



## **READING COMPREHENSION**

- **Read carefully the following text and choose the correct answers to the questions below:**

### **The referee team**

#### **The referee**

The referee is the most important of the four officials on the pitch. He is the only person who carries a whistle to signal the starts and stops of play. Those include the kick-off, half-time, full-time, goals and fouls.

In the event of a foul, the referee can blow his whistle to award a free kick — or a penalty kick if it occurs inside the penalty area — and penalize the player who committed it. A referee's first resource is usually a verbal warning.

But beyond that, the referee can show the player a yellow card and take his name — this is frequently known as a *booking* because the referee writes the name down in a little book. A player who receives two yellow cards in a game is sent off and his team will have to continue with one fewer player on the pitch.

Besides the yellow card, the referee also carries a red card which he can use to punish especially serious infractions. The red card means an immediate dismissal. The referee also has the power to dismiss a manager from the sideline.

#### **The linesmen**

There are also two linesmen, each assigned to one half of the field. As their name indicates, they patrol the length of the touch line between the halfway line and a goal line. They each carry a brightly-coloured flag and use it to signal when the ball has left the pitch either for a throw-in, a goal kick or a corner kick.

Linesmen will also wave their flags to catch the referee's attention if they believe they have spotted a foul.

Finally, it is also the linesman's responsibility to signal when an attacking player is in an offside position by raising his flag. In order to have the best possible view to make that call, the linesman stays level with the last defender of the team in his half of the field at all times.

No matter what, however, a linesman's call does not take effect unless the referee blows the whistle.

### **The fourth official**

The fourth official, positioned on the touch line between the two opposing benches, has three primary functions. First, he keeps track of all the stoppages during the game. And, at the end of each half, he informs the players how much time will be added on to make up for them by flashing a number on a board.

The fourth official is also in charge of verifying substitutions. He checks a substitute's equipment before recording the change and posting the numbers of the players involved on the board.

Finally, the fourth official is also the managers' primary liaison to the referee. They often bear the manager's dissatisfaction with the referee's decisions.

### **Questions**

- 1. What is the main use of the whistle?**
  - a. To signal the starts and stops of play
  - b. A and C are correct**
  - c. To signal the kick-off, half-time, full-time, goals and fouls
  
- 2. The expression *to dismiss a manager* means...**
  - a. To caution a coach
  - b. To send off a coach**
  - c. To book a coach
  
- 3. Linesmen will wave their flags...**
  - a. To signal a throw-in, a goal kick or a corner kick; to attract the referee's attention in cases of fouls; and to signal an offside position**
  - b. To signal when the ball has left the pitch
  - c. To signal when an attacking player is in an offside position
  
- 4. If a linesman waves his flag, does it always take effect on the match?**
  - a. Yes, it does
  - b. Just in the event that the referee blows the whistle**
  - c. No, it never takes effect on the match
  
- 5. The person who makes a record of every time the play is stopped is...**
  - a. The referee and the linesmen
  - b. The linesmen and the fourth official
  - c. The fourth official**