

## REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the referee's responsibility to promote **safe, orderly, enthusiastic** and **fun** soccer within the Laws of the Game and the GEYSO Guidelines.

### Pre-Game Duties

- A. Arrive 10-15 minutes before game time.
- B. Inspect goals, nets, and field condition. Check for debris or other conditions that will make the field not safe to play on.
- C. Inspect the player's equipments. Everyday glasses are strictly prohibited. Players must wear sports goggles or other protective eye wear. Jewelry and watches are not to be worn during games.
- D. Introduce yourself to each coach.
- E. Ask coach to provide a game ball that has the proper dimension and air.
- F. Request each coach to appoint a volunteer AR.
- G. Provide flags and give instructions to ARs. Indicate which diagonal you'll run and which area each AR should cover. Remind them that they are not allowed to coach or give out instructions.
- H. Keep all coaches, players and spectators at least 5 yards away from the sideline, and away from the back of the post.
- I. **Start the game on time!!!**

### During the Game Duties

- A. Keep the clock running. Do not extend the time or stop the clock because of injuries.
- B. **Shorten** the playing time if you are running behind schedule.
- C. Allow only 2 minutes between quarters and 4 minutes between the half.
- D. As the referee, you are the final authority. Call them as you see them, be confident, use clear signals, and blow a **FIRM** whistle. Don't worry about mistakes. All referees make them.
- E. When appropriate, explain your call to the player(s). This will help them learn the game. You do **NOT** owe explanations to coaches or spectators **during** the game. Talk to coaches, if coaches ask "nicely" for explanations after the game or during half-time.
- F. Keep up with the play, do not just stand in the middle of the field.
- G. Yellow Cards - use them when necessary.
- H. Red Cards - hopefully, you will never have to use it. Name of coach or player must be indicated in the game card and reported to the Referee Coordinator. Red Carded coach or player should be removed from the playing area.
- I. If a spectator is giving you a hard time, request the coach to handle it. If at any time, problems with coaches or spectators prevent you from doing your job well, issue a Yellow Card to the Coach and advise both coaches that the game will be **terminated** if further problems persist.

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- J. Most soccer injuries are not serious. If you have any doubt, stop the game and invite the coach to attend to the injured player. Once it is determined that an injury is not serious, get a substitute in immediately and keep the game going.
- K. Whenever there is any threat from LIGHTNING or very STRONG WINDS, suspend play and clear the playing area. Play may resume if the danger subsides.
- L. Please remind the coaches at the **BEGINNING** and at **HALFTIME** of every game that if the score starts getting out of hand (for example 8-0), that the coaches need to get together and talk about a strategy of how to keep the score closer (for example 5-4 or 10-8) so it **DOES NOT** look like we are stacking teams or trying to run up the score.

### Post-Game Duties

- A. Oversee team handshakes.
- B. Get one coach to sign the game card.
- C. Complete the game card and drop it at the Spring Avenue Rec Center.
- D. Use the game card to provide a brief explanation for any incident with coaches, players, or parents.

### Referee Equipment

- 1) Yellow with Black stripes, Black with White stripes, Red with Black stripes, Blue with Black stripes. Shirt should be buttoned, tucked in, and with current USSF Referee Patch
- 2) Black shorts (no white stripes or trimmings)
- 3) Black socks with 3 stripes on top (pulled-up)
- 4) Whistle
- 5) Flags
- 6) Stop watch