**BASIC GUIDELINES FOR CLUB REFEREES**

Thank you for stepping in, no referee, no game !

1. **SAFETY**
2. Check the pitch for any debris, dog excrement etc. Make sure you can see the pitch markings.
3. Make sure the corner flags are over 5ft tall and the goal-nets are secured safely.
4. Make sure your whistle works ok and you have a notebook, pencil/pen and red and yellow cards.

**All clubs should have basic guidelines for club linesmen, use these to brief your linesmen; one from each team**. **Remember you make ALL of the decisions, they only advise on off-side and ball out of play.**

1. Your whistle is your ‘voice’ – short toot for anything minor, loud blast for anything serious – the players soon know what to expect by the sound.
2. Give all your decisions firmly and do not change them. Communicate clearly ‘ie ‘that’s a foul, clear push, free kick here’ then move on; no arguments.
3. Do not get into lengthy conversations with players or managers during play. Keep any comments brief unless you have to ‘seriously’ talk to a player and/or book them. Keep play moving along as much as possible.
4. Try and stay between 15-20 yards from play if possible. Too close can be as bad as too far away.
5. Keep glancing at your linesmen to make sure you are not missing anything BUT when the ball is in the danger area (usually the penalty box) then keep your eye on play. You can always go back for an off-side flag but don’t want to miss a penalty appeal.
6. Ignore any unwanted comments from the side-lines just concentrate on the game.
7. Without overdoing it try and officiate with a sense of humour. A smile and a laugh with the players can often diffuse situations.
8. Enjoy it – it is very satisfying to know you have contributed to a good game – and today, without you – there wouldn’t have been a game!

**If you want to chat about anything that happened during the game please either give me a ring or email me – Nigel Fry 07762 480 464. refereesadmin@ndyal.co.uk**