

Read the text and supply a suitable heading to each paragraph. There is one extra heading that you do not need to use.

### **The Soccer Referee Responsibilities**

The soccer referee does more than administering the Laws of the Game. He or she is responsible for the entire event which includes activities before, during and after the game. He works hand in hand with two assistant referees or even three during big games. Here is a look at the soccer referee responsibilities, which are focused on ensuring a smooth running of the game.

**1** \_\_\_\_\_

Prior to the match, the referee must make sure that the players are ready to play and all their jewellery is removed. The soccer referee must then approve the number of players for each team before proceeding to start the game. He has to arrive in time to check on players and meet with the coaches. The time recommended is 15 minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. Finally, he gets to toss a coin to determine which team starts the play.

**2** \_\_\_\_\_

There are 17 Laws of the Game to be upheld in every game. The laws cover all aspects of the game ranging from the match ball specifications to player equipment safety. It is the referee's obligation to apply the laws uniformly. He can delay the start of a game until the players conform to the laws.

**3** \_\_\_\_\_

With the help of assistant referees, he or she is required to ensure the security of players, other officials and spectators. The options at hand are suspending the play, addressing the problem or abandoning the match. Those events interfering with the match are then recorded by the referee. The referee stops the game if a player is hurt or bleeding to allow for treatment. For team officials or crowds behaving badly, he can order them to leave the sidelines as a way of maintaining order in the game. On the other hand, he can stop the game if the crowd is endangered with the continuing of the game.

**4** \_\_\_\_\_

The referee starts the game and sanctions corner kicks, goal kicks, offside, handballs, throw-ins, direct kicks and substitutions at an appropriate time. His main responsibility is to run the whole match with minimal interruptions allowed.

**5.** \_\_\_\_\_

He discourages unacceptable behaviour through disciplinary action. His power lies on a pen and cards, part of the equipment a referee needs in every game. He should not tolerate provocation of other players by team officials and players. This is achieved by sanctioning

yellow or red cards. A proper record of these actions is kept as it is the base of investigations into any misconduct.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

The playing field and the immediate surroundings should be clear of fragments, most importantly the dangerous ones like glass pieces. The corner flags must be in place, markings on the field should be unbroken and advertising boards should be over a meter from the playing area.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

The referee has the responsibility of keeping an eye on the surroundings and determining whether the conditions are suitable for the match to continue. He can stop or delay the game if the condition of the field is not acceptable, or there are concerns about lightning storm or such hazards.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

Having already stated that assistant referees assist in decision making, it is imperative for the soccer referee to collaborate with them. The assistants at times see incidents during the match that the referee might miss. The referee ought to factor in their contribution as he is the head of this team of officials.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

Every referee needs to be fit and active on the field, moving with the ball so as to ensure he has a close eye on all actions. He has to do this without interfering with the play. However, there is no stoppage in play in case the ball hits the referee but he ought to prevent this from happening.

### **Division of Responsibility and Cooperation**

**He Inspects the Playing Area**

**He Enforces Fair Play**

**He Makes the Final Decision**

**He Assumes the Right Positioning During the Game**

**Weather and Surrounding Environment**

**Maintaining the Safety of Players, Fans and Team Officials**

**He is in Charge Of the Rules**

**Pre-Game Responsibilities**

**The Game Time keeper**