

MATCH-DAY ROLE OF THE GOAL UMPIRE

- Apply the laws relating to goal umpiring and their interpretations with common sense and in accordance with the spirit of the game.
- Be the final judge of the scores.

A GOAL UMPIRE'S ROLE

It is the very important responsibility of the goal umpire to:

- Be the final judge of a score.
- Keep a record of all the goals and behinds scored in a match.
- Furnish a report to the controlling body.

JUDGING THE SCORE

In order for a score to be registered, the football must be completely over the behind or goal lines or have hit the goal post.

A GOAL IS SCORED

- When the ball completely crosses the goal line after being kicked by a player on the attacking team without touching a player or goal post.
- The team will score 6 points.

A BEHIND IS SCORED

- If the ball hits the goal post or travels over the goal post.
- Crosses the behind line.
- Is touched by a player, before crossing the goal line.
- If the ball is taken over the goal or behind line by a player.
- The team will score 1 point.

OUT OF BOUNDS

If the ball touches or passes over the behind post, then the ball is considered out of bounds.

RECORDING THE SCORE

Having identified the score, the second most important duty of the goal umpire is to properly record the score.

This completed score is forwarded to the controlling body as the official score and result of a match.

A GOAL UMPIRE'S CHECKLIST

The law book

Correct, clean uniform (coat, hat, pants, shirt)

Flags (four of these) and flag holders

Boots or shoes (depending on conditions, boots may be more appropriate in wet conditions)

Appropriate paperwork and a couple of pens/pencils (pencil may be better for wet conditions as a pen may run or not work)

Scorecards

Sunglasses for bright conditions

Food and drinks (some snacks for half-time and after the game).

A towel for a shower after the game

GOAL UMPIRE INDICATIONS

Whether for a goal or a behind, your indications with your hands and arms should be clear and precise.

This reflects the confidence you have with the decision you have made.

This type of indicating gives the players and official's confidence in your decisions.

SIGNALLING A SCORE

This style should also be reflected in your flag-waving. Your flag-waving completes your indication process and must be of a high standard.

THE GOAL UMPIRE POSITIONING FOR GOAL UMPIRES

Any form of adjudication requires the umpire to be in the best possible position from which to correctly judge an outcome. Goal umpiring, without doubt, requires the umpire to be in the best possible position from which to determine the correct score. The standard positioning of a goal umpire comes under two categories:

- Under the flight of the ball.
- Astride the score line.

UNDER THE FLIGHT OF THE BALL

For the goal umpire to correctly determine whether the football in flight has gone through the goals, over a goal post, or through the behinds, he needs to position himself under the flight of the ball. When the ball is within scoring distance, the goal umpire's initial position should be in line with the ball and the centre of the goal line.

While the ball is in flight, the goal umpire should run to get underneath the line of the ball as it crosses the score line.

ASTRIDE THE LINE

There are some occasions that require the goal umpire to straddle (or stand astride) the score line and out of the way of the players. They are:

- Ball dropping in flight.
- Ball bouncing along the ground towards goal.
- Player running for close kick.
- Contest on goal/behind line.

RECORDING OF SCORES BY GOAL UMPIRES

RECORD PROGRESSIVELY

Record the scores progressively, that is, 1, 2, 3, rather than 1 1

CONFER EACH QUARTER

At the end of each quarter, the goal umpires confer to check each has the same score.

If the scores are not the same, the goal umpires discuss the situation during the break and try to resolve the matter.

As a guide, there are three general rules for resolving different scores:

1. It is often the goal umpire at the non-scoring end who has the accurate score as he has not been under pressure to make decisions.
2. It is easier to 'forget' to record a score than it is to add a score in error. Therefore, the umpire with the extra score is usually correct.
3. If there is a scoreboard, check the scoreboard. The goal umpire with the same score as the scoreboard is usually correct as the other umpire may have made a mistake.

TOTAL AT END OF MATCH

Add up the goals and behinds scored by each team at the end of the match, and record the total scores.