

United States Soccer Federation



Running the Line

Objective

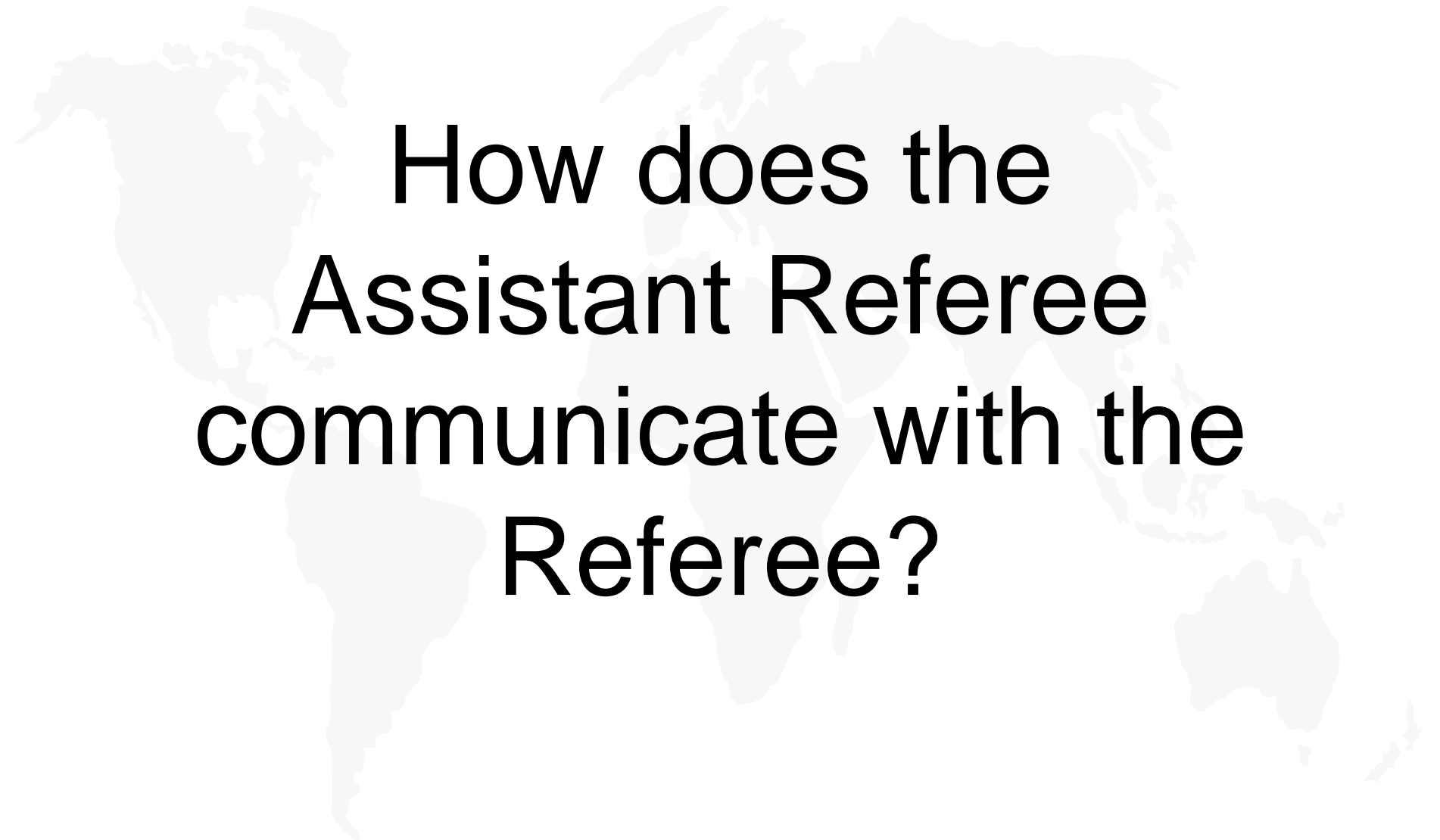
At the end of this lesson the learner will be able to state the 7 duties of the assistant referee and list examples of how each is communicated to the referee during the match.

Duties of the Assistant Referee

- ◆ when ball passes out of the field of play
- ◆ which side entitled to that restart
- ◆ when a player may be penalized for being in an offside position
- ◆ when substitution is requested
- ◆ when misconduct occurs out of the view of the referee

Duties of the Assistant Referee

- ◆ when offenses have been committed whenever the assistants are closer to the action than the referee (this includes, in particular circumstances, offenses committed in the penalty area)
- ◆ whether, at penalty kicks, the goalkeeper has moved forward before the ball has been kicked and if the ball has crossed the line



How does the Assistant Referee communicate with the Referee?



Elements of AR Communication

**Assistant Referees must
communicate with the Referee
using primarily**

FLAG SIGNALS

and

MOVEMENT

Summary of AR Flag Signals

FLAG:

furled, pointed toward ground
unfurled, pointed toward ground
at 45 degrees
straight up

pointing to a spot
straight up and slight wave
held up at both ends of staff

WHAT IS COMMUNICATED:

not ready
ready
direction (of throw or free kick)
ball out of play
offside
"I need to talk"
look at other linesman
location—offside, goal kick, corner
foul
substitution

Summary of AR Movements

POSITION or MOVEMENT:

Staying even with the second to last defender (or the ball)

Running up touch line after goal is scored

Standing at attention

Walking toward corner flag after having signaled for a foul in the penalty area

Asst.Referee COMMUNICATES:

"I am in charge of offside"

valid goal

infraction before goal was scored

penalty kick



**A.R. SIGNALS ARE APPROPRIATE
FOR THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS**

Ball over touch line

Ball over goal line

Offside

Other (substitution, foul, timing)

**This sequence is best used as part of pre-game instruction
of the assistant referee by the referee**

BALL OVER TOUCH LINE

Asst. Referee's side

Referee's side

**BALL OUT AND BACK IN:
Flag straight up**



BALL OVER GOAL LINE

(BALL ENTERS GOAL)

◆ **Legal Goal**

◆ **Goal scored, but ball rebounds into play**

◆ **To cancel an apparent goal**

Legal Goal:

- 1. Eye contact**
- 2. Linesman sprints 15 yards toward halfway line**
- 3. Referee returns to center, keeping players under observation**
- 4. Other linesman records, then observes as others record**



**Goal scored, but ball rebounds
into play:**

- 1. Flag straight up**
- 2. When referee stops play,
linesman sprints 15 yards
towards halfway line**

To cancel an apparent goal:

If the scorer was offside:

- **Flag for offside**

If another player was in an offside position:

- **No flag—stand at attention**

If there was a foul by an attacker:

- **No flag—stand at attention**

BALL OVER GOAL LINE

(BALL PASSES OUTSIDE GOAL)

Linesman side:

Goal Kick: Flag pointed to goal area

Corner Kick: Flag pointed to near corner

**Ball out and back in: Flag straight up,
then indicate restart**

Referee side:

No signal (unless requested by referee)

BALL OUT AND BACK IN: Flag straight up

OFFSIDE

◆ **Linesman indicates only if, in his opinion, the player gains an advantage or is interfering with play or an opponent**

◆ **Sequence:**

Flag up — referee whistles — flag points to location



OTHER LINESMAN SIGNALS

- ◆ **Substitution**
- ◆ **Foul**
- ◆ **Timing**

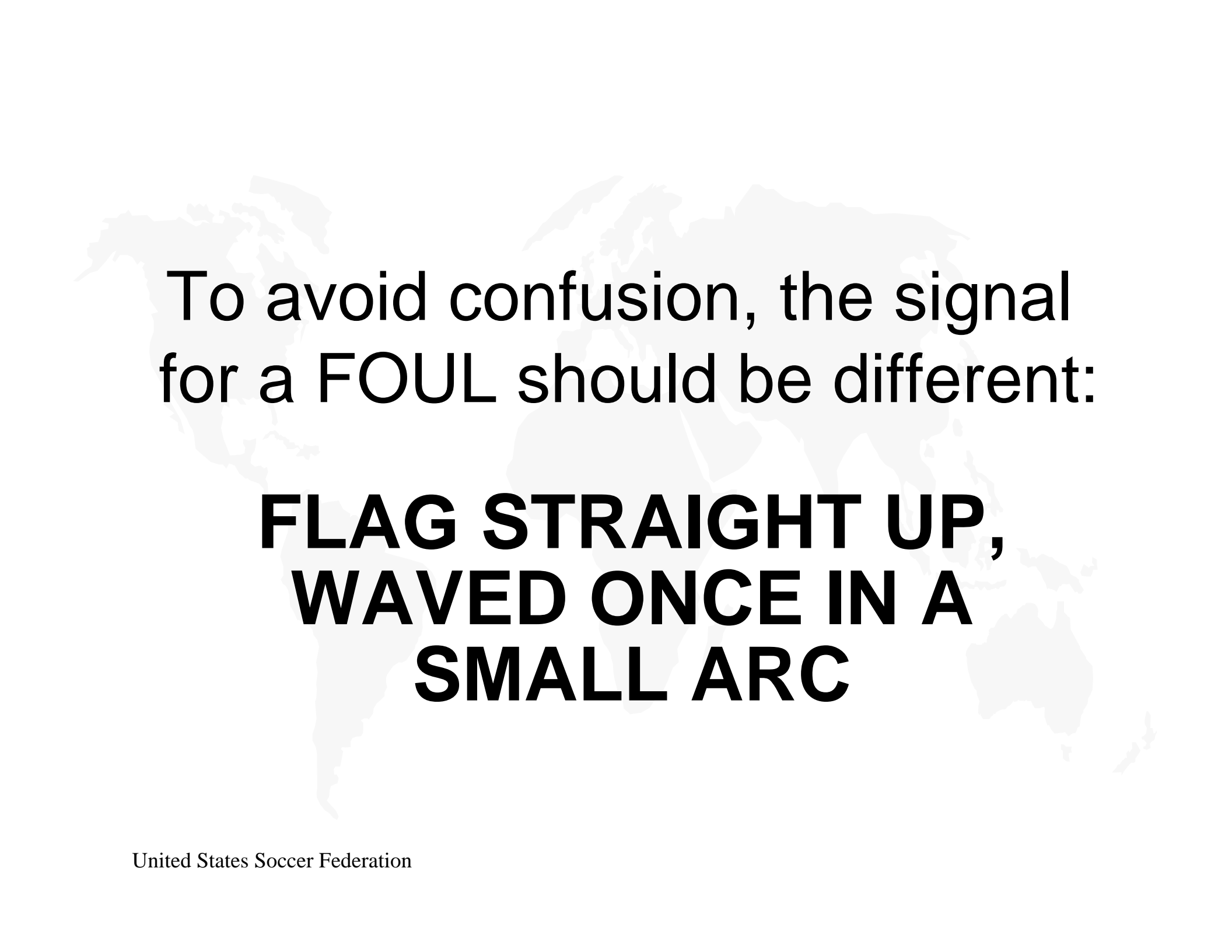


Substitution:

Both linesmen: Hold flag until recognized by referee

**Where there is a fourth official:
Linesman has no further duties**

**Where there is no fourth official:
Linesman supervises substitution
at halfway line**

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To avoid confusion, the signal for a FOUL should be different:

**FLAG STRAIGHT UP,
WAVED ONCE IN A
SMALL ARC**



Foul by defender in penalty-area:

(Referee does not see incident)

- 1. Standard signal for foul**
- 2. Referee stops play**
- 3. Linesman moves quickly to corner flag**



Timing:

LAST 5 MINUTES: Fingers on shorts

**TIME EXPIRED: Closed fist on shorts
(across chest if needed)**



FURTHER RELATED ISSUES

- ◆ **Ref/Linesman opposing signals**
- ◆ **Ref misses linesman signal**
- ◆ **Ref waves down linesman**