

Soccer Referee Guidelines

April, 2023

Pre-Game

Check that all gear is correct and if not, the player is not allowed to play in the game:

- Shin guards- must be under socks
- Jewelry- metal, cloth, etc must be removed
 - Tape over earrings (nose rings included) is not allowed, the earrings need to be removed
- Cleats- no cleats on the front of the shoe
- Headcovers:
 - Must be black or match shirt, professional looking, not attached to shirt (no hoodies), no brims (only beanies are allowed)
- Absolutely no slide tackles allowed! Please advise players of this at check in.

Game Time Periods

	U9	U11	U13	U16
Each half	25 Minutes	30 Minutes	35 Minutes	40 Minutes
Half time break	10 Minutes	10 Minutes	10 Minutes	10 Minutes

If there is any thunder and/or lightning **before** or **during** the game, the game must not be allowed to be played. End the game, no players are to be on the field when there is **thunder or lightning**.

If the game ends in a tie there will be **NO** PK scenario.

While not a requirement, it is very helpful to communicate how much time is left in each half.

Number of Players on the Field

	U9	U11	U13	U16
# of players including goalie	7	9	11	11
Minimum # of players	6	8	10	10

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If one team is short players, the other team **needs to play down** one player regardless of how many players the other team is down. The number of minimum players is listed above and if less than that, the game cannot be played.

Substitutions

The players waiting to join the game should be standing in the middle of the sideline so the referee knows there are subs waiting. They must enter in the middle of the field. The players coming off the field can go off at any location.

Players of a team can be substituted with the consent of the referee at any stoppage in play.

Substitutions will no longer require possession or during specific stoppages in play.

All substitution will be with the referee's permission and will no longer require possession or during specific stoppages in play.

Use of Whistle

Use of whistle is on Kickoff, Penalties that involve an action by a player, awarding a Goal, ending the half/game. You do not need to use it awarding corners, throw-ins or goal kicks but these need to be verbally called so the players know the action to take.

Common Mechanics

All officials should instruct the call made to the players so they understand why/how it took place.

Expectations-Allowances on Basic Calls (throw-ins):

- U9- One retry per team/game for first 3 weeks. All games after April 22nd, no retry.
- U11- One retry per team/game for first 3 weeks. All games after April 22nd, no retry.
- U13, U16, U18 No retries, play penalty as per US Soccer Rules

Offside

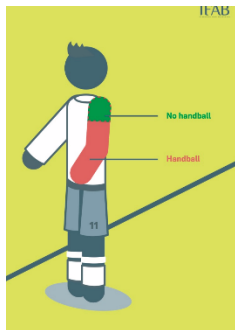
- U9, U11, U16, U18 Call as normal
- Cannot be from a goal kick, throw-in, a corner kick

Hand ball

- Player makes themselves larger than normal lifting arms outwards and ball hits below shoulder

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Heading

- U9- No heading- Indirect Kick
- U11-No heading- Indirect Kick
- U13, U16, U18 heading is permitted

Goals, Throw-ins, Goal Kicks, Corner Kicks

Awards for each event occur **ONLY** when the ball **completely** crosses the line, regardless if it is on the ground or in the air. A ball rolling along and on the touch lines is not out of bounds. If the goalie is standing behind the goal line in the goal box holding the ball, it is only a score if the ball crosses the line. Not if the goalie crosses the line.

- Goal kick balls can be played by the defensive players inside of the penalty box. It does not need to leave the box in order for players to have the ability to touch the ball.

Drop Ball

Team with possession at whistle starts the play with a drop ball at their feet. If no possession, drop ball awarded to the team that didn't cause the stoppage.

Awarding Direct Kicks

If a Direct Kick is awarded in the opposing team's penalty area, it is a Penalty Kick (PK). All other offenses will result in the kick taking place where the violation occurred. Direct Kicks are awarded due to the following offenses:

- Player action on Player- spitting, kicking, tripping, or jumping
- Handling (handball)
- Holding/pushing

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- Unsportsmanlike conduct

Awarding Indirect Kicks

Indirect Kicks are awarded at the place where the violation occurred. The following offenses result in an Indirect Kick:

- Dangerous play
- Obstructive play
- Goalie received the ball via a pass from teammate
- ~~The same team touches the ball during a goal kick but before it leaves the penalty box.~~

Advantage

Playing advantage occurs when a player makes a play that causes an offense violation but the ball goes to the opposing team. The use of advantage may result in a whistle being blown late due to waiting for the possible Advantage situation. Swing arms towards the play and state “play on” to signify that you know there was a violation but instead of stopping the play and giving the opposing team the ball, they already have the ball and are on the move.

Misconduct (Red/Yellow Carding)

Note: If there is an issue with parents, eject them from the field instead of giving them a card. The game cannot resume until that parent leaves the field. If after 5 minutes of the game being stopped waiting for that parent to leave, bring both coaches together, explain to them the issue, and end the game. You do not need to card the parents. Refs may want to remain with the coaches until everyone is cleared from the field.

The following penalties constitute a caution (Yellow), but not all inclusive:

- Dissent by a coach or player- arguments or rude comments
- Incidental use of profane language
- Trash talk
- Reckless intentional play
- Prevents a goal by intentionally causing a foul
- First offense for slide tackle

The following penalties constitute a disqualification (Red), but not all inclusive:

- A second caution/yellow card from the above list
- Violent conduct toward coach, player, patron, or official
- Spitting at any other individual

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- Using insulting, offensive, or abusive language or gesture
- Fighting

	Player receives the card	Coach receives the card
Yellow Card	-must return to the bench until the next possible substitution -may be substituted or that team will play short player until next substitution ability	-no change
Red Card	-must leave field -may not return to the game -team must play short for remainder of game -may stay with the team until the end of the game	-must leave the vicinity of the field

Misconduct by parents

The Referee should ask the parent to halt unsportsmanlike behavior and the coaches should be immediately informed of the event. If the behavior continues, the referee has the right to send the parent off the field. In the event that the referee feels uncomfortable with this action, he/she should include the coach from the team that the parent belongs with. If the parent refuses to leave, the game should be ended.

Injuries

Allow the play to continue until the ball is out of play if slightly injured. If the injury looks to be serious, stop the play and have the player removed from the field. There may be no bleeding or signs of blood on the body and/or uniform to enter back into the game.

- Game restart is with the person that had last control of the ball based on the end of the play.
- If it is a serious injury and the referee stops the game, it is a drop ball.

Comments:

Many coaches are looking to get away from drop ball start-ups completely whether with one player or two which would then result in the referee making a decision based on the last possession of the ball prior to the whistle stop.

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