

OCSC Recreation Soccer Referee Guidelines

As of April 18th, 2018 (Spring Season, 2018)

-No heading the ball for all divisions EXCEPT 11-15-year-old age group. It is a US soccer rule that no age group U11 and below should head the ball. If this occurs, the other team is awarded an INDIRECT free kick.

-Remember that games should end approximately 2 or 3 minutes to the next hour. For example, the 10:00 game should be done by 10:58. (This is very important!) This season, there will be matches played at 9am and 10am. There will be 5 fields.

-Fields 1 and 2 are for the 5/6 age group. They do NOT get referees.

-Format: two 7/8 games at 9am, one 9/10 game at 9am, one 9/10 games at 10am, and one 11/15 game at 10am.

- ****All matches **7-8 and higher** will consist of four (4) ten (10) minute periods. (**Quarters**). There will be a two (2) minute interval between periods and five (5) minutes at half-time. Teams will change ends (switch sides) at half-time. *****

-If your game starts late, make sure it still ends 2 or 3 minutes to the next hour. For example, if the 9:00 game doesn't start until 9:15 You may need to modify the lengths of the quarters.

-Be firm on the field! Don't let the coaches or parents intimidate you. If parents or kids are on the field of play or too close, tell them to move away. Make every call confident even if you completely screwed it up. Don't let the parents or coaches make the calls. USE YOUR WHISTLE! Everyone should be able to hear your whistle.

-The goalie should be in a different color. There are pinnies in the shed for the goalie if the coach doesn't have one.

-ONE coach per team is allowed on the field to coach for 7-8 and 9-10 groups. All other people or coaches should remain on the sideline with subs.

-ALL PLAYERS MUST HAVE SHIN GUARDS!

-For rec referees, payment will be in the end of the season, in the form of a gift card based on the amount of games you did.

-For **the 10am 11/15 age group game**, no coaches should be on the field since it's the 'older kid' game. Make sure the coaches are standing with their subs **OFF THE FIELD**. This game is on field 4 each week.

-Wear a watch if you have one or use a phone just keep it in your pocket during the games.

-Look professional. Wear black soccer/referee socks, tuck your shirt in, and wear sneakers and black soccer shorts.

-If the teams have enough kids, push for games to be started no more than 10 minutes into the hour. For example, the 10:00 game should be underway by 10:10. It's your responsibility to go to both coaches and get the game rolling.

FORMAT FOR 7-8 AND 9-10 GROUPS:

-The 7-8 & 9-10 divisions may play either 5v5 or 6v6 games. (Plus a goalie).

-If teams are allocated 11 players per team, the games should use a 6v6 format.

-If 10 players are allocated per team, a 5v5 format should be used.

-However, in 6v6 format games, the coaches may agree to play 5v5 format if there is a shortage of players at the start of the game. The game format must be determined at the start of the game and ****the game format cannot be changed once the game has started!!!****

FORMAT FOR 11-15 GROUP:

-There is ONE team for this age group. They will divide up and play each week. Make sure the teams are in different colors (use pinnies if available). 2 referees are provided for this game, so use a two-man system.

- ***For all age groups, **Substitutions are permitted between periods only**, (so every 10 minutes) except in the case of injury. If a player is removed because of injury, the referee must be notified and will waive the substitute player in.***

-If not enough rostered players are available for a game, guest players may be substituted. (Of course, age appropriate)

-In 7-8 and above, call the game like a regular soccer game. **Offsides for 7-8 and 9-10 should be called but use cautionary discretion.** Only call it if it is obvious, or the player gains a significant advantage. In 11-15 age group, call offsides normally.

-Penalty kicks for 7-8 age should be taken 10 yards back and for 9-10 and above, the penalty kick should be taken 12 yards back. The biggest thing is make sure it is a safe distance. (Count out the steps-there usually isn't a PK maker painted.)

-**Safety** is a referee's top priority. If you think a player is injured or in danger at any time, stop play. For an injury, restart play with a drop ball. You may need to explain to the kids how to do a drop ball restart.

-Just like a regular FIFA game, any *foul* or *handball* is restarted with a *direct kick*. (besides in the goalie box, then it's a PK). A *dangerous play* or "pass back" is restarted with an *indirect kick*. For 7-8, don't call the first pass back they may have. Once this occurs, explain to the goalie (and possibly the coach) the infraction. Many players and coaches don't know you cannot pass the ball back to your goalie to pick up.

-One of the biggest calls you will probably make is an illegal thrown in. In each age group, you should deal with it slightly differently. As the groups get older, you should have higher expectations from the players. For 7&8 group, give the kids a couple warnings. **USE YOUR JUDGEMENT!** If a player is sincerely struggling, give them a few chances and explain to them or show them what they need to do. If they are just being lazy or trying to gain an advantage, make the call and reward the other team the throw in. For 9&10, there is no need to give multiple warnings. After about 2 or 3 team warnings, call the illegal thrown in. Again, **use your judgment!!** In 11-14 group, there is no need for any warning at all.

-For some 11-14 games, a two-man system was assigned. That should make calling offsides and thrown ins much easier since each referee should be on a sideline. If you aren't sure how to properly run a two-man system look it up online or please let me know.

-Have Fun! Just like the players, referees should have an enjoyable experience out on the field.

-ANY questions during or between games, please call or text Max at 845-220-8574.