

Excerpt from Laws of the Game

Law 5 – The Referee

The Authority of the Referee

Each match is controlled by a referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed.

Powers and Duties

The Referee:

- stops the match if, in his opinion, a player is seriously injured and ensures that he is removed from the field of play. An injured player may only return to the field of play after the match has restarted
- allows play to continue until the ball is out of play if a player is, in his opinion, only slightly injured
- ensures that any player bleeding from a wound leaves the field of play. The player may only return on receiving a signal from the referee, who must be satisfied that the bleeding has stopped

Excerpt from Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game

5.9 INJURIES

Players who are injured are required to leave the field under either of two conditions:

1. The referee has stopped play due solely to the occurrence of a serious injury;
2. The referee signals approval for anyone (team official, medical personnel, etc.) to enter the field to attend to an injury (regardless of whether that person enters to assist or not and regardless of why play was stopped). Goalkeepers are exempt from this requirement, along with any field player who may also have been injured as a result of a collision with the goalkeeper, as well as teammates who collide.

The failure of a player to leave the field when required to do so may be considered cautionable behavior.

Although the treatment of injuries is not normally permitted on the field, the referee is authorized to allow this in the case of severe injuries where further movement of the injured player would be dangerous. Goalkeepers (and field players injured as a result of a collision with the goalkeeper) may be treated on the field at any time.

The determination of what constitutes a "serious injury" should take into account the age of the player.

Only the referee may permit the return to the field of play of a player who was permitted to leave the field for treatment of an injury. This is not a substitution. The player who left the field for treatment of an injury may return during play with the permission of the referee, but only from the touch line. If the ball is out of play, the player may return with the permission of the referee across any boundary line.

Referees should avoid remaining in the area of the injured player once they have made their determination to stop play or to prevent play from immediately restarting while the injured player is being attended to on the field. Prior to the restart, the referee must blow the whistle.