

RULE 5 – THE REFEREE

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Rules of Indoor Soccer in connection with the match to which he has been appointed.

Powers and Duties

The Referee:

- enforces the Rules of Indoor Soccer
- controls the match in co-operation with the assistant referee
- ensures that the ball meets the requirements of Rule 2
- ensures that the players' equipment meets the requirements of Rule 4
- stops, suspends or abandons the match, at his discretion, for any infringements of the Rules
- stops, suspends or abandons the match because of outside interference of any kind
- stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play
- allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in his opinion, only slightly injured
- ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the assistant referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped
- allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalizes the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not materialize at that time
- punishes the more serious offence when a player commits more than one offence at the same time
- takes disciplinary action against players guilty of technical offences, cautionable and sending-off offences. He is not obliged to take this action immediately but must do so when the ball next goes out of play
- acts on the advice of the assistant referee regarding incidents which he has not seen

- ensures that no unauthorized persons enter the field of play
- indicates the restart of the match after it has been stopped
- provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, which includes information on any disciplinary action taken against players and/or team officials and any other incidents which occurred before, during or after the match
- where there is a time limitation of 5 seconds as required in the Rules, must indicate both visually and verbally a count of 5 seconds
- takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner, and may, at his discretion, expel them from the field of play and its immediate surrounds

Decisions of the Referee

The decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play, including whether or not a goal is scored, and the result of the match, are final.

The referee may not change a decision on realizing that it is incorrect or on the advice of another match official if play has restarted, or the referee has signalled the end of the first or second half (including extra time) and left the field of play or terminated the match.

Decisions of the ASA

A referee or assistant referee is not held liable for:

- any kind of injury suffered by a player, official or spectator
- any damage to property of any kind
- any other loss suffered by any individual, club, company, association or other body, which is due or which may be due to any decision which he may take under the terms of the Rules of Indoor Soccer or in respect of the normal procedures required to hold, play and control a match.

Such decisions may include:

- a decision that the condition of the field of play or its surrounds are such as to allow or not to allow a match to take place
- a decision to abandon a match for whatever reason
- a decision as to the condition of the field equipment and ball used during a match
- a decision to stop or not to stop a match due to spectator interference or any problem in the spectator area
- a decision to stop or not to stop play to allow an injured player to be removed from the field of play for treatment
- a decision to require an injured player be removed from the field of play for treatment
- a decision to allow or not to allow a player to wear certain apparel or equipment
- a decision (where he has the authority) to allow or not to allow any persons (including team or centre officials, security officers, photographers or other media representatives) to be present in the vicinity of the field of play
- any other decision which he may take in accordance with the Rules of Indoor Soccer or in conformity with his duties under the terms of league rules or regulations under which the match is played