

Referee Supplemental Report Cheat Sheet

Simple Guide for Writing Clear Match Narratives

The “4 Sentence Perfect Report”

Most supplemental reports can be written in four clear sentences.

1 Context (When and Score)

“In the ____ minute of the match, with the score Home ____ – Away ____, ...”

2 Who and What Happened

“#__ from the Home/Away team was sent off for _____.”

3 Description of the Incident

Describe exactly what happened. Stick to facts only.

4 Restart and Match Conclusion

“Play was restarted with a _____. The match continued without further incident / ended with a final score of ____ – _____.”

Fill-In Template

In the ____ minute of the match, with the score Home ____ – Away ____,
#__ from the (Home/Away) team was sent off for _____.

The player _____
(clear factual description of what happened).

After the send-off, the player _____.

Play was restarted with a _____ at _____.

The match _____.
Final score: Home ____ – Away _____.

Common Send-Off Reasons (Use These Descriptions)

Serious Foul Play (SFP)

Used when challenging for the ball with excessive force or endangering safety.

Examples:

- lunged into a tackle with excessive force
- made studs-up contact with the opponent's leg
- tackled from behind with excessive force

Example sentence:

"The player lunged into a tackle with excessive force, making contact with the opponent's ankle."

Violent Conduct (VC)

Used when violence occurs away from a challenge for the ball.

Examples:

- punched or struck an opponent
- kicked an opponent off the ball
- pushed an opponent to the ground in retaliation

Example sentence:

"The player struck an opponent in the chest with his hand while the ball was not in playing distance."

DOGSO – Denying an Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity

Remember the 4 D's:

- Distance to goal
- Distance to ball
- Direction of play
- Defenders

Examples:

- pulled an attacker from behind who had an open path to goal
- tripped an attacker with only the goalkeeper to beat

Example sentence:

"The defender held the attacker who had an obvious opportunity to score with only the goalkeeper remaining."

DOGSO – Handball

Example:

"The defender deliberately handled the ball to prevent the ball from entering the goal."

Offensive, Insulting, or Abusive Language (OFFINABUS)

Write exact words when possible.

Example:

"The player directed the following language toward the referee: ' _____.'"

Second Caution (2CT)

Example:

"The player received a second caution for delaying the restart of play after previously being cautioned in the 34th minute for dissent."

After the Sendoff

How did the player/sub/coach react?

- left the field immediately without further incident
- briefly questioned the decision but left the field
- argued the decision before leaving
- used offensive language directed toward the official or another person
- refused to leave and required assistance from teammates/coaches

Was a substitute allowed? (remember if the person shown a red card is NOT identified as a player, the team does not have to play down)

Example: "After the send-off, the player briefly argued the decision but left the field and a substitute was not allowed. The home team played with 10 while the visitors played with 11."

How Play Was Restarted

Choose the correct restart:

- Direct Free Kick
- Indirect Free Kick
- Penalty Kick
- Dropped Ball
- Throw In
- Goal Kick
- Corner Kick
- Kickoff

Example:

"Play was restarted with a direct free kick for the Home team at the location of the foul."

Match Conclusion Examples

- The match continued without further incident.
 - The match ended normally.
 - The match was temporarily suspended.
 - The match was abandoned in the ____ minute.
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5 Things NOT to Do in a Report

- ✗ Do not write opinions
- ✗ Do not write emotions
- ✗ Do not exaggerate
- ✗ Do not write long stories
- ✗ Do not guess what someone meant

✓ Write only what you saw and heard.