





# THE FOURTH OFFICIAL

## An Exercise In Teamwork



# The Fourth Official

## TOPICS:

- Professionalism
- Specific Responsibilities:
  - Before The Match
  - During The Match
  - After The Match



# Professionalism

- **Critical Member of Officiating Team**
- **Must Be Fully Prepared to:**
  - **Replace**
  - **Assist**
- **Role Set In The Laws of the Game**

More ...



# Professionalism

- **Main Liaison Between Referee/ARs and:**
  - **Facility Managers**
  - **Security**
  - **Broadcasting**
  - **Team Officials**

More ...



# Professionalism

- **Acts Early To Resolve Issues**
- **Maintains Composure And Professional Appearance**
- **Avoids Distractions From Core Duties**

More ...



# Professionalism

- **Manages Bench/Technical Areas**
- **Endeavors To Prevent Unauthorized Entry Onto The Field**
- **Additional “Set Of Eyes”**

More ...



# Professionalism

- **Acts Under General Authority Of Referee And In Referee's Name**
- **Resolves Issues, To The Extent Possible, Without Recourse To Referee**
- **Involves Referee As A Last Resort**



# Professionalism

- **“Fully Prepared” Means:**
  - **Physical**
  - **Mental**
  - **Uniform and Equipment**
  - **Pre-Game Coordination**



# Professionalism

- **“Replace” Means:**
  - **What Is Provided For In:**
    - **The Rules Of Competition**
    - **The Laws Of The Game**



**The Rules of Competition:  
What is the order of priority if an official is unable to continue?  
Who is replaced by whom?**

- **“Replacement” means:**
  - **Who is Provided For In**
    - **The Rules Of Competition**
    - **The Laws Of The Game**

**In the absence of any pertinent Rule of Competition:  
The Fourth Official can replace the referee or either  
assistant referee**



# Professionalism

- **“Assist” Means:**
  - **What Is Provided For In:**
    - **The Laws Of The Game**
    - **Guide For Fourth Officials**
    - **Referee Preferences And Needs**



# Assistance

## SPECIFICALLY NAMED RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Administrative Duties**
- **Substitution And Equipment Check**
- **Replacement Match Balls**
- **Delegated Inspections**
- **Observations**
- **Report**



# Assistance

## ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- **Inspection Of Field**
- **Introduction To Team Officials**
- **Inspection Of Game Balls**
- **Briefing Of “Ball Persons”**
- **Inspection Of Bench/Technical Area**
- **Facility Security**

More ...



# Assistance

## ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- **Retrieval/Securing Of Equipment At Game Breaks**
- **Location/Readiness of Facilities For Officiating Team**
- **Review With Team Officials General Procedures for Warming Up, Activities In Technical Area, Etc.**



# Assistance

## SUBSTITUTIONS

- **Confirms Identity And Proper Paperwork**
- **Inspects Uniform/Equipment**
- **Ensures Substitute Doesn't Enter Until Permitted**
- **Gains Attention Of Assistant Referee For Substitution Signal**

More ...



# Assistance

## SUBSTITUTIONS

- **If Both Teams Substituting:**
  - **Keeps Teams Separated**
  - **Handles Only One Team At A Time**
- **Properly Manages Substitution Board (If Used)**

More ...



# Assistance

## SUBSTITUTIONS

- **Maintains Substitution Log**
- **Ensures Substitutions Are In Accordance With Rules of Competition**



## Assistance

# REPLACEMENT MATCH BALLS

- **Maintains Control of Match Balls Not In Current Use**
- **Provides Replacement Ball From Reserve Supply When Needed**

More ...



## Assistance

# REPLACEMENT MATCH BALLS

- **Maintains Control of Match Balls Not In Current Use**
- **Provides Replacement Ball From Reserve Supply When Needed**

This duty is affected by whether “ball persons” are used in the match



# Assistance

## DELEGATED INSPECTIONS

- **Correction Of Illegal Equipment**
- **Bleeding Or Blood On The Uniform**
- **Responsibility Established In Pre-Game**
- **Procedures Settled For:**
  - **What Must Be Inspected**
  - **When Inspection Successfully Completed**



# Assistance

## OBSERVATIONS

- **Wrong Player Cautioned**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Caution But No Send Off**
- **Violent Conduct Out Of View**
- **Irresponsible Behavior, Bench/Technical Area**



# Assistance

## REPORTS

- **Confirms Major Events At Mid-Game Break And At End Of Match**
- **Submits Independent Match Report Of Violence Not Seen**



# The Fourth Official Review

## Professionalism

- **Replace**
- **Assist**

More ...



# The Fourth Official Review

## Replace

- **Set By Competition**
- **Set By Law Otherwise**

More ...



# The Fourth Official Review

## **Assist**

- **Administrative Duties**
- **Substitution And Equipment Check**
- **Replacement Match Balls**

More ...



# The Fourth Official Review

## **Assist**

- **Delegated Inspections**
- **Observations**
- **Reports**



# The Fourth Official

## Additional Resources

- **Laws of the Game (“The Fourth Official”)**
- **Guide for Fourth Officials**
- **Guide to Procedures**