

DIFA Referee Commission

Referee Coordinator:

- **Supervisor / RLO:** A supervisor acts as a mentor and coach, providing the referee with analysis, feedback, and strategies to thrive in the complex and demanding environment of international football.

Reporter:

- As a reporter, you make a significant contribution to the development of referees. Using the reports (assessments and documentation), DIFA can evaluate the performance of referees. This is important for the guidance, selection, and promotion of referees to a higher level.

Disciplinary:

- The disciplinary committee at an international football tournament, both on the field and in futsal, acts as an impartial body that handles protests, enforces rules, and resolves disputes according to the established rules and guidelines and cannot be involved in an ongoing match. The disciplinary committee consists of the technical director, the deaf referee coordinator / RLO, and the hearing referee coordinator.

Delegate:

- A delegate ensures compliance with match protocols, including the schedule, required materials, and supervision during the match. The delegate ensures that the referees can do their work.

Appointment:

- An assistant to the referee coordinator, in collaboration with the technical director, ensures that the colors of the teams' and referees' shirts are determined at least one day in advance. Additionally, the assistant is responsible, in collaboration with the coordinator, for assigning referees to matches. This must be known at least three days in advance, with exceptions for quarter-finals, semi-finals, and the final, which will be announced at least one day before the match.

Referee Briefing:

- A mandatory information evening before the start of the tournament where referees are briefed on how to lead the matches and which rules to adhere to. The laws from IFAB are leading here. The DIFA Technical Committee decides which rules are applied.
- After the referees are appointed by the competition leader, officials must hold a physical meeting the evening before the match, during which they also create a WhatsApp group for the upcoming match. This process promotes clear expectations and communication among the officials.
- From the moment the officials enter the accommodation until the final whistle sounds and they head to the changing rooms to get changed, they are fully focused on the match and show the professional attitude that is expected from DIFA and doesn't allow them to be distracted.
- During a tournament, the appointed referee coordinator / RLO acts as the sole point of contact for the officials, and all their decisions are binding. The coordinator must collaborate with other functions if necessary. Referees communicate only through the coordinator for questions, and the coordinator provides the answers. The teams or DIFA delegates only communicate with this person.
- A coordinator appointed by DIFA, who has a hearing impairment, will always have a leading role over hearing referees / head referees, and all decisions of this coordinator are binding, including refusing (hearing) referees and making other appointments, over the hearing RLO.
- Only RLO and the technical director can interfere in the match when needed. The coordinator / RLO does not interfere with ongoing matches and will not enter the match zone.

- DIFA advises officials to embrace a healthy lifestyle from the start of the tournament, including nutrition, hydration, adequate sleep, no use of substances such as drugs and smoking, and physical fitness for the matches. This can affect their performance during the tournament appointments. Be an example for the athletes.
- Officials must be present at least 1.5 hours before a field match and 1 hour before a futsal match and are required to do a warm-up of at least 20 minutes.
- When a (deaf) official who is employed by DIFA officiates and is not a member of other international organizations such as FIFA or continental organizations, they are required to follow DIFA's dress code. These rules include wearing a badge, clothing issued by DIFA, and representative attire.

Conditions:

- A referee must be able to present a referee diploma, issued by their national federation, to DIFA.
- Where possible, at least five deaf referees are selected by DIFA to be present at each tournament. This ensures that there are enough deaf referees available to lead the matches and ensure that deaf players are treated fairly and correctly.
- At least one deaf referee coordinator must be present at each tournament. This coordinator is responsible for directing and supporting the deaf referees and acts as a point of contact for both the referees and the organization.
- Where possible, referees are selected three to six months before the start of a tournament. This gives referees enough time to prepare and ensures good planning and organization of the tournament.
- The names of the selected referees must be communicated to the Organizing Committee (OC) before the start of the tournament. Referees whose names have not been communicated in time may not participate in the tournament. This ensures clear communication and planning and prevents last-minute changes.
- If a deaf referee is present at the tournament, the host country is required to appoint a neutral referee for matches in which the host country itself plays. Preferably, this neutral referee should also be deaf. This guarantees fairness and prevents conflicts of interest.
- Referees receive compensation for their participation in matches. This serves as recognition for their time, effort, and professionalism. The details of the compensation may vary depending on the tournament and the agreements made.
- A sign language interpreter must always be present and available for the referees during the tournament. This ensures that communication for deaf referees, players, and other parties involved runs smoothly and without misunderstandings. The sign language interpreter plays a crucial role in bridging communication barriers.
- A referee cannot officiate more than three consecutive matches.
- A referee stays in a separate hotel, apart from the teams and the board.

Selection / License:

- The referee commission's selection committee selects referees based on a ranking system with three levels: A-List (elite level), B-List (middle level), and C-List (beginner). This system helps to select the most suitable referees for each tournament, depending on their experience and skills.
- Participation in a workshop is mandatory before you receive a license; in this workshop, you will be tested on fitness, rules, and non-verbal communication. If you pass 2 out of the three parts, you will receive a license based on your CV and workshop results.
 - **A-List:** Deaflympics, World Championships (national), World Cup for Clubs
 - **B-List:** Regional Championships (national), Youth Regional Championships (national), Youth World Championships (national), Regional Cup for Clubs
 - **C-List:** Youth Regional Cup for Clubs, Women Regional Cup for Clubs

