

Key Points

Record of the Game –

- Complete the lineup card / match report and put it in the file holder in the storage bin.
- Keep track of your games as an Asst Referee or Center Referee by Date, Time, Field and Age group.

Whistle techniques –

- All kick-offs require a Referee signal. To start the game this is usually a single whistle tweet.
- Blow the whistle once for fouls or to stop play with appropriate intensity depending on severity and circumstances
- Blow the whistle 2 times at the end of the 1st half.
- Blow the whistle 3 times at the end of the 2nd half.

Game Time Recording –

- To keep the next games starting (and ending) on time, be sure that your game starts at the scheduled time.
- At team check-in, politely remind coaches that substitution breaks are not coaching sessions.
- The 1st and 2nd half end when time runs out according to the Center Referee.

Pre-Game –

- Always conduct a pre-game with your Assistant Referees that explains what their responsibilities are.
- If "club linesman" (non-certified referees/parents) are used, only allow them to "call" in and out of touch, direction of the throw-in, but NO Offside or Fouls.
- Be ready to start the check-in at least 15 minutes before game time.
- If games are still being played on the field, conduct the Pre-Game, Team Check-in and coin toss off the field so that your game can start on time.

Mentoring –

- Experienced Referees are available to mentor.
- Please contact the Referee Administrator.

Positive Sideline Behavior –

- All coaches (and parents) should exhibit positive sideline behavior at all times.
- Questioning or negative commenting on the Referees call/non-calls is not tolerated.

- Immediately address this with the coach by having them enter the field and reminding them their support of the Volunteer Referees is requested.
- Coaches are welcome and encouraged to contact the Regional Referee Administrator, Rick Sedivy, referee@ayso55.org, to discuss any aspect of the officiating.
- Please also report any incidents of negative sideline behavior to Rick Sedivy.

Handling the Ball Deliberately –

- This occurs infrequently in most games.
- The ball merely touching the hand is not a violation regardless of where the ball drops.
- Handling the ball must be deliberate intent on the part of the player.
- As a general guideline, if the ball plays the hand, no foul; if the hand plays the ball, foul.
- The hand is defined as the shoulder seam line on down to the fingertips.

Stay with Play –

- As a general rule, the Referee should be within 10 - 15 yards of play using a bungee cord approach.
- This will require some running.
- The reason is simple; a Referee can't call what he/she didn't see.
- If you (or your Assistant Referee) didn't see it, you can't call it.

Yellow and Red Cards –

- These are never issued at the U6, U8 and U10 level.
- Work cooperatively with the coaches for any situations.

Soccer is a contact sport –

- Players can be expected to make contact with their opponents during the course of play; this is NOT a foul.
- Players at the U10 level do fall down a lot trying to play the ball.

Goalkeeper Protection –

- Goalkeepers put themselves at increased risk by doing what they're supposed to do.
- Referees must firmly enforce no physical attack on the goalkeepers while they have possession of the ball.
- This includes even when the goalkeeper has one finger on the ball.

Goal Kick Ball Placement –

- Once the ball has been placed for a goal kick in the 6 yard Goal Area, players should not pick the ball up and move it.
- Verbally inform/warn players not to move the ball once it has been placed on the ground.

Slide Tackles –

- This is legal provided the player is NOT contacted before the ball.
- A slide tackler who misses the ball is not penalized if the opponent then trips over the missed tackle when they easily could have jumped over them.

Goalkeeper "Pass Back" –

- This requires a teammate to deliberately kick the ball where the goalkeeper can pick it up.
- A teammate's shanked kick does not meet the violation requirement.
- The ball does not need to be kicked backwards to the goalkeeper; the direction doesn't matter.

Playing the Ball while on the Ground –

- As long the player does not endanger themselves or others, there is nothing wrong with playing the ball while they are on the ground.

Offside Violation –

- Wait a few seconds to be sure the violation occurs.
- If in doubt, do NOT call it.
- Remember, the violation is judged when the ball is last touched/played by a teammate; not when the ball is received.

Penalty Kicks -

- If a penal foul occurs in the Penalty area against the Defense, a Penalty Kick must be awarded (there is no option)
- Be sure that all players are in the proper position before allowing the penalty kick to proceed.
- Watch for the ball coming off the cross bar or uprights and played again by the kicker before another player touches the ball (second touch!).

Goalkeeper Kicking the Ball -

- If a goalkeeper takes a small step beyond the Penalty area (18 yard line), verbally warn them to watch the line. If it happens again – hand ball!

Attitude -

- Show respect to the players, coaches and spectators; it's the best way to earn it.
- Have fun!
- Smile!
- Don't dwell on mistakes, but admit them upon realization.
- Talk to other refs and learn!