

Referee Information Kit Fall, 2014 Soccer



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Playing Rules

In 1990 the West Hartford Youth Soccer Association adopted the FIFA rules in their entirety as the laws governing recreational games. FIFA rules will be enforced during recreational play. Exceptions to FIFA rules are delineated below. First, however, it is important that several concepts of the game be understood. The Mites have developed their own interpretation of the rules to better fit in with the intent of that Division. The intent is to keep the game flowing and to minimize calls for offsides, hand balls, unintentional tripping, goalie distribution errors, and throw ins. The Mites referees and coaches are aware

e of this approach and make allowance in the way calls are made. These variations are discussed with Mites coaches in the pre-season meetings and clinics.

Basic Concepts And Definitions

1. **Advantage** - A discretionary judgment which allows an official to permit play to continue rather than stopping play to administer the foul, based on the premise that the foul did not put the offended team at a disadvantage, or the foul, if called, may take away a favorable opportunity for the offended team.
2. **Intentional foul** - A foul which results, in the judgment of the official, when an act appears to be designed or premeditated. The fact that the ball touched a player's hand or shoulder, or that one player was tripped by another, does not, in and of itself, constitute a foul. The referee has to judge that the foul was done intentionally.
3. **Encroachment** - The act, by one or more defenders, of advancing within 10 yards of the ball prior to the taking of a free kick.
4. **Interference with play** - The position or act of a player which impedes an opponent, hampers a goalkeeper's movement, significantly distracts an opponent, or obstructs the sight of the ball. Timing of the movement of the ball and the player influences the determination of whether interference occurred.

The following clarifies some rules which have been in doubt or controversial in the past, or that have been adopted as WHYSA FIFA rule modifications:

LAW I - The Field of Play

1. Parents and coaches are not allowed beyond the penalty box lines under game circumstances. That is, they may not stand on the portion of the touchlines that are within 18 yards (in mites, 6 yards) of the endlines (goal lines)
2. Teams shall be on the opposite side of the field of parents and spectators. (Mites may be either side.)
3. No unauthorized marks may be drawn on the field, including by goalkeepers.
4. The size of the field for Mites & Pre-Juniors will be smaller, measuring 50-70 yards long by 30-50 yards wide. Also, for mites there will be no penalty area demarcated; the goal area will also be the area in which the goalkeeper may use his/her hands. Outside of the goal area, the goalkeeper may not use his/her hands

LAW II - The Ball

1. Size of ball is: MITES - size 3 JUNIOR & PRE-JUNIORS DIVISION - size 4 SENIORS DIVISION - size 5.
2. The home team should supply the ball, properly inflated. Only one official ball should be used per game.

LAW III - Number of Players (and substitutions)

1. An unlimited number of substitutions will be permitted as follows:
 - *prior to a goal-kick, by either team
 - *between periods, by either team
 - *following the scoring of a goal, by either team
 - *prior to a throw-in (team with ball possession only)
 - *following stoppage of play for an injury, by either team
2. There must be a minimum of 7 players on a team to start and continue the game. Mites & Pre-Juniors teams will be eight on a side maximum (7 players and a goalie)
3. An injured player does not have to leave the field if there is a stoppage of play.
4. NO coaches or parents may be on the field or along the goal lines during play.
5. All players must play a minimum of 50% of the game.

LAW IV - Players' Equipment

1. Shin guards, shirts/jerseys, shorts, socks, and approved footwear (shoes) all are required. Note: shin guards must be fully covered by the socks.
2. Sweat pants are not permitted to be worn by players, except by goalkeepers if the state of the field or weather conditions make it appropriate. Mites players may wear sweat pants at the discretion of the coaches.

3. Lycra pants ("undergarments" or "bicycling shorts") may be worn with the following stipulation: they must be of the same color as the shorts of the team of the player wearing them and not extend farther than the top of the knee. If the shorts of the team are two-color, the undergarment must match the predominating color of the shorts.
4. Players may not wear dangerous items, including jewelry, watches, bracelets (even soft, woven bracelets). The referee has sole discretion to determine the safety of any item. It is prudent for coaches to inform players early in the season before the first game that they should remove these items prior to coming to the field of play.

LAWS V and VI - Referees and Assistant Referees

1. Mites & Pre-Juniors division games will be assigned one referee. (S)he may use club Assistant Referees as desired.
2. Junior division games will use three-man teams (one referee and two Assistant Referees).
3. Senior division games will endeavor to use one middle referee and two Assistant Referees, utilizing the FIFA 3-person officiating team.
4. Game ejections (red cards) must be reported to the Supervisor of Refereeing within 24 hours of the action.

LAW VII - Duration of the Game

1. Pre-Juniors, Juniors, & Seniors Divisions will play 15 minute quarters. Mites division will play 12 minute quarters.
2. Teams will not switch halves of the field after each quarter; they will switch at the half-time.
3. The clock will not be stopped during the game, but the referee should add time for stoppage of the game.

LAW VIII - The Start of Play

No changes.

LAW IX - Ball In and Out of Play

No changes. Coaches should note that the whole of the ball must completely cross the boundary lines for the ball to be out of play.

LAW X - Method of Scoring

No changes.

Law XI - Off-side

There will be no offside called in the mites division. Referees should note if there are specific players who are "goal hanging" and advise the coach that this is not considered appropriate and is against the spirit of the game. A referee may caution (yellow card) a player who is continually goal hanging.

LAWS XII-XIV - Fouls & Misconduct, Free Kicks, Penalty Kicks

1. For mites division there shall be no direct free kicks or penalty kicks. All kicks due to fouls or misconduct shall be indirect free kicks. No indirect free kicks may be taken within the goal area by the attacking team; the ball should be placed on the goal area line which runs parallel to the goal line, at the point nearest to where the offense was committed. The defending team awarded an indirect free kick from an offense committed within the goal area may take its kick from any point within the goal area.
2. In the mites division, prior to taking an indirect free kick opponents must be 6 yards away from the ball; for goal kicks opponents must be 10 yards away from the ball.

LAWS XV - Throw-in

For mites division a second throw-in must be allowed if the player commits a foul on the initial attempt. The Referee shall explain the proper method before allowing the player to re-throw.

LAWS XVI-XVII - Goal kick, corner kick

No changes. It should be noted, however, that coaches should instruct players that the ball simply must be on the line of the arc. It need not be within the arc for a corner kick. Ball must be within the goal area for a goal kick.

Quick List of Fouls and Misconduct

FOULS - DIRECT

Fouls **against an opponent** which results in a *direct free kick*:

- kick or attempt to kick
- trip or attempt to trip
- jump at
- charge
- strike or attempt to strike
- push
- hold
- spit at
- tackles, making contact with the opponent before making contact with the ball
- handles the ball deliberately (except the keeper within his own penalty area)

FOULS - INDIRECT

Fouls **committed by anyone** which result in an *indirect free kick*:

- dangerous play
- impeding the progress of an opponent
- prevent goalkeeper from releasing ball from his hands

Fouls **committed by the goalkeeper** in his own penalty area which result in an *indirect free kick*:

- taking more than four steps
- handling the ball after he has released it and it hasn't been touched by any player
- handling the ball after it was deliberately played to him by a team-mate
- handling the ball from a throw-in by a team-mate

MISCONDUCT - YELLOW CARD

Misconduct that results in a **caution** (yellow card):

- dissent by word or action
- unsporting behavior
- persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
- enter or re-enter field without permission
- delay the restart of play
- "encroachment"
- deliberately leave field without permission

MISCONDUCT - RED CARD

Misconduct that results in a **send-off** (red card):

- serious foul play
- violent conduct
- spitting at an opponent or any person
- denying a goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball
- denying a goal-scoring opportunity by free-kick punishable offense
- offensive, insulting, or abusive language
- second caution in the same match

Referee Guides

The purpose of refereeing is to insure that games are played with the following objectives:

Safety - First and foremost it is the referee's duty to attempt to maintain conditions in the vicinity of and on the field that encourage safe play and minimize any possible hazards to players, coaches, and spectators. The referee must use common sense and discretion in assessing possibly unsafe conditions. Where there is doubt in the referee's mind as to the safety of a situation, he/she should err in the direction of assuring safety and avoiding injury.

Fairness - The spirit of the game should be maintained at all times by players, coaches, spectators, parents, and officials.

"The International Football Association Board received many suggestions for improving the game and alterations to the laws, and such suggestions were carefully studied. *It is the belief of the Board, however, that the spirit in which the game is played is of paramount importance* and that changes in the laws to improve the game as a spectacle are of little value if 'fair play' is not universally observed." FIFA statement issued in Dubrovnik, 1968 (*italics added*).

"The laws of the game and the rulings of the International Board and FIFA cannot of themselves bring about the exemplary code of behavior which is so often referred to as 'the spirit of the game'. If football is to continue to be one of the great and most popular games in the world, then those who take part in it must keep up its great tradition. Everyone wishes to win but true sportsmen can find small satisfaction in a victory won by unfair means. The spirit of the law must be observed as well as the letter of the law." FIFA directive, 1957.

Players or coaches should not be looking to gain unfair advantage by violating the laws of the game, or using unfair intimidation or maneuvers toward referees or players of the opposing team. It is expressly against the spirit of the game for coaches or players to express dissent at the call or opinion of the referee

Equality - Both teams should have equal chances to play to win, hence the reason for switching sides of the field at the half-time, and the reason for equal overtime periods during playoffs. Objectivity - The referee should be objective and non-biased in his/her assessment of action on the field. Non-interference in the game - The referee is present to assure games are played safely, fairly and equally, and is at his/her best when he is little noticed. The game is for the enjoyment of the players and spectators; the referee should control the game without being a conspicuous object in the game.

Consistency - Players, coaches, and spectators have reason to expect the referee to enforce the laws of the game consistently. It must be recognized that different referees will interpret situations based on their experience, judgment, knowledge of the game, estimation of intention of action of players, and split-second assessment of advantage and interference of players in the game. Coaches, players, and spectators should recognize that judgment calls are to be left to the discretion of the referee. Where there are questions about the laws of the game during a game, the referee's decision will be final.

Discretion Of Referees

While a referee is attending at the field of play, he/she has full discretion to:

- *enforce the laws of the game
- *call fouls
- *allow players on and off the field, including substitutions
- *remove players from the field of play
- *apply the advantage clause
- *determine if the field, ball, weather, equipment, etc. is safe for continued play
- *keep time of the game
- *stop a game for injury
- *terminate a game
- *determine intention

Humanity Of Referees

Coaches, players, and spectators should recognize that referees are human and make mistakes at all
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levels of the game. They will be making over 100 decisions per game; some may be questionable or wrong, but coaches and players should refrain from dissenting with the decision of a referee. In some instances, the referee will not see an incident that others off the field or on the field may see. This can happen because of the referee's attention being focused elsewhere (for example, during an "off the ball" foul), or simply because the referee is shielded from seeing the incident by another player or a body part (e.g., a hand ball by a player that is facing away from the referee). As far as the game is concerned, "If the referee didn't see it, it didn't happen."

Refereeing Mites Games

Players, coaches, and spectators should recognize the difference between refereeing mites games and refereeing older children's games. Referees have been instructed to be in a slightly different frame of mind when refereeing mites games. The referee should be more concerned about being a teacher and guide than a strict disciplinarian or rigid law enforcer. Most mites do not have the skills or understanding of the game to intentionally commit fouls or flout the rules. Some mites will be naturally overly aggressive, but most are more cautious and fearful during play than they are skilled or wild-eyed.

As such, the referee has been instructed to follow the rules of play but give the kids a chance to correct their mistakes without unfairly providing an advantage. For example:

allowing incorrect throw-ins to be retaken and instructing players about what he/she did wrong the first time;

not being overly strict on the ball placement for an indirect free kick as long as a significant advantage is not gained by someone incorrectly placing the ball;

explaining all infractions to the offending player;

if a child is swinging with the foot dangerously at the ball only because of poor soccer skills rather than with intent to injure the other child, speaking to him/her about it but calling the penalty only when repeated violations occur or there is true danger to the other children because of the action.

Finally, the game should be fun and not futile for the kids. If a parent or coach is yelling too much or in any way is verbally abusing the children, the referees have been instructed to speak with that overly conscientious coach or parent. If a score is being run up by one side too much, referees have been instructed to speak with the coach and ask him/her to play a defensive game (move the better offensive players to the back of the field, or if they have had their 50% play time, substitute them). If significant resistance from a particular coach is encountered, the referee will ask for the coach's name and report that person to the Supervisor of Refereeing.

Obligations Of Players And Coaches To Refereeing

WHYSA believes that all players coaches should be thoroughly familiar with the Laws of the Game, and should demonstrate that familiarity through service to the Association. Refereeing is not an easy task; it is difficult to recruit the number of referees and Assistant Referees necessary to produce high quality officiating. Hence, the WHYSA has instituted, effective fall, 1994, the following requirements:

All players in the recreation league, age 12 and over, must attend a basic WHYSA Laws of the Game and Assistant Referees Training course as part of a regularly scheduled practice session. (2 hours)

A second 2 hour training course will be offered to players 12 and over to qualify as a Rookie Referee.

All coaches should attend a basic Laws of the Game course prior to beginning the season of play.

Recreational Program - Referee Classification

Senior Referee	<i>(Adult 2 or more years experience over 18)</i>
Junior Referee	<i>(Youth 2 or more years experience under 18)</i>
Novice Referee	<i>(Youth less than 2 years experience under 18)</i>
Rookie Referee	<i>(1st year graduate)</i>

Recommended Referee Assignment

Senior Referee	(Seniors Division Center) (2 or 3 man team)
	(Juniors Division Center) (2 or 3 man team)
Junior Referee	(Juniors Division Center) (2 or 3 man team)

Novice Referee (Pre-Juniors Division Center) *(Single Official)*
 (Seniors Juniors Division Assistant Referee)
 (Mites Division Center) *(Single Official)*

Rookie Referee (Seniors Juniors Division Assistant Referee)
 (Mites Division Center) *(Single Official)*
 (Travel Division Assistant Referee) *(Friendly Game - 3-man team)*

Payments:

West Hartford Girls Soccer League

All recreational games Referees must collect from the team coach a Payment Voucher for each game. Properly fill and mail the voucher to the treasurer. Checks will be send every 4 weeks. All Travel games Referees will be paid at the game.

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All Recreational games Referees must collect from the team coach a nine-character password for each game. They will be paid only after they have gone on line, login, enter, the nine-character password exactly as it is printed on the handout give to you at your game and successfully complete the invoice Checks will be send every 4 weeks All Travel games Referees will be paid at the game.

Referee Fee Schedule	Seniors Division Center	\$.30.00
	Seniors Div. Assistant Referee.....	\$20.00
	Juniors Division Center..	\$25.00
	Juniors Div. Assistant Referee	\$15.00
	Mites Division Center	\$20.00

The only official allowed to take two checks will be the Senior Division Assistant Referee when officiating as part of a 2-man team (at a Senior Division game) and only if he/she is approved by the Senior Division Center Referee in charge.

Disciplinary Actions

It is the policy of the WHYSA to encourage appropriate behavior of coaches and players during games. Coaches are role models and should set the proper tone for their players. They are not to criticize referees verbally; nor should they blame game losses or wins on referees. Instead, they should concentrate on encouraging their players to improve their play, encourage players to concentrate on the game rather than the refereeing, and point out any incorrect applications of laws of the game in a calm and studied manner away from the field of play, preferably at practices and not at the games themselves.

As a reminder, it is the policy of the WHYSA that coaches are responsible for the behavior of their assistant coaches and parents, as well as their players. If a coach observes actions by a player or parent that are not within the spirit of the game, that coach should speak with the player or coach, and, if necessary, ask the offending person to leave the area of the game. If a referee requests that a coach speak with an assistant coach, parent, or player, it is the responsibility of the coach to do so.

Occasionally coaches or players exhibit less than exemplary behavior and require reminders from referees that their behavior should improve. When a referee feels that a coach’s, assistant coach’s, or spectator’s behavior has gotten out of hand, either following a prior warning, or if the initial action by the offending individual is beyond reason, the referee may eject that person from the field of play.

Disciplinary Actions as a Result of a Game Ejection

of a Coach or Assistant Coach

Ejection's of a head coach or assistant coach from the playing area must be reported to the Supervisor of Refereeing and the President of WHYSA within 24 hours of the incident. The offending coach will then be notified by the Supervisor that (s)he has been assessed an automatic two game suspension and will be banned from attending the next two games as both spectator and official. Any subsequent ejection will also result in an automatic two game suspension.

It is important that WHYSA build up our supply of qualified referees, and that referees enjoy refereeing without the constant threat of coach intimidation. There may be occasions when a coach or parent has been abusive to a referee, who, feeling intimidated or uncertain of him/herself will be uncertain as to how to respond. This may be especially true with younger referees. Referees have been instructed to report such behavior to the Supervisor of Refereeing. The Supervisor, after investigation, may suspend the offending individual from the following game at the judgment of the Supervisor. Further such behavior will be brought before the executive committee of the WHYSA for appropriate longer-term disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Actions as a Result of a Game Ejection of a Player

Ejection of a player (red card for any reason) must be reported to the Supervisor of Refereeing within 24 hours. The supervisor will then formally notify the player's coach of the automatic suspension. (First red card for the season will result in automatic one game suspension; second red card during the season will result in a two game suspension; third card - three games, etc.) It will be the responsibility of the Supervisor of Refereeing to track red cards issued and game suspensions and to pass this information on to game referees and opposing head coaches.

Unless it occurs repetitively (over more than one game) by an individual player, game suspensions will not be assessed for red cards issued to a player for "ball handling to deny the opponent an obvious chance of scoring a goal.

Disciplinary Actions as a Result of a Team not Playing on the Designated Dates & Fields

If the referee fails to show up, a representative from each of the teams shall be responsible for officiating one half of the game. If the teams decide not to play their game, it will be recorded as a loss (0) points in the standings for both teams. If one team does not show up for their game, or decides not to play the game, it will be recorded as a loss (0) points in the standings for that team and a win (2) points in the standing for the other team.

WHYSA policy is that no smoking is permitted by coaches, assistant coaches, referees, players, or spectators on the field or in the vicinity of the field.

Resolution of Tie Games

Team Standings - (Order of finish for players)

1. Team standings shall be determined by overall regular season record based on two (2) points for a win and one (1) point for a tie.
2. Head to Head competition.
3. Overall division record based on two (2) points for a win and one (1) point for a tie (for Junior Division only).
4. Lowest total of goals allowed during the regular season.

Tie Games

Regular season games, which are tied at the end of regulation shall end in a tie.

Play-off games that are tied after regulation will be resolved by two (2) extra time periods. During the extra time played at the end of normal playing time, the team which scores the first goal is declared the winner (Golden Goal). If a tie still exists at the end of the first extra time period, team shall change ends. If a tie still exists at the end of the second extra time period penalty kicks shall be taken to obtain a result, according to the following procedures:

1. The referee shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks shall be taken.
2. He shall toss a coin, and the team whose captain wins the toss shall take the first kick.
3. (a) Subject to the terms of the following paragraphs (c) and (d), both teams shall take 11 kicks.
(b) The kicks shall be taken alternately.
(c) If, before both teams have take 11 kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could, even if it were to complete 11 kicks, the taking of kicks shall cease.
(d) If, after both teams have taken 11 kicks, both have scored the same number of goals, or have not scored any goals, the taking of kicks shall continue, in the same order, until such time as both have taken an equal number of kicks (not necessarily 11 more kicks) and one has scored a goal more than the other.
4. The team which scores the greater number of goals, whether the number of kicks taken is in accordance with the terms of the forgoing paragraph 3(a), 3(c), or 3(d), shall qualify for the next round of the competition, or shall be declared winner of the competition, as the case may be.
5. (a) With the exception referred to in the following paragraph (b) only the players who are on the field of play at the end of the match, which shall mean at the end of extra time in so far as a match in which extra time is authorized is concerned, and who, having left the field temporarily with or without the referee's permission are not on the field at that time shall take part in the taking of the kicks.
(b) Provided that his team has not already made use of the maximum number of substitutes permitted by the rules of the competition under which the match was played, a goalkeeper who sustains an injury during the taking of the kicks, and who because of injury is unable to continue as goalkeeper, may be replaced by a substitute
6. Each kick shall be taken by a different player, and not until all eligible player of any team, including the goalkeeper or the named substitute by whom he was replaced in terms of paragraph 5 as the case may be have each taken a kick, may a player of the same team take a second kick.
7. Subject to the terms of paragraph 5, any player who is eligible may change places with the goalkeeper at any time during the taking of the kicks.
8. (a) Other than the player taking a kick from the penalty mark, and the two goalkeepers, all players shall remain within the center circle while the taking of kicks is in progress.
(b) The goalkeeper who is a colleague of the kicker shall take up a position within the field of play, outside the penalty area at which the kicks are being taken, behind the line, which runs parallel with the goal-line and at least 10 yards from the penalty-mark.

In the event of light failing before the end of the taking of kicks from the penalty mark, the result shall be decided by the toss of a coin or the drawing of lots.

Championship games which are tied after regulation will be resolved by no more than two (2) full ten minute overtime periods. At the end of the first overtime period, teams shall change ends. If a tie still exists, the game shall end in a draw and co-champions shall be declared.

CJSA: Silent Sidelines
SILENT SIDELINES
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Dear Coach, Manager & Soccer Parent:

The Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) has enjoyed strong growth over the past several years. This growth has led to an increase in inexperienced coaches and parents unfamiliar with the rules of the game. Due to sideline intervention from coaches and parents the development of our players has begun to suffer and we have lost many excellent youth referees.

We need to have a greater awareness of this problem and we hope to do that by proposing SILENT SIDELINES. The CJSA would like you to take part in this experiment to see how it impacts your children. The objective of this weekend is to provide each player one weekend of their season that is free of all distractions that are caused by parents and/or coaches screaming or yelling directions at them. Also, to give them the opportunity to show us they can play the game of soccer without our interference.

The goals of SILENT SIDELINES are to:

- 1) develop our players to make decisions on the field without sideline intervention;
- 2) improve the players' communication on the field by reducing the outside noise level;
- 3) support our youth referees by eliminating all dissension from the sidelines.

Guidelines for this weekend are simple. Parents are to be quiet, talking only in a normal tone to the person next to them. What is to be avoided are comments that can be heard by players, referees or opponents. Coaches are to be quiet, giving only normal coaching instructions before the game, at half time and after the game. (No raising your voice or screaming at players.) The referee and the coach will acknowledge substitutions by having the players standing at the halfway line ready to go in. Giving these players instructions in normal tones is permissible. All parents and coaches should provide self-enforcement of the intent of the program.

This program works. Many states have already implemented a SILENT SIDELINES with great success. The results have shown an awareness by both coaches and parents of the players' development. In addition, youth referee participation has increased. Be creative and use your imagination, instead of vocal comments; use signs, posters or tape (if someone can't cooperate). Try it and see how much fun you and your children will have. For the sake of our kids, we are asking for one weekend of silence, where we can stand back and watch them figure out what to do without adult interference. We hope everyone in the CJSA will promote and support SILENT SIDELINES and give the game back to the kids.

Kathy Zolad
CJSA President