

Soccer: Volume I, Bulletin 1
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Positions for Corner Kicks

Initial positioning for the officials during corner kicks is critical in these oft-chaotic and quick-developing situations. We would like the center official to position themselves just outside of the penalty area and slightly to the outside of the goal post, opposite of the lead assistant's position. This position should allow the center official to always have the ball in sight, as well as seeing the entire penalty area for potential challenges. This may mean that their position is slightly more opened or closed depending from which corner the kick is coming. The lead assistant should be positioned on the corner behind the flag, and make sure to allow the player enough clearance to approach the ball for the kick. The trail assistant should be positioned facing the touchline even with the next to last defender or the Halfway Line if no other defenders than the keeper are in that half of the field, and should focus on a potential quick counter attack.

Leg Braces

Rule 4-1 requires players wear age- and size-appropriate shin guards even when they utilize a brace on their ankle or knee. The shin guards can be worn either on top or underneath a brace that extends to the shin. The brace cannot serve as a substitute for a properly worn shin guard.

When Players May "Knot" Wear Headbands

Rules 4-2-2 & 3 allow players to wear hair control and/or sweatbands on the head or wrists if (1) they are made of a soft material and do not pose a risk for injury and (2) are not worn only for adornment purposes. Headbands that must be tied in order to be held on the head, creating a knot, are not permissible under the rules. These knots can be hard and pose a risk for injury.

Something to Consider

A defensive player within the penalty area and in possession of the ball stops the ball with his foot and leaves it. His goalkeeper walks up from behind and picks up the ball from the ground. The ball is then drop kicked down field. What's the ruling? Check back in the next Soccer Bulletin for the answer.