



# Gomezioms

## 13 Soccer Referee Axioms

The following 13 axioms are derived from 52 years of experience as a Referee, Instructor, and Assessor. I have come across certain TRUTHS that are most meaningful for soccer referees throughout the ages: be it in the 60's all the way to this century. Simple, beautiful truths do NOT change with time, but the use/misuse will have profound meaning & learning accumulation for any Referee at any level, throughout his refereeing career.

*Austin Gomez*

National Referee Instructor,

National Referee Assessor



# Purpose

- Austin Gomez is possibly the best referee I have ever been privileged to work with. Great communicator with Players, Coaches, and the Referee Team.
- Try to think how the following axioms apply to your games and discuss.
- Is there one specifically that you can apply immediately?



# First and Most Important



- Teams DECIDE... how the game will be played;
- Referee DECIDES... how the game will be called.



# Moving Along

- "QUICK" free kicks belong to... the Players.
- "Ceremonial" free kicks belong... to the Referee.



# Players Know What's Important

- Players often... DOUBT what the Referee says.
- They never DOUBT... what the Referee does.



# Take Care of Business

- If the Referee does not exact... JUSTICE, the Players will!



# Efficiency vs. Activity



- FITNESS of the Referee is great;
- More important, the Referee must run for a PURPOSE.



# We All Make Mistakes

- Referees *may* have... IMPERFECTIONS
- But they should never be... INCOMPETENT





# Experience

- ‘The Game’ of soccer is the best TEACHER.



# They're Not the Enemy, But ...



- Coaches have... PRIVILEGES
- While players have... RIGHTS.



# “No Call” Is a Call, Too



- The OUTCOME of every game depends upon the performance of the Referee and the crew.



# Refer To 1<sup>st</sup> Axiom



- Players will do EXACTLY what the Referee will Allow.



# It's Easier to Destroy Than to Create



- The “BENEFIT-of-the-DOUBT” should always go to the attacking team.



# The Laws Are Flexible

- Once the game begins, the Referee becomes a **MANAGER**.



# Someone Has to Be in Charge



- Players... WATCH the ball;
- The Referee... WATCHES Players.



# Final Thought

Nota Bene:

SOCCKER is a SIMPLE game for CLEVER people!

Hence;

“COGITO ERGO SUM ARBITER”

“Refereeing is thinking.”

**What is one thing that you can apply immediately?**