

2008 vs. 2007 GTP Comparison

This document summarizes the changes in the 2008 edition of the USSF “Guide to Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees and 4th Officials” (GTP) as compared to the previous 2007 edition. Any text samples extracted and included are done solely for educational purposes and so are still bound to the original copyright holder (USSF).

While every attempt was made to make this accurate, this comparison document has no official approval or review by the USSF, its referee committee, nor the Guide document writer(s). Purely “in the opinion of the referee” that authored this comparison, **major changes** to the GTP philosophy are bolded while *minor changes* are italicized.

2008 saw minimal change in the document that are listed below. 2007 saw even less. But if you have not tracked the GTP recently, you are encouraged to see the previous change documents; most importantly the 2005 and 2004 GTP comparison documents. 2004 and 2005 had major changes (some of which were made then reversed).

FOULS Observed by the Referee (Page 28)

As described in the memorandum that came out in 14 May 2008 entitled “Revised Procedures and Signals”, the flag signal for the lead assistant referee seeing a foul that occurred in the Penalty Area by the defense has been changed. It went from holding the flag “straight downward in front of the body” to “across the lower body as shown on the right” (in the diagram).



Also changed the referee in the diagram on this page from an African American in a yellow shirt to a blond Caucasian in a green shirt.

FOULS Not Seen by the Referee But Indicated By Lead Assistant Referee (Page 28)

Added three paragraphs to indicate procedure for indicating it is misconduct in addition to a foul. Bullet three under Referee is new and indicates to make eye contact with the assistant referee and fourth official to determine if misconduct also occurred. Then Bullet 2 under the Fourth Official and bullet 4 under Lead Assistant Referee are introduced (identically) to state the person should place their hand over the left jersey pocket to indicate a caution and over a back pant pocket to indicate a send-off.

2005 versus 2004/03 GTP Comparison

It should be noted that the third bullet under Assistant Referee in both “FOULS Not Seen By The Referee” sections (page 29 and 30) are not clear as to what signal should be given after the vertical flag and wiggle when a foul occurred inside the penalty area by the defense. Historically, the practice has been to follow the procedure indicated on Page 28 for when the AR is asked for assistance by the Referee and thus use the new horizontal flag at the waist signal. But this is not explicit and likely should be covered in the pre-game conference.

PENALTY KICK (Page 36)

Greatly simplifies first bullet under Lead Assistant Referee by dropping wording from the front and end of the sentence. No longer states to wait for the Referee to begin supervising the restart and no longer indicates that the AR should prepare to follow duties as assigned during the pregame.

The second and third bullet under Lead Assistant Referee are new and follow the memo released on 14 May 2008 entitled “Revised Procedures and Signals”. The first indicates the Lead AR assists the Referee in determining if a goal was score and whether the goalkeeper moved illegally. The third bullet is similar to that added to the fouls section and indicates to use the horizontal flag across the waist to indicate a keeper moved off the line before the kick and as a result was able to block the goal attempt illegally.

COVER and INSIDE FOREWARD (page 1)

The predominant purple color has been kept but the photo changed, title dropped to below the photo, and the logo centered. On the back, more sponsors are added and more movement of material around. In the Foreword, the year was changed to 2008 and the text “Revised June” pre-pended to the year. These are obviously trivial but just noted for completeness.

Randy Harr, USSF Referee, September 2008 (rev 1.0). Original posted at <http://socref.net/>