



HURLSTONE PARK WANDERERS FC

By now we hope you will have seen quite a bit of information about the Stand in Support of Referees that will be part of this weekend's round of football. This email is to provide some information about how it will work, and also to share with your teams and supporters. Please make sure that everyone in your team has been informed of both the reasons for the guard of honour, what we are trying to achieve and how it will work.

What is the guard of honour?

Before the game begins, the players from each team will line up and walk on to the field each side of the half way line. They will then stand, forming an avenue (a guard of honour) for the referees to walk on to the field. Players and supporters will applaud as the referees walk on. [If you want to see an example check out this video on our facebook page.](#) Once the referees have walked through, players go to their usual places on the field and the game begins when the referee blows the whistle.

What do I need to do as a team official?

Before the game:

Please confirm with the referees that they are happy for the guard of honour to happen (we expect they will be but this is a courtesy)

Complete all the usual pre-game formalities (team submission, confirmation of opposition team and referee payments) – please ensure this is done at least 5 minutes before the game

Two minutes before the game:

Make sure your players are organised near the halfway line and ready to walk on as part of the guard of honour (subs included). In the diagram this is shown as a line along the sideline, but be flexible, an organised huddle of players READY to walk on is fine

One minute before the game:

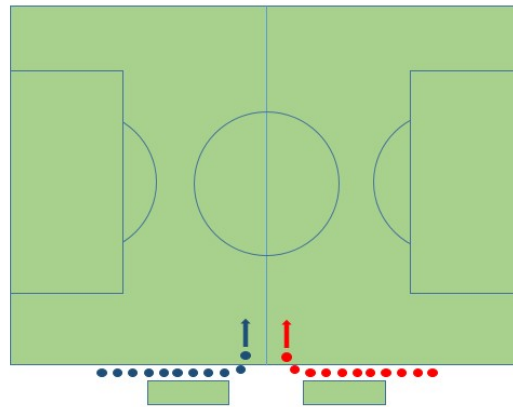
Players walk on to the field (each team on either side of the half way line) and stand approx. one metre apart facing the opposing team to form an avenue

Referees will then walk through the avenue, while players and spectators applaud

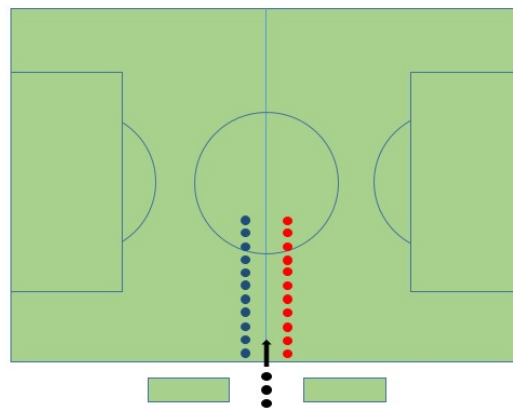
After that:

Players go to their positions and the game begins.

1. Two minutes before kick off



2. One minute before kick off



Why are we doing this?

We were all shocked and sickened by the violent attack on a referee last weekend, and very aware of the impact of an event like this on the morale of referees. Clubs wanted to do something to show our support and appreciation for referees.

We lose referees every year to abuse and dissent – it is really important to understand that the referees turn up to do a job, and like anyone in any work setting it is disheartening, demoralising and soul destroying to be abused in your work place for doing your job. Most importantly, our game does not happen if we do not have referees and it is really important that we respect and support them.

Finally, we are doing this because we really want referees to feel supported and respected. We want every team and every player and every team official to bring to this and every game an attitude of respect and support for referees.

Remember, no referee, no game. There is no excuse for dissent, for questioning, and most importantly for abuse or dissent to referees, whether or not their decisions go your way. Treat our referees as you would want to be treated. And reinforce this message to your teams.