The **referee** is the main match official, making sure that the rules are applied. He must wear different colours from the players.

The two **assistant referees** ("linesmen") help the referee to apply the rules. They run up and down the sides of the touchlines.

The **fourth official** gives support to the referee from the touchline. For example, he decides how much injury time to add on.

The **yellow card** is used to show that a player has been cautioned.

If the referee shows the **red card** to a player, he must leave the pitch.

A player is in an **offside** position if he is nearer to his opponents’ goal line than both the ball and the second-last opponent.

The referee uses a **whistle** to control the game. When he blows the **whistle** play stops or starts.

Handball is when a player (except the goalkeeper) deliberately touches the ball with his hands. If this happens inside the area, it's a penalty.

The assistant referees use **flags** to signal that something is wrong. When an assistant referee waves his **flag**, the referee stops play.

A **foul** is an action which breaks the rules of the game.