

The 4th Official



BJ JABBARI, SYRA
REFEREE COACH, OHIO SOUTH

The Fourth Official is a Referee who may replace any of the three match officials if they are unable to continue.

The Fourth Official shall be conscious of competition rules and act accordingly.

THE 4TH OFFICIAL

Check the teams' jersey colors (goalkeepers and players). Report his/her observations to the referee crew.

Check players against the teams' rosters per competition Rules. Follow the procedure to inform the completion authorities as needed.

Examine the all balls and ensure the correct pressure.

Make sure there are no loose balls are in the technical area. All additional balls must be bagged.

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Ensure that only those personnel named on the official team roster occupy the Technical Area.

Remind all named personnel within the Technical Area that they must remain within the confines of that area during the match and act in a responsible manner and also remind them that only one person at a time is authorized to convey tactical Instructions from the Technical Area.

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Instruct the Athletic trainer(s) that they must not enter the field of play without first receiving the permission of the Referee.

Listen to the pre-match instructions issued by the Referee and ascertain what procedure should be followed if the Referee or one of the Assistant Referees are unable to continue.

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Assists the Referee at all times. Maintain frequent eye contact with the match officials.

Keep a full record of the game, including details of any players cautioned or sent-off.

Shall be in charge of substitutions and whether the substitutes equipment is in order.
The Fourth official shall record the exact times that substitutions are made.

Await the Referee's instruction of the minimum amount of time to be allowed (communicated the last minute of each play period).

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Monitor the entry into the field of play by the athletic trainer allowing such entry only with the permission of the Referee.

Supervise the Technical Area to maintain order and inform the Referee of irresponsible behavior by any person in the Technical Area. Irresponsible behavior may be defined as:

- any person who leaves the Technical Area to protest targeting the Referee, an Assistant Referee, opponents or members of the opposition Technical Area.
- any act of abusive, insulting, offensive or threatening language and/or gesture
- persistently failing to comply with the Laws of the Game, League Regulations, Competition Rules or the request of the Fourth official

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Advise the Referee of any verbal abuse from occupants within the Technical Area.

Control the Technical Area in a preventative rather than confrontational manner. If the Individuals in the Technical Area indulge in serious misconduct the Fourth official must inform the Referee immediately.

In case of mass confrontation, the fourth official should remain in the vicinity of the technical areas.
(practical advice for match officials – IFAB)

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Subject to the instructions of the Referee observe the players interaction with the officials.

Shall advise the Referee of any breach of the Technical Area regulations.

Shall submit a report to the appropriate authorities on goals, substitutions, misconduct or other incident.

Expected to control the Technical Area in a preventative rather than confrontational manner. If the occupants of the Technical Area indulge in serious misconduct the Fourth official must inform the Referee immediately.

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Referees should ensure that the Fourth Official 'assists' with their match control. The primary responsibility for controlling the match remains with the referee who makes the final decision at all times. Referees should seek assistance from the Fourth Official in respect of significant match changing incidents which have been missed by the other three match officials and which are clearly visible to the Fourth Official. Such incidents are:

- red card offences
- yellow card offences
- penalty area offences

The Fourth Official must also indicate to the referee when the wrong player is cautioned or dismissed.

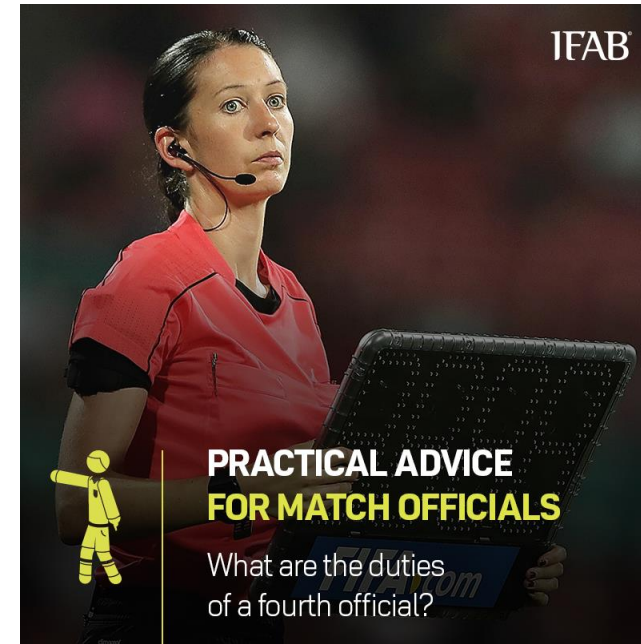
REFEREE & THE 4TH OFFICIAL

Sources:

IFAB

The FA

US Soccer Federation



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Exercise:

Discuss the responsibilities of the 4th official:

1. Pre-match (preparation for the match)
2. During the match (cards, coaches, mass confrontation)
3. Post-match (players, match report)

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