

## **Two – Man System: Mechanics & Consistency**

The lead official normally is ahead of the ball on plays to his/her right. The lead is responsible for covering the touchline and nearer goal line. In addition, the lead must be in position to rule on offside. This means the lead official must assume a position to know the position of the most advanced offensive player relative to the deepest two defenders at the same time the ball is played in the attacking half of the field.

The trail official will normally be behind the ball on plays to his/her left. Attention will be directed to play around the ball. The penetration of the trail official will depend on the type of game being played (kick and run vs ball control) and the physical ability of the official.

The bench side official starts the game going right as lead, switches to going left as lead for the second half. Opposite side official – same.

The bench side official is the one who keeps the official time for the match. Opposite side official is to keep back up.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECLARING THE BALL “READY-FOR-PLAY” WHEN A RE-START WHISTLE IS REQUIRED:**

<b><u>Situation</u></b>	<b><u>Official</u></b>
Start of each half	Trail
Kick off after goal	Trail
Drop Ball	Trail
Goal Kick	Trail
Corner Kick	Lead
Penalty Kick	Lead
Free Kick	Lead
Throw-in	Official responsible for ruling on legality of the throw.

### **EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW THESE AND BE CONSISTENT !!!**

Eye contact between both officials is a must on all re-starts. This allows both to be ready for anything that might occur leading up to the resumption of play. Use a pointing of your arm to your partner to ask if they are ready. Respond with pointing back.

## **HANDLING SUBSTITUTIONS**

The bench side official is responsible for beckoning players on to the field as substitutions. Eye contact between both officials here is key as well. The official responsible for whistling the re-start must be made aware that all players have left or entered the field and are ready for play. Use the same arm signaling technique.

## **OTHER SITUATIONS**

Play on – official who is recognizing and calling the play-on make sure you call it loud and signal it as well. The other official should signal the play-on as well. If the play-on situation is occurring in the middle of the field and either the lead or trail recognizes it be patient. One of you can call it out and signal – don't rush whistling the play as soon as the foul occurs. See if advantage develops.

## **RE-START POSITIONING**

A few pointers to remember:

- As the lead, your responsibility is to rule on offside as well as the interaction amongst players. Make sure the whistle is blown only when you are ready and in position.
- Both officials are responsible for out of bounds on the touchlines. Make sure you are on the touchline when the ball is on your side of the field but then pinch in when the ball is on the opposite side. The closer you are to the action on the opposite side of the field the better you may be able to assist your partner on a call.
- On free kicks in or around the penalty area: as trail you need to “pinch in” and help out the lead. In the pre-game conference, let him know that you will be looking for “stuff” around the perimeter of the area. Be ready to get moving if there is a quick counterattack. Anticipate!
- On free kicks in or around the penalty area, the lead has multiple responsibilities: offside, “was it a goal?” Did the whole ball cross completely over the goal line and who did it last touch? There could be 10+ players inside the penalty area in these situations so positioning and proximity is key. You should not be standing near the corner flags.
- On corner kicks, if the kick is on the same side of the field as the lead, the lead should be on the goal line between the flag and the goal post. If the kick is on the opposite side, the lead should be on the goal line, close to the goal area box. It is the lead's responsibility to rule if the ball in flight has left the field of play. In both instances the trail should be 25-30 yards from the lead goal line and is responsible for the play from the goal post to their touchline. The trail needs to be ready to head up field quickly if the defending team wins the ball and starts a quick counterattack. Anticipate.
- Penalty kicks calls: who should be making that decision? Where on the field was the ball? Which side? As trail, if you were still at the attacking team's own penalty area when the foul occurred should you be making the call? **DISCUSS ALL THIS WITH YOUR PARTNER BEFORE THE GAME.**