

Advice to PWSRA Referees

Every member of the officiating crew should be wearing the same style of socks. If everyone in the crew has the new 2-stripe socks, great! Wear them. If not, then everyone should at least have the 3-stripe socks. Just remember to look like a team and wear the same style.



When you are the first referee team of the day on a given pitch, you know to look over goal netting and anchors, corner flags, lines, etc. However if you are not the first referee team of the day, don't take for granted that the first referee team did its job or that nothing has changed the condition on and around the pitch. Just as you should never put your faith in the highlights by a person who had the textbook before you, don't put your faith in the idea the field, nets, etc., are ready to go for your match. Check them!



If someone can snap a picture of an AR like this, then the AR might not be in the best position to signal for an offside infraction, goal, etc. As an AR, you must remain even with the ball or the second to last (2tL) defender, whichever is closer to the goal line. By “even” we mean that the distance between you and your corner flag should be the same as the distance between the ball/2tL defender and the goal line. Move!



As an AR, lower your flag after your signal is acknowledged by the center referee. So lower your flag once your signal for a throw-in, foul, substitution, etc., is acknowledged. No problems in this picture, though. It’s just outstanding form.



Per Law 4, teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and also the referee and the assistant referees. Recently, we had two matches running at the same time on adjacent fields. On one field one team wore white jerseys and the other wore purple jerseys and on the other field one team wore white jerseys and the other wore red jerseys. Everything seems good in the world, right? Well, **all** of the teams wore black socks. Houston, we have a problem. Well, fortunately we did not have a problem in these matches that resulted from players and referees wearing the same color socks.

Consider this view of another match. There are players in red jerseys and red and white socks. There are players in black jerseys with black and red socks. All members of a team should wear the same color socks. This is a cacophony of fashion that would make Joan Rivers cry.



Again, no problems but can you imagine what might have happened? We've been there: there are a group of players competing for the ball, bing-bang-boom the ball ricochets in every direction off of players' legs, and it goes into touch after last being touched by a player with **X** (pick your color) socks. You can't tell which player last touched it, but you know the ball came off of an **X** colored sock. If all of the players are wearing the same color socks, what do you signal? Throw-in one way? Throw-in the other way? Goal kick? Corner kick?

More often than not, throw-ins are not game critical. They are just a way of restarting play. And, 85% of the time the team that is awarded possession of the ball on a throw-in ends up losing it.

Furthermore, in the less competitive leagues (i.e., recreation and SFL), clubs may not provide players socks. Players may be told to go buy their own, and it's doubtful they will buy multiple pairs to avoid color conflicts. If you attended the PWSRA meeting on April 2, you heard Dan Heldman's presentation on the search for options which was really an admonition to referees about being flexible in applying the Laws of the Game. What are we going to do as referees? Not play the match? That seems kind of trifling.

But, what's the problem? Why are we using so much space here to harp on *socks*? The problem is the one, two, or three times in a match where the decision you made about players' uniforms before the match began **becomes** game critical. The level of competition won't matter a bit to the team that feels aggrieved. Minimize the chances of putting yourself in that position. If teams have conflicting colors (jerseys or socks), you should, at the very least, ask the coaches if their teams have colors that do not conflict with each other. If they don't, then everyone knows from the outset they have no reason to whine about it later.