



To: State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
State Directors of Referee Instruction
State Directors of Referee Assessment
Chair, State Referee Committee
National Referees, Assessors and Instructors

From: Alfred Kleinaitis
Manager of Referee Development and Education

Re: Proper Positioning (Power Point Presentation)

Date: July 15, 2005

Being in a position on the field which enables the referee to perform effectively and efficiently all necessary responsibilities is among the most important skills an official must develop, and its value increases as the match becomes more competitive. Although USSF has always included general positioning recommendations in its Guide to Procedures, it is easy to lose sight of the underlying reasons for following these recommendations. At the same time, some referees have interpreted certain recommendations too rigidly and, as a result, always position themselves in the same place.

To assist in better understanding the underlying principles of positioning during play and at restarts, USSF is pleased to provide the attached PowerPoint presentation. It incorporates the most up-to-date information from FIFA's experience at the international level but, at the same time, it is relevant to officials working youth recreational matches. The presentation focuses on

- The need for flexibility
- The concept of an optimal position
- The "magic formula" defining the best position
- A series of field diagrams identifying the referee "zone"
- Concluding remarks which emphasize the importance of reading play, cooperating with the assistant referee, and not occupying space used by players

This approach has been incorporated into the 2005 edition of the *Guide to Procedures* and the attached presentation should be used in conjunction with that publication.