

EYSA Referee Policy

Referees Code of Conduct

Referees

Referees (including Assistant Referees) are responsible for the safety of the players and coaches during a match. Referees must know the laws of the game and enforce them fairly. They have the responsibility for upholding the laws and spirit of the game. Referees must show respect for the players, coaches and the game itself.

- Referees are expected to always maintain the utmost respect for the game
- Referees are expected to conduct themselves honorably at all time and maintain the dignity of his/her position.
- Referees are expected to always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
- Referees are expected to attend training sessions, meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the game, their proper interpretation and their application.
- Referees are expected to strive to achieve maximum teamwork with fellow officials.
- Referees are expected to show respect for other referees, coaches and players and never promote criticism of them.
- Referees are expected to be in good physical shape.
- Referees are expected to control players, coaches and Parents/ Spectators effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- Referees are expected to do their utmost to assist fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- Referees are expected to not make statements about any game except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- Referees are expected to not discriminate against nor take any undo advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

- Referees are expected to disclose any and all potential conflicts prior to accepting games that might affect their ability to be totally impartial.

Appearance/Uniform/Equipment:

- Hair must be kept clear of your eyes by an appropriate method ie: cloth headband, hat, or pre-wrap. Absolutely no bandanas, barrettes or scarf. Hats must be solid black or with the USSF Logo.
- Shorts will be black (logo may be white) and appropriate length. No basketball shorts or shorts with white stripes down the side. During inclement weather black sweat pants or black warm-up pants are allowed.
- Referee Jersey will be tucked in at all times while being worn. Patches will be worn correctly. When you are not refereeing you must take your jersey off, it should not be worn around the complex when you are watching other games or just hanging out.
- T-shirts under your jersey must be black, white, or match the jersey color you are wearing.
- Shoes must be predominantly black in color and clean. You may wear cleats tennis or turf shoes, whichever is most comfortable for you.
- No jewelry, if the players can't wear it, neither can you. Exceptions are a watch, wedding ring, and medical I.D. tags.
- Referee jersey colors are Gold (Yellow), Red, Black, Blue
- Your uniform should consist of referee jersey(s) of at least the gold. Other colors are recommended but optional; Referee shorts; Referee socks; Referee shoes (cleats, turf, or tennis shoes) predominantly black and t-shirt.
- Your Referee equipment should consist of: Whistle (pealess are better), set of cards (red & yellow) or ref wallet, watch (one with chronograph timer), pencil or pen, mini note book (pocket size), game card, coin, Referee patch, Referee flags.
- Ref crews must wear similar shirts and socks. i.e. If Center referee is wearing short sleeve gold jersey, AR's should have short sleeve gold jersey.

Professionalism:

- Under no circumstances will a referee argue/yell at a coach, player, or parent. If the situation arises that you feel you can't handle, suspend the game and find a senior referee.
- If the coach/captain of the team questions a call, explain to the coach/captain the call in a respectful manner then continue the game.
- DO NOT respond/react to parents unless they are inciting violent/harmful play from the players or using abusive/foul language.
- 30 minutes prior to the game:
 - Check your uniform and equipment. Make sure it is proper and correct.
 - Check field/goal for safety
 - Set flags (if not already present)
 - Collect player cards if necessary
 - Introduce referee crew to coaches/team
 - Check teams for equipment

- Conduct pre-game conference with AR's
- Coin toss
- While the game is being played, try to stay within a reasonable distance of play i.e. no more than 15 yards. This will help you to be able to "sell" the call when you make it to the coach and parents.
- Center referees will use correct hand signals for the call being made. i.e. corner kick, goal kick, indirect kick, or penalty kick.
- Assistant referees (AR) will use appropriate flag signals. i.e. Offside (far, near, middle), goal kick, corner kick, substitutes.
- On substitutions, AR will hold flag over head horizontally until center referee acknowledges then position the flag at your side towards the goal. (DO NOT hide flag) Once substitution is complete, switch the flag to your side towards the center line.
- During the game if/when an injury occurs and the coach/trainer is needed, stop play, clear the area of players, summon the coach/trainer, then move away from the area. DO NOT turn your back on the field.
- If needed go to the nearest AR and confer about the injury. i.e. What did the AR see?
- At half time, meet the center circle, then go somewhere away from the teams and parents. Talk about the game, re-hydrate and rest.
- Absolutely no playing around with the soccer ball at half-time.
- At the end of the game, meet in the center then proceed to a spot near the sub flag and observe the teams shaking hands, watch and listen for misconduct.
- Have a short debrief of the game.
- If you are the last game of the day on that field, collect corner/sub flags and put them away.

Field Control/Team Work:

- All three officials on the field should stay within visual contact with each other.
- AR's should mirror the flag signals of the other when necessary.
- Center has the responsibility of calling the game. However, the center referee should rely on the AR's to aid them especially when play is nearest to the AR. When play is not in the AR's quadrant the AR should mirror the call of the center. i.e. if the ball crosses the goal line and the center's signals goal kick, the AR should too.
- The AR in charge of substitution will hold the players at the sub flag until the Center calls them on. Centers should not allow subs onto the field until the players being subbed have left the field.
- Regardless of position, the most senior referee will have control of the game, so help the junior referees as much as possible. Don't let them make a mistake that could alter the outcome of the game. If the mistake is harmless, make sure to talk to the junior referee at half/or end of the game.

Punctuality and Assignments:

- **You must be on your field 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.**
- **Availability sheets need to be filled out and either dropped in the referee box or emailed to me by Sunday evening.**
- **Assignments will be made by the following Tuesday and sent to you via email and posted on the referee website.**
- **Assignments will be based on: availability, experience, age, performance, and reliability. (If you take a game and do not show it will effect your reliability and will cost you games in the future)**
- **If you have a change in your availability or have to give up a game you must contact me ASAP (no later than Thursday).**