

## GROUND OFFICIALS INFORMATION

All clubs hosting matches at their fields should have a Ground Official assigned.

In instances where a team is playing at a neutral field, the visiting team is not required to provide a match official unless they have multiple, consecutive matches assigned at a neutral field (such as when their field is closed and their games are moved in their entirety to another venue). In such circumstances, this does not equate to a day off when a club's teams can be babysat by another club committee. It is important that your teams have a point of contact from their club in these circumstances. If you're in this position, acting as a Ground Official at a neutral field, please introduce yourself to the host club ground official and let them know of your presence.

### Ground Officials Duties

1. A person assigned the responsibility of ground official should ensure that they introduce themselves to marshals of all teams and any match officials appointed to the ground. A ground official should advise the match official as to where he will be located whilst the match is being played. (This should be within line of sight of the referee and not in the club canteen or away from the playing area)
2. Ground Officials duties shall be to:
  - a. Assist the referee as required
  - b. Ensure that team Marshals are aware of their responsibilities, and if they are not, outline to them what their duties are.
  - c. Assist Team Marshals to ensure that spectators, team officials or reserve players do not encroach onto the pitch.
  - d. Ensure that good order amongst spectators is maintained.
  - e. Ensure that alcohol is not consumed in the immediate vicinity of the playing area and that the local by-laws relating to the consumption of alcohol are upheld.
  - f. Sign the team sheet in the space provided to acknowledge their presence at the fixture in case the association needs to contact you.
3. A ground official has the right and responsibility to ask any abusive person to leave the area of play.
  - a. In an such situation, the Ground Official should report this to the host club who can then determine what, if any action should be taken against their club member or report to the opposition club, details regarding the action that was taken against their club member/s.
4. Should any incident arise out of a match that are for consideration by the Association, the ground official shall complete a written eyewitness report. The report should be submitted to the club for forwarding to the association.
5. A Ground Official shall be prepared to appear at any association inquiry formed to deal with specific incidents where the ground official was in attendance.
6. While it's not necessary that a Ground Official is fully conversant with our rules or the Laws of the Game, it is advisable that they have access to a copy of the Association Rules and access to a phone to contact the Association should an emergency arise.
7. As a ground official, you may be approached to clarify rules or procedures or adjudicate on disputes, we strongly suggest that you don't do this on your own, but call another committee member to assist you.
8. All Ground Officials shall have obtained the age of 18 years of age.

### Hints and Tips for Ground Officials.

- Introduce yourself to all match officials and visiting team officials.
- Indicate where you can be located during a match. Try and ensure you are visible and in line of sight for the match official as you are there primarily to assist match officials.
- Try to maintain a calm and casual appearance whenever possible.
- Avoid appearing aggressive or over bearing especially towards persons who appear angry or upset. A polite and friendly inquiry or comment will be received much better than "barking out" orders and instructions.

- Remember you are there to try and assist wherever possible. You are not required to be a club “Prize Fighter”. At no point are you expected to become involved in a violent incident. You are not required to step in between persons in a confrontation, or to try and separate angry combatants.
- If you choose to become involved in an altercation that requires persons to be separated, always select the person from your own club to restrain/remove.
- Trying to remove or restrain a person from a different club/team may inflame a situation further as you may be viewed by some as an aggressor and not as a peacemaker.
- Be an active ground official. “Walk the talk” – move up and down the sidelines and make your presence known. Exchange friendly pleasantries if appropriate and if you’re comfortable doing so. Your aim is to be a deterrent to bad behaviour, not to be a policeman or security guard. If there is a serious disturbance, call the police, or ask the home club to call the police.
- Talk to the team marshals and have a friendly word with them to try and ensure that they know and understand their duties and exactly what is expected of them.
- Do not look for trouble or allow yourself to create a situation over what may be a trivial matter. Focus on the fact that as an association we wish to encourage good behaviour and compliance and our behaviour must support the objective.

**In all other matters relating to ground control, the Club & Ground Official must try to ensure That no conduct is permitted that would be prejudicial to the Club or Association**

## Marshals Duties

### From the By-Laws

#### 1. Marshals

- a. At all matches, there shall be a minimum of two marshals, one marshal from each team, wearing an appropriate vest as purchased from the Association.
- b. The marshals shall introduce themselves to the referee before the commencement of the game.
- c. Marshals’ duties shall be to ensure that spectators, coaches and managers do not encroach the sidelines, or the pitch, and see that good order is maintained.
- d. Should any incidents arise out of a match, that are for consideration by the Board, each marshal shall complete a written report into such incidents for the Board.
- e. The marshals shall appear at any inquiry as neutral witnesses, if required.
- f. All marshals shall have obtained the age of 18 years of age.
- g. Marshals from both teams shall print their name, and sign the team sheet, indicating they were in attendance for the game.
- h. Where a game is played on a neutral field, it is the responsibility of the visiting teams to supply the marshals for their game.