

## **Pre-game Checklist**

The following pre-game checklist is a general collection of things to think about before the start of any game. The more experienced the referee, the more automatic it is to organize the many things to take care of before your starting signal. Each of these items can be further broken down in future topics of discussion.

### **CHECKING THE FIELD**

- check the markings
- check that the corner flags are in place and located at outside corners
- check for dangerous conditions or items

### **CHECKING THE GOALS**

- check that goals are properly assembled and the cross-bars are not sagging
- check that goals are centered in goal areas
- check that the front of posts align with front (field side) of goal line
- check that goals are adequately anchored
- check that netting is adequately attached and free of openings

### **CHECKING THE AR's / CLUB LINESMEN**

- write down names of all assistants, shake hands
- if certified AR's, provide specific instructions (such as team inspections)
- if club linesmen, advise of their limited duties

### **CHECKING IN WITH COACHES**

- write down names, shake hands
- review game cards if applicable
- provide any commentary necessary
- get game ball (check for proper inflation)

### **INSPECTING THE TEAMS**

- check for complete uniforms
- check for jewelry and non-compliant apparel
- check for casts, splints, braces, etc.

### **AT CENTER CIRCLE**

- when ready to start, proceed to center circle with AR's, game ball
- introduce captains
- administer coin flip (write down result)
- silently count players, determine all are ready
- signal start of play, start your watch