

2005 Region 14 Referee Guidelines

Regional Decisions: If you must use a red or yellow card please observe the following guidelines:

Show the red or yellow card to the player or to the coach but do not show the red or yellow card to a spectator. If it becomes necessary to caution (the equivalent of a yellow card) or to ask a spectator to leave (the equivalent of a red card ejection), do so through the coach. Make sure to identify the spectator to the coach and explain the circumstances. Make sure that the coach understands that he, the coach, must provide the spectator's name to the referee before the game is over. The coach must also tell that spectator that they are to leave the area and be out of 'sight and sound' and that he/she is not permitted to attend the next game.

If you issue a red card to a player—they are not to leave the area, but must sit away from the other players and spectators and not interfere with the game. This is a youth safety issue. Players who receive a red may not participate in the next game.

YOU MUST FILL IN A MISCONDUCT FORM THE SAME DAY AS THE INCIDENT OCCURRED and call the Referee Administrator for a verbal report as well. Misconduct forms are available through the web.

Most of your games will go flawlessly, however it is important that referees control coaches and spectators who become overly critical or argumentative. Obviously, an unacceptable behavior (such as a curse word) is an immediate send off—no warning is necessary. But what about a coach/spectator whose behavior is disruptive but does not warrant a send off? It is best not to ignore this kind of behavior—take action by warning the offender (a simple verbal “coach, that’s enough” or similar may suffice. If the culprit is a spectator, work through the coach). If the behavior does not change after repeated warnings from the referee then a caution may be issued. How many times should you warn a coach/spectator? There is no set number, but it should not be unlimited warnings with no action. Be fair and firm and be prepared to recognize when ‘enough’ is ‘enough.’ If you don’t take action, the offender will continue to disrupt your game and future games as well. Report all yellow and red cards to the referee administrator and write your comments on the back of the game card, too.

Safety Issues

Make sure that all the nets have been staked. Check fields for open sprinkler heads, gopher holes, etc.

U12 and U14 Guidelines

The Laws of Soccer apply. There are no second throw in offered.

U10 Guidelines:

The Laws of Soccer apply with a few caveats:

1. **Second throw in attempts are allowed** for the entire month of September. Be sure that the same player throws in the second ball. If the second attempt is also unacceptable quickly explain what the problem is and award the ball to the other team.
2. **Red and Yellow Cards** for players are very unlikely in U10. Use your judgment and common sense (over the last three years only a couple of yellow cards have been issued).
3. **Report problems:** the region depends on you, the referees, to keep the Referee Staff informed. Be sure to write down any game problems on the back of the card or call the Referee Administrator to discuss your concerns.

U8 Guidelines:

1. **Have fun, keep it moving and enjoy the game.** U8 is where the players learn to play, the coaches learn to coach and the referees learn to referee. Relax, do the best you can and feel free to ask questions about anything that you experience.
2. **Games have two 20-minute halves—with a one-minute substitution at quarter break (which is about half way through each half.) Half-Time should be no longer than five-minutes.** Try not to let the coaches exceed one or two minutes—nicely (but firmly) remind them to get their team(s) back into position and ready to play. Do not start the game until the goalie is at his/her own goal. (Hint: Before restarting play, announce to the players what the restart will be. For example if the blue team is throwing the ball in, announce “throw in by blue.”)
3. **The games should start and MUST end on time.** Even if the game is started late, delayed because of injury or excessively long quarter breaks—etc., the game absolutely ends at 10 minutes to the hour. Coaches that have a problem with that should be reported to me.
4. **Remind coaches and parents not to come on the field at quarter break.** Remind players they may not leave the field at quarter, unless being substituted.
5. **Parents, spectators and coaches are not allowed around the penalty area or near the goal.** If they are in these areas, wait for a stoppage in play, blow the whistle and request the person to move up field to the area designated for them. If it is a spectator you should enlist the coaches help. Note any problems on the card. (Hint: if the coach wanders down into the penalty area, first try pointing to the midway line and saying, nicely “coach, please move back to your coaches’ box.” If the coach persists or will not comply, note that information on the back of the game card and the referee administrator will speak to the coach).
6. **Second throw in attempts are allowed for the entire season.** Be sure that the same player throws in the second ball. If the second attempt is also unacceptable quickly explain what the problem is and award the ball to the other team.
7. **Offside does not apply, there are no penalty kicks or direct free kicks anywhere near the goal.** The U8 fields have the equivalent of six and 18-yard lines and all the other normal rules of soccer apply.
8. **You may be instructive, but please do not coach the players.** For example, you may remind a goalie, who is in danger of crossing the 18 yard line, to pay attention, but don’t advise the goalie on how to kick the ball.

9. **Fill in your game cards, note sportsmanship points on back and be sure to report any problems on the back of the card.** Track players who are substituted each quarter and who the goalie is. Everybody plays at least three quarters of the game. However, if a player does not wish to play—do not make them. Note the reason on the back of the card (this is not a big deal, let the coaches deal with problem if there is one).
10. **We do not keep score in U8.**
11. **Do not issue any yellow or red cards to any player.** If there is a problem, ask the coach to sit the player out and note it on the back of the card.
12. **Listen to the coaches' interactions with their team.** AYSO teaches PIE (positive, instructive and encouraging). Most coaches are very mindful of the age group they are coaching. But if a coach's comments or instructions are not in the spirit of PIE, please remind that coach to be encouraging. *Remember that volume is not a PIE issue*; a loud coach that encourages the players is acceptable. If you request that a coach be more positive, but he continues to poorly interact with the players (or is argumentative with the referee) it is important—for the kids and for other referees who will do later games with that coach—that you write your observations on the back of the game card so that we can monitor the next game. It is unlikely that you would need to issue a card for this kind of behavior (but, again, let us know about it.) Mark down the Coach's Sportsmanship points.
13. **Spectator comments.** If you hear negative spectator(s) comments about your referee calls or about players on the field (for either team), wait for the ball to go out of play. Then call the coach(es) onto the field. If you know who was making the comments identify that spectator and ask to coaches to please remind the spectators not to argue with the calls or comment on player's activity. It is very unlikely that the referee would need to issue a card for this kind of behavior. Even if your crowd control request is successful, mark down the spectator points and note the incident on the back of the card.
14. **Please use common sense in dealing with issues.** If a player, for example, misses a goal or makes an error on the field, and needs a few moments to recover, allow it. If you feel a player needs a coach to reassure them, you may invite the coach on the field. It is also okay to compliment or reassure players and to briefly explain fouls (“you lifted your foot on the throw-in”) but do not coach the players (that's why they have a coach).
15. **Blow your whistle LOUDLY when you need to start or stop play.**
16. **Have fun, keep it moving and enjoy the game.** Yep, we already said this, but it is worth repeating. 95% of the games you'll do in U8 will be uneventful. Sure, you'll make some wrong calls, and you'll miss some fouls...you'll even point the wrong way from time to time. Learn from your mistakes, refresh your memory by rereading the Law book, and ask questions. Then sign up for another U8 game...because every game you do will help you be a better referee.