- d. Penalty



9. Do **NOT** coach the players if you are running the line. You can commend them on good tackling, great shooting, good header etc, but you cannot tell the defensive line to move up to catch the striker offside. League rules state the linesman should not coach.

10. Ignore the cries of people around you; don't react. They don't always like decisions made and will let you know.

Be your own man (or woman). Strikers will never agree with you. Your 'own' defence won't. Play it as you see it. Only you will really know if you are being honest; there are very few who are not.

If you have serious problems with players or spectators, signal to the referee by waving the flag to get his attention and beckon him over and let him know. He should speak to the team managers and ask them to sort issues out.



Substitution



Throw-in for attacker



Throw-in for defender



Goal Kick



Corner Kick



Foul by attacker



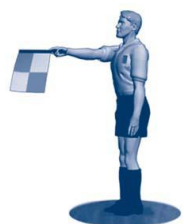
Foul by defender



Offside



Offside on the far side of the field



Offside in the centre of the field



Offside on the near side of the field