



USYS
MIDWEST
-20- REGIONAL -25-
CHAMPIONSHIPS
OVERLAND PARK & OLATHE, KS

Referee Handbook
(last updated 6/13/2025)

Table of Contents

Midwest Regional Championships Referee Staff	3
Midwest Regional Championships Event Staff & VIP's	4
U.S. Soccer Appointed National Referee Coaches	5
Schedule (Thursday – Saturday)	6
Schedule (Sunday – Tuesday)	7
Schedule (Wednesday)	8
Referee Housing and Logistics	9
Responsible Fun / Social Activities	10
Field Maps & Addresses	11
Duration of the Match, Half-time, and Extra Time	13
USYS Midwest Regional Championships Playing Rules	14
Notes on Playing Rules	16
Referee Policies & Procedures	17
Official Referee Uniform	18
Match Protocol	19
Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses (USSF Document)	22
USSF Supplemental Referee Report	28
Fourth Official Game Log	29
Sample Game Report	30
Game Day Checklist	31
FIFA Considerations	32
PRO2 Match Report Writing Guide	39
Discriminatory Language During Matches	43

Midwest Regional Championships Referee Staff

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Referee Coach; USYS National League Midwest & Great Lakes Conf. Referee Assignor

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(alphabetical order)

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National Referee Coach; SRA of MO

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National Referee Coach; SRA of IN

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Referee Mentor; SYRA & Director of Instruction, MO

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Referee Mentor; Director of Assignment, MI

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Midwest Regional Championships Event Staff & Very Important People



Jen Fickett – Program Manager,
USYS Midwest Regional
Championships



Steve Franklin – Staff, USYS
Midwest Regional
Championships



Ann Bona – Staff, USYS Midwest
Regional Championships



Jessica Eberle – Staff, USYS
Midwest Regional
Championships

Photo Coming
Soon

Sarah Shiguango – Director of
Competitions, Michigan State
Youth Soccer Association



Joe Burger – Executive Director,
Kansas State Youth Soccer
Association

U.S. Soccer Appointed National Referee Coaches



Khalaf Latayfeh
National Referee Coach



Lauren Parliament
National Referee Coach

Special Guest



Robert Sibiga
Retired Professional Referee

Schedule (Thursday – Saturday)*Subject to change***Thursday – June 19, 2025**

3:00pm – 5:00pm	Lodging Check-in	MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) Bell Cultural Events Center
5:00pm – 6:15pm	Dinner	On your own
6:30pm – 7:00pm	First Year Referee Meeting (new to this event)	MNU Bell Cultural Events Center Mabee Performing Arts Hall
7:15pm – 8:45am	Welcome & Administrative Meeting	Bell Center: Mabee Performing Arts Hall
9:00pm – 9:30pm	Mandatory Mentor/Referee-Coach Meeting (Crush)	Bell Center: McIntire Room
9:00pm – 9:45pm	Breakout Instruction (4 to choose from each day)	Bell Center: Rooms & Topics TBA

Friday – June 20, 2025

5:30am – 8:30am	Hot Buffet Breakfast & Small Mentor Groups	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
7:00am	Check-in deadline for 8:00am games	Referee Tent
8:00am – 4:00pm	Day 1 – Preliminary Round Games	Scheels (Overland Park) or Garmin (Olathe)
11:30am – 1:30pm	Lunch	Referee Tent
4:30pm – 5:30pm	Low-Impact Field Session Instruction	Garmin Field 3
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Dinner	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
8:30pm – 9:00pm	Mandatory Mentor/Referee-Coach Meeting (Crush)	Bell Center: McIntire Room
9:00pm – 9:45pm	Breakout Instruction (4 to choose from each day)	Bell Center: Rooms & Topics TBA

Saturday – June 21, 2025

5:30am – 8:30am	Hot Buffet Breakfast & Small Mentor Groups	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
7:00am	Check-in deadline for 8:00am games	Referee Tent
8:00am – 4:00pm	Day 1 – Preliminary Round Games	Scheels (Overland Park) or Garmin (Olathe)
11:30am – 1:30pm	Lunch	Referee Tent
4:30pm – 5:30pm	Low-Impact Field Session Instruction	Garmin Field 3
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Dinner	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
8:30pm – 9:00pm	Mandatory Mentor/Referee-Coach Meeting (Crush)	Bell Center: McIntire Room
9:00pm – 9:45pm	Breakout Instruction (4 to choose from each day)	Bell Center: Rooms & Topics TBA

Schedule (Sunday – Tuesday)*Subject to change***Sunday – June 22, 2025**

5:30am – 8:30am	Hot Buffet Breakfast & Small Mentor Groups	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
7:00am	Check-in deadline for 8:00am games	Referee Tent
8:00am – 4:00pm	Day 1 – Preliminary Round Games	Scheels (Overland Park) or Garmin (Olathe)
11:30am – 1:30pm	Lunch	Referee Tent
4:30pm – 5:30pm	Low-Impact Field Session Instruction	Garmin Field 3
6:30pm – 8:00pm	Dinner	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
8:30pm – 9:00pm	Mandatory Mentor/Referee-Coach Meeting (Crush)	Bell Center: McIntire Room
8:30pm – 9:15pm	Breakout Instruction (4 to choose from each day)	Bell Center: Rooms & Topics TBA

Monday – June 23, 2025

7:00am – 8:30am	Hot Buffet Breakfast & Small Mentor Groups	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
8:30am – 12:00am	USYS TOP Soccer Event	Garmin Park (Olathe)
11:30am – 1:00pm	Lunch	On your own
1:00pm – 3:00pm	U.S. Soccer Instructional Session	TBA
6:30pm	State Delegation Dinners	See your RSA for details & location

Tuesday – June 24, 2025

5:30am – 7:30am	Hot Buffet Breakfast & Small Mentor Groups	Cunningham Center: Cafeteria
8:00am – 2:30pm	Semifinal matches	Scheels (Overland Park)
10:30am – 12:30pm	Lunch	Referee Tent
6:00pm – 9:00pm (service begins @ 6:30)	USYS Midwest Regional Championships Referee Awards Dinner <i>(hosted by the KS Referee Development Program)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and comments • Dinner • Awards Presentation • Announcement of crews for finals • Announcement of Officials for Nationals 	College Church of the Nazarene: Uphaus Hall (2020 E Sheridan St, Olathe, KS 66062) (enter through the West side parking area through the Garrett entrance which is directly opposite the baseball stadium parking lot)

Schedule (Wednesday)*Subject to change***Wednesday – June 25, 2025**

5:30am – 7:30am	Hot Buffet Breakfast & Small Mentor Groups	Cunningham Center (Cafeteria)
7:00am	Check-in deadline for 8:00am games	Scheels (Overland Park)
7:00am – 9:00am	Check-out	Bell Cultural Events Center
9:00am – 1:45pm	Finals	Scheels (Overland Park)
	Lunch	On your own

Housing / Logistics

Referee Housing

Referees, mentors, and referee coaches will be housed at MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU). All check-in's will take place at the Cunningham Center in the cafeteria. Each state's Responsible State Administrator (RSA) will be responsible for checking in their entire delegation with the university. They are the only party authorized to receive room keys. All rooms have been pre-assigned, and for safety, rooming changes unauthorized by the event staff are prohibited. Individuals will be held financially responsible for any damage to rooms caused by vandalism or irresponsible behavior.

MNU will provide pillows, sheets, blankets, and towels. You will need to bring soap and shampoo.

MidAmerica Nazarene University
Cunningham Center
2041 E Pioneer Blvd.
Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 971-3297

Internet Access

WiFi access is available at no charge by the university.

Laundry Facilities

A coin laundry facility is located on campus for your use.

Check-In / Check-Out

The Responsible State Administrator (RSA) will pick-up gift bags for their entire delegation (referees, mentors, and referee coaches). Every effort has been made to distribute shirt sizes as requested. However, it is possible that not everyone will get the requested sizes. There are no extras available for exchange.

Check-in (June 19th) is from 3:00 – 5:00pm in the Cunningham Center. Those states arriving after 5:00pm should make arrangements with Chico in advance. Check-out is on Wednesday.

Restrooms at the Fields

Restrooms with flush toilets are available at the concession stands and pavilion area. There will also be an air conditioned bank of portable toilets near the referee tent at the Fieldhouse.








Transportation

Referees need to coordinate transportation throughout the event with their state association.

Water bottles

Please bring at least two reusable water bottles. Water will not be delivered to the fields for referees. There will be hydration available in the referee tent, but it will not be brought to the fields. Referees should not request water nor should they ask field marshals to radio for water. If at any point a referee is in fear of dehydration, please contact a member of the USYS Midwest Referee Staff so that they can get medical attention (if necessary) and be replaced.

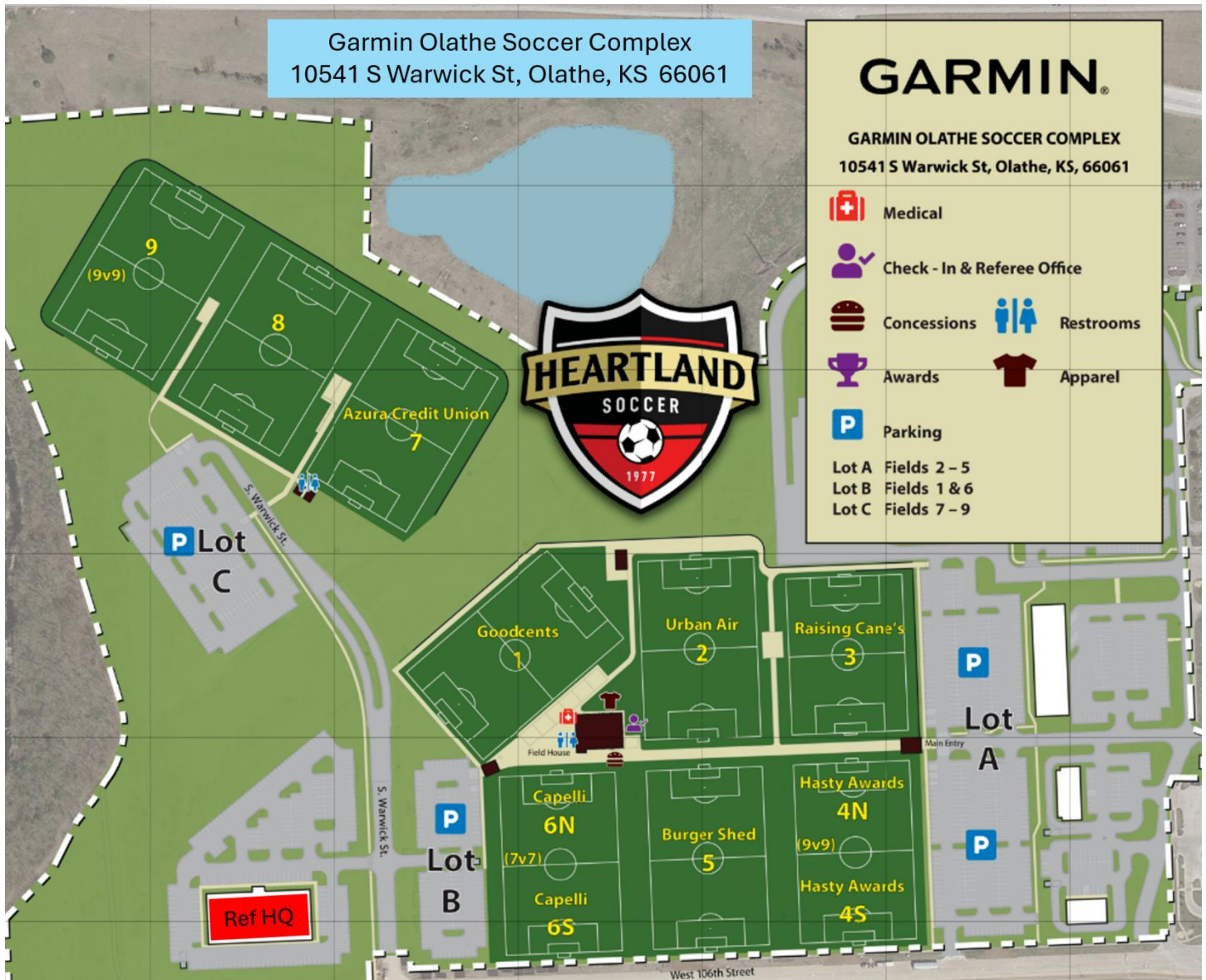
Projected Weather Forecast
(updated on 6-11-2024)

19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
87° 70°	88° 69°	87° 69°	84° 68°	85° 67°	88° 71°	89° 70°

Responsible Fun / Social Activities

Having fun at the USYS Midwest Regional Championships is a must. We want this to be one of the best experiences of your lives and for everyone at the event. Your work/play balance is important to us. We encourage you to spend time together socially outside of the hotel with your delegation and with those from other states. Please have fun and represent us responsibly.





Duration of the Match, Half-Time, and Extra Time

	Periods of Play	Half-Time Interval	Extra Time Periods (semis & finals only)
13U – 14U	2 X 35 minutes	10 minutes	2 X 10 minutes
15U – 16U	2 X 40 minutes	10 minutes	2 X 15 minutes
17U – 19U	2 X 45 minutes	10 minutes	2 X 15 minutes

6.0. PLAYING RULES

- 6.1. **Application:** All games shall be played under IFAB Laws of the Game as modified by USSF and/or US Youth Soccer.
- 6.2. **Red Cards:** Any player or coach dismissed from a game shall be ineligible to participate in the team's next game. At the discretion of the Regional Protest and Appeals Committee, the suspension may be increased and could result in ineligibility for more than one (1) game. No substitution shall be permitted for a player who has been sent off during a particular game.
- 6.3. **Official Game:** Midwest Regional Championships unfinished games due to any cause shall be replayed providing neither team is at fault and play has not begun in the second half. If play is stopped during the second half and if play cannot be resumed and provided neither team is at fault, the game may be deemed as complete by the RCC. However, should play be stopped at any time due to one of the teams being adjudged at fault it shall be at the discretion of the RCC as to whether the game is to be re-played or declared a forfeit.
- 6.4. **Grace Period / Forfeiture:** A minimum of seven (7) players constitutes a team. A 10-minute grace period shall be extended beyond the scheduled kick off time if seven (7) players are not available at the scheduled kick off time. A team of seven (7) players must start the game as soon as seven (7) players are at the field after the originally scheduled start time. If at the end of the 10-minute grace period the team does not have seven (7) players, the referee shall suspend the game and report the failure of the team to appear to the RCC Chair. The RCC Chair may declare a forfeit. Any team that forfeits a game will not be allowed to advance out of their group and may be fined up to \$1,000 per game. In the event of a forfeit, the winning team will be awarded:
 - 3 points for the win
 - 4 goals for
 - 0 goals against
- 6.5. **Uniform**
 - 6.5.1. All teams must wear uniforms that conform to National Championships Policy Rule 241 Section 3.
 - 6.5.2. Each team shall wear the "State Champion" patch presented to them at their state championships on the right sleeve of one (1) set of jerseys.
 - 6.5.3. Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. No taped or altered numbers will be allowed.
 - 6.5.4. Games may be suspended by the referee or the RCC Chair, if in his/her judgment uniforms worn by the team are not acceptable for competition per Midwest Regional Championships Policy.
 - 6.5.5. The team shall be given an opportunity to change uniforms.
 - 6.5.6. The RCC Chair shall forfeit the game if the RCC Chair agrees the uniforms are unacceptable.
- 6.6. **Colors:** The home team shall wear light colors and the away team shall wear dark colors. In the event of a color conflict, the home team shall change to an alternate set of uniforms. The home team shall be determined by the RCC Chair.
- 6.7. **Ball:** All teams shall play each game with balls that will be provided US Youth Soccer. A team may use their own ball if approved by the referee.
- 6.8. **Scoring:** See Section 3 of the Midwest Regional Championships Policy.
- 6.9. **Substitution:** All games shall be played with the substitution rules outlined in the National Championships Policy, including suspected head injury substitution policy (Rule 242 Section 3), with the following exceptions:
 - 6.9.1. For 15 and Under and older age groups
 - 6.9.1.1. Substitution may occur on any stoppage of play with the approval of the referee.
 - 6.9.1.2. If a player is removed from the game and no substitute enters the game for the player (team plays short), the original player may re-enter the game. Entry shall be at a normal substitution point (with approval of referee) or at any point during the game if the referee signals for the player's re-entry. If

the goalkeeper is dismissed by the referee, the referee may allow the team to replace the goalkeeper with a player from the bench provided they have a substitution available. The team; however, must still play short with another player leaving the field of play.

6.10. Team Credentials

- 6.10.1. **Team Passes:** Each player and team official listed on a team roster must have a valid US Youth Soccer member pass at the competition. The US Youth Soccer member pass must carry a current photograph of the player or team official. All member passes shall be laminated. Teams without US Youth Soccer member passes shall not be allowed to participate in the Midwest Regional Championships.
- 6.10.2. **Bench Personnel:** Bench Personnel are limited to four (4) individuals (this includes trainers, head coaches, assistant coaches, managers, club coaches, and/or any other team officials) per technical area per game. Each individual must have a valid US Youth Soccer pass and wear a "Bench Pass" credential at all times while in the technical area.

7.0. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & ILLEGAL DRUGS

- 7.1. Players in Midwest Regional Championships are prohibited from using alcohol, tobacco (including vape / e-cigarettes) or illegal drugs at any playing site or event site associated with the Midwest Regional Championships. Penalty for violation by player participants is disqualification from the competition.
- 7.2. The use of alcohol, tobacco (including vape / e-cigarettes) or illegal drug by all individuals at any playing site or event associated with the Midwest Regional Championships is prohibited.

8.0. AWARDS

- 8.1. **Team Awards:** US Youth Soccer shall provide plaques for teams finishing in first and second place as determined by the National Championships Series budget.
- 8.2. **Player Medals:** US Youth Soccer provides individual medals for first and second place finishers in each age group as determined by the Midwest Regional Championships budget.
- 8.3. **Awards Ceremony:** All first and second place finishers are required to attend the awards ceremony following their championship match at the designated (stage) area. Failure to participate can result in a fine of \$1,000 and/or the club being placed in bad standing for the following year.

9.0. GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

9.1. Credentials

- 9.1.1. **Purpose and Objective:** The process for validating the credentials of teams, players, coaches and/or team officials is intended to assure compliance with the National Championships Policy regarding team eligibility, player eligibility, entries and player US Youth Soccer member passes and rosters.
- 9.1.2. **Chair:** The RCC Chair serves as Chair of the Credentials Committee. The responsibility of this job is to assure that the process is followed and that the National Championships Policy is applied fairly. Decisions as to eligibility may be appealed to the Regional Protest and Appeals Committee.

9.2. Process:

The registration and validation process consists of four (4) components:

- 9.2.1. Submission of electronic entry forms and payment of fees,
- 9.2.2. Submission of electronic official, certified league roster,
- 9.2.3. Submission of electronic final state game report,
- 9.2.4. Validation of team credentials by the State Association.

9.3. Timetable:

The registration and validation process takes place according to the following calendar:

- 9.3.1. January TBA: State Associations to submit their team entries using the Midwest Regional Championships official online entry form. Invoices will be sent to each participating State Association for the approved competition entry fees after all state entries have been received and any wildcards have been determined.
- 9.3.2. 14 Days Prior to First Game: State Association sends RCC Chair or Designee final game report, all team league rosters, and State Cup roster.

Notes on Playing Rules

Red Cards

- Referees do not determine the length of suspension for a player or coach and must not speculate.
- If asked by any team personnel how long a suspension will be, referees should indicate that determination will be made by the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee.

Official Game

- Referees do not determine whether a game will be replayed or forfeited.
- If asked by any team personnel if a game will be replayed or forfeited, referees should indicate that determination will be made by the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee.

Grace Period

- Referees do not determine whether a game will be forfeited.
- If a team does not have the minimum number to start the game, the referee should immediately contact the field marshal to notify the USYS Midwest Referee Staff or the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee, who will report to the field to administer the situation.

Substitutions

(1) for the 13 and Under and 14 and Under age groups, unlimited substitutions shall be allowed; and

(2) for all other age groups, a maximum of 7 substitutions for each Team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play and during overtime play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. After leaving the game during overtime play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game.

(3) If a player is suspected of suffering a head injury they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the Teams total number of allowed substitutions during each half or overtime period. If the player with the suspected head injury has received clearance from the events' Health Care Professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitution. A Team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available. Should the temporary substitute receive a red card, that player will be removed from the game and the team will play a player down. If the player being evaluated is cleared after the red card, they would be eligible to return to play as provided by the substitution rules based on the age group.

Uniform

- Each player shall have a number on the player's jersey. The number shall be affixed to the back of the jersey and shall be clearly visible. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the number of every other player on the team. Numbers on goalkeeper jerseys are not required.
- No taped or altered numbers will be allowed.
- If a team has an apparent uniform violation, the referee should immediately contact the field marshal to notify the USYS Midwest Referee Staff or the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee, who will report to the field to administer the situation.

Referee Policies & Procedures

Clinics & Meetings

- Please be early to clinics and meetings, as we will try to start all events on time.
- Be sure to silence cell phones (leave on for learning activities) - texting during meetings is not permitted.
- Be sure to bring a notebook and pen(cil) to all meetings. If you bring a laptop or tablet, turn off your WIFI during the meeting.

Referee Uniforms

- The Official U.S. Soccer Federation Uniforms (see picture on next page) shall be worn for the USYS Midwest Regional Championships. The assigned referee shall determine the color and style (long or short).
- Referees shall wear the U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program 2-stripe socks.

Housing

- Be respectful of the property and leave your room and the grounds in better condition than you found it.
- Individuals will be held financially responsible for any damage to rooms caused by vandalism or irresponsible behavior.

Illegal Activities

- Illegal drug use will not be tolerated, and offenders will be removed from their matches and sent home. Local law enforcement authorities may also be consulted.
- Underage drinking will not be tolerated, and offenders will be removed from their matches and sent home. Local law enforcement authorities may also be consulted.
- Illegal activities, including the purchase of alcohol for minors, reports of sexual harassment or assault, and/or destruction of property will not be tolerated. Offenders will be removed from their matches and sent home. Local law enforcement authorities may also be consulted.

Transportation

- Referees assigned to remote fields may be transported if resources allow. All others should walk as a crew. When returning to the tent, the referee coach should also walk with the crew.
- Referees shall not drive golf carts. Referees are also not allowed to take a bicycle, even if it is not being used.

Being a Spectator

- When watching games, you are expected to be completely out of uniform and unidentifiable as a referee.
- Watch where you sit and what you say.

Other Things to Remember...

- You are representing your State, the USYS Midwest Regional Championships, US Youth Soccer, and U.S. Soccer.
- Be on your best professional behavior in public. You are *always* being observed.
- Never talk negative about other officials.
- If you are over 21 and choose to drink, drink responsibly and in moderation – consumption of alcohol can cause dehydration and referees who are unable to adequately perform as the result of overconsumption may be removed from their matches.
- Don't be jealous of a good break for another referee. Be supportive, your turn may be next.
- Meet as many fellow referees from other states as possible.
- Do not speak with anyone other than the USYS Midwest Referee Staff, USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee, your crew members, and your referee coach or mentor about any controversial match decisions.

- Do not discuss such controversial match decisions with referee coaches/mentors and administrators from other states, state presidents and state reps, coaches, managers, players, or the media.
- Media requests should be directed to the USYS Midwest Referee Staff or the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee, a simple “no comment” reply will suffice.
- Avoid comments on social media that discuss match information (e.g., *I sent off a problem child today*). Keep all social media comments positive and general (e.g., Honored to have officiated the U17 match today at the USYS Midwest Regional Championships.) Any social media posts should be after a match, not before.



STANDARDS OF DRESS AND APPEARANCE

OFFICIAL U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION UNIFORM

UNIFORM: Always make sure your uniform is clean, neat, and professional in appearance.

CLASSIC UNIFORM

SHIRT

- Long or short sleeve
- Yellow with black pinstripes
- Men's or women's

BADGE

- U.S. Soccer Federation with current year (securely fastened to shirt over left chest).
- The badge should be for the highest grade for which the referee is currently qualified

SHORTS

- Black shorts
- Bottom edge of shorts not less than 3 or more than 7 inches above the top of the knee cap

SOCKS

- Black socks
- U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program 2-stripe socks

SHOES

- Black shoes
- Black laces (may have white manufacturer's design)

ALTERNATIVE UNIFORMS

The following shirts have been approved by the Federation as alternatives that can be worn in case of color conflict. There is no order of preference among the alternate jerseys. The other parts of the referee uniform (shorts, socks, shoes) do not change if the referee wears an alternate shirt.





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"The Soccer Referee Company"

Official Sports International is the official supplier of referee uniforms to U.S. Soccer.

Only manufacturer's logos and U.S. Soccer approved badges and/or emblems may be visible on the referee uniform.

Match Protocol

Prior to the Match

- **Check in at the referee tent at least 1-hour prior to game time.** If you have not checked in 1-hour prior to game time, site coordinators may replace you.
- Pick up the game report and game ball(s) at the referee tent.
 - After checking-in but prior to leaving for the field, the fourth official will go to the field and find out what colors each team (and goalkeepers) are planning to wear.
 - Before the crew leaves for the field, they must inform the tent staff of their jersey color so that if someone needs to be replaced due to injury, their replacement can arrive ready.
 - Travel to fields in appropriate attire, such as referee uniform, polo shirt, Adidas or Official Sports warm-ups, and appropriate shoes. Look professional!
- Arrive at your assigned field at least 30 minutes prior to game time to check-in teams, inspect field, meet the field marshal, etc.
- Take all of the items (e.g., cards, pencils/pens, water bottles) to the field. **DO NOT** ask a field marshal to request someone bring you forgotten items. We recommend that only the 4th official take their phone with them to the field – and use it only to call USYS Midwest Referee Staff or the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee.

Technical Area

- Each team can have a **maximum of four (4) bench personnel** (coaches, managers, assistant coaches, trainers, etc.) in the team bench area. Absolutely no more than four (4) are permitted, even with proper passes and credentials.
 - All bench personnel must have a valid US Youth Soccer pass.
 - All bench personnel must also have “bench pass” credentials.
 - If there is a question as to if an individual in question is an approved coach, manager or trainer for that team, do not cause a confrontation. Consult with the field marshal and ask a member of the USYS Midwest Referee Staff or the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee to be called to determine if that coach or manager is approved to be on the team bench.
- Credentialed committee members and credentialed US Youth Soccer staff personnel are also permitted in the technical area.

Pre-Game Duties

Conduct your pre-game activities together as a crew: check-in the teams together, **meet the coaches together**, meet the referee mentor together, warm-up together, etc.

- Locate and meet the field marshal so that you know who it is in the event of an injury or other conflict. The field marshal can contact the referee tent as well.
- Thoroughly check the field and nets. ARs pay particular attention to your touchline, background across the field, bumps, and distance to fans, coaches, teams, etc.

Team Check-in Procedure

- **As a crew, introduce yourselves to the coaches** and ask when it is convenient to check-in the players. Do not demand that the team stop their warmup so you can check in players.
- Pay particular attention to the size of the shin guards, jewelry, and jersey colors worn by the goalkeepers (goalkeepers do not need to have numbers).
- With the coach, review the following:
 - Where substitutes will warm up and what they will wear in order to be distinct from the field players.
 - How substitutions will be handled.

- Who will enter the field to check on players in case of injury?
 - Check off each player on the team roster (all ages) as you check his/her equipment and player pass. Place a check mark by the player's name and verify the player's number as seen on player's jersey.
 - The official game report will have a team roster, with up to 22 players, printed for both teams.
 - Prior to the game each team's coach shall check the "game active" players on the roster to identify those players who ARE eligible in order to reduce the roster down to total of 18 "game active" players. Ineligible players sitting out due to a red card and/or head injury will already have a line across their name reflecting that they are ineligible.
 - While checking-in players, verify that their:
 - face matches their player pass
 - name is on the roster as "game active"
 - jersey number is accurately listed on the roster (if not, change it).
- Also verify that there are not any duplicate jersey numbers. Remember, goalkeepers do not have to have numbers, but when they're not the goalkeeper, their field jersey requires one.
- Do not leave the field without returning pass cards. It is recommended that you tell the coach/team manager how many cards you are giving them at the end of the match – count them in front of them to ensure that you have returned all pass cards.
 - In case of **red cards, keep the pass(es) of those sent-off** and submit it (them) at the referee tent, along with a USSF Supplemental Referee Report describing the incident(s). Supplemental Reports will be submitted to the referee tent administrator on a handwritten USSF Supplemental Game Report by the referee.
 - The referee is the sole judge of allowable player equipment as described in the IFAB Laws of the Game. If, in the opinion of the referee, a cast or apparatus would be dangerous and the player should not be permitted to play, the referee should have the field marshal contact the USYS Midwest Referee Staff or the USYS Midwest Regional Championships Committee, **prior to game time**.
 - Conduct the coin toss at least **5 minutes** prior to game time.
 - International entry **3 minutes** prior to the scheduled kick off time (all matches).
 - Start your game **ON TIME!** (reference <https://time.gov> to synchronize your watch)

Injuries

- Should a player be injured to the point that the coach/trainer believes medical attention is necessary, the fourth official or other member of the referee crew should contact the field marshal to notify medical staff via two-way radio.
- Please allow medical staff to evaluate injuries – referees should not diagnose injuries.
- Should an injury require an ambulance to be called, please record the time of day, time into the game, time of day that trainers arrived, general nature of the injury, time of day the ambulance was called, time the ambulance arrived, and the time the ambulance departed.
- Include above information on a USSF Supplemental Referee Report.
- If a trainer diagnoses a head injury, he/she will secure the player pass from the fourth official in order to be compliant with the US Youth Soccer concussion protocol.

Halftime

- Discuss problem areas that may be occurring on the field. Design and implement a strategy for the 2nd half if your game control is an issue.
- Talk to each other in a positive manner about things that might be done differently in the second half. Be honest with each other about any deficiencies.
- Review scores, cautions, and send offs. Compare and verify number(s) and time(s) of all goals scored. Ensure that players/numbers match. Avoid a player being cautioned twice in the same game without being sent off. The whole referee crew is responsible for this!!

Post-Game Duties

- Make sure that the entire crew verifies team names and that the score is not recorded incorrectly. The referee crew will take the game score card to the referee tent where it will be submitted.
- Return to the referee tent to complete the necessary paperwork – The game is not over until the paperwork is done. **FILL OUT ALL PAPERWORK PROPERLY!**
- USSF Referee Supplemental Report(s) for red cards and severe injuries **shall be submitted on a handwritten USSF Supplemental Game Report to the referee tent administrator.**
- All referee crew members should check the paperwork to ensure accuracy, as the entire crew will be held accountable for mistakes. The game report and team rosters are turned in at the referee tent. **ALL CREW MEMBERS MUST SIGN THE REFEREE'S GAME REPORT.**
- Return the following to the site coordinator in the referee tent after the match:
 - The completed game report with correct score, cautions, and red cards (all four officials should verify the accuracy of information and all should sign the game report).
 - The game score card.
 - Fourth official log.
 - Game ball(s).
 - Player passes of sent off players and/or coaches.
- Please be prompt with the game report as scores are not posted until they have been confirmed by comparing the game score card and the referee's game report.
- Conduct post-game debrief with complete crew and assessor or mentor (after paperwork is submitted).

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
Based on IFAB's 2020-21 Laws of the Game (LOTG)



Cautionable Offenses

A player is cautioned and shown a yellow card for committing any of the following cautionable offenses:

1. Unsporting behavior (**UB**)
 - a. Commits a direct free kick offense in a reckless manner whether within playing distance or not
 - b. Commits a foul which interferes with or impedes an opposing team's promising attack, except where the referee awards a PK for the offence that was an attempt to play the ball
 - c. Handles the ball to interfere with or stops a promising attack
 - d. Denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offense which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick
 - e. Handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (whether or not the attempt is successful) or in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal
 - f. Plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
 - g. Commits an act that in the opinion of the referee shows a lack of respect for the game
 - h. Attempts to deceive the referee e.g. by faking an injury or by pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
 - i. Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
 - j. Unfairly distracts or impedes an opponent performing a throw-in (including moving closer than 2 yards to where the throw-in is to be taken)
 - k. Changes places (jerseys) with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (caution both players at the next stoppage)
 - l. Engages in trickery to circumvent the goalkeeper's limitation on handling the ball played from a teammate's foot (the defender who initiates the "trickery" is cautioned, the decision does not require that the goalkeeper actually handles the ball, and the misconduct can occur during dynamic play or at a restart)
 - m. Makes unauthorized marks on the field
 - n. Refuses to leave the field due to injury after the referee authorized the doctors or stretcher bearers to enter the field of play, or due to illegal equipment, bleeding, or blood on the uniform
 - o. Throws an object (or the ball) in a reckless manner
 - p. Celebrates a goal by:
 - i. climbing onto a perimeter fence and/or approaching the spectators in a manner which causes safety and/or security issues
 - ii. gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory, or inflammatory way
 - iii. covering the head or face with a mask or similar device
 - iv. removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt
 - q. Commits an offense described in Law 14 - The Penalty Kick (during the match, extra time, or kicks from the penalty mark) for which the referee must caution a player(s):
 - i. the kicker feints to kick the ball once the run-up to the ball has been completed
 - ii. the goalkeeper offends and the ball does not enter the goal
 - iii. both the kicker and goalkeeper commit an offense at the same time and the kick is missed or saved (kick is retaken)
 - iv. the kicker when both the kicker and goalkeeper commit an offense at the same time and the kick is scored (goal is disallowed)

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
Based on IFAB's 2020-21 Laws of the Game (LOTG)



2. Dissent by word or action (**DT**)
 - a. Verbally or through action disputes or shows contempt for an official's decision
 - b. If playing as a goalkeeper, leaves the penalty area (not beckoned by the referee) to engage an official in debate regarding a decision
3. Persistent offenses (**PO**)
 - a. Repeatedly commits fouls (Law 12) against one or more opponents (the offside offense in Law 11 is not considered)
 - i. No specific number or pattern of fouls constitutes "repeatedly"
 - ii. "Repeatedly" does not require the offenses to be the same type of foul
4. Delaying the restart of play (**DR**)
 - a. Appears to take a throw-in but after excessive time leaves it to a team-mate to take
 - b. Delays leaving the field of play when being substituted
 - c. Excessively delays a restart
 - d. Kicks or carries the ball away, refuses to release possession of the ball, or provokes a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play for a restart by the opposing team
 - e. Takes a free kick from the wrong position to force a retake
 - f. Deliberately prevents a free kick being taken quickly
5. Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick, or throw-in (**FRD**)
 - a. Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's free kick
 - b. Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's corner kick
 - c. Does not retire at least two yards away from an opponent's throw-in
6. Entering, re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field without the referee's permission (**ERL**)
 - a. Re-entering after having previously been
 - i. instructed to leave the field to correct equipment
 - ii. given permission by the referee to leave the field due to an injury
 - iii. instructed to leave the field due to bleeding or blood on the uniform
 - b. Re-entering and gaining an advantage after having previously left the field to avoid being involved in active play (to avoid committing an offside offense)
 - c. Leaving the field while a defender to place an opponent in an apparent offside position
[NOTE: Except for the above actions, leaving or re-entering the field is not an offense if, in the opinion of the referee, it was done in the normal course of play]
7. Entering the referee review area (**ERA**) - applicable in competitions where the use of Video Assistant Referees (VARs) has been approved (written permission by IFAB and FIFA)
8. Excessively using the 'review' (TV screen) signal (**ERS**)

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
Based on IFAB's 2020-21 Laws of the Game (LOTG)



A substitute or substituted player is cautioned if guilty of committing any of the following offenses:

1. Unsporting behavior (**UB**)
2. Dissent by word or action (**DT**)
3. Delaying the restart of play (**DR**)
4. Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission (**ERL**)
5. Entering the referee review area (**ERA**)
6. Excessively using the 'review' (TV screen) signal (**ERS**)

**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
Based on IFAB's 2020-21 Laws of the Game (LOTG)**



Sending-off Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a red card) for committing any of the following offenses:

1. Serious foul play (**SFP**)
 - a. Commits a tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality
 - b. Lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side, or from behind using excessive force or endangers the safety of the opponent
2. Violent conduct (**VC**)
 - a. Uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a teammate, match official, spectator, or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made
 - b. When not challenging for the ball deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, unless the force used was negligible
 - c. Throws an object (or the ball) using excessive force
3. Spitting at or biting an opponent or any other person (**SB**)
4. Denying the opposing team, a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area) (**DGH**)
 - DOGSO by deliberate handling offense wherever the offense occurs (outside or inside the penalty area)
5. Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick (**DGF**)
 - DOGSO by an offense within the offender's penalty area, for which the referee awards a penalty kick, and the offense was NOT an attempt to play the ball (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.)
 - The following must be considered:
 - distance between the offense and the goal
 - general direction of play (if player moves diagonally to pass the last defender or goalkeeper, this can still be a DOGSO)
 - likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
 - location and number of defenders
6. Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (**AL**)
7. Receiving a second caution in the same match (**2CT**)
8. Entering the video operation room (**EOR**) - applicable in competitions where the use of Video Assistant Referees (VARs) has been approved (written permission by IFAB and FIFA)

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
Based on IFAB's 2020-21 Laws of the Game (LOTG)



Team Officials

Where an offense is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

Warning

The following offenses should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offenses should result in a caution or sending-off.

W1- Entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner.

W2- Failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official.

W3- Minor/low level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision.

W4- Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offense.

Team Officials Caution

Caution offenses include but are not limited to:

CTO1- Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area.

CTO2- Delaying the restart of play by their team.

CTO3- Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (nonconfrontational)

CTO4- Dissent by word or action including:

- throwing/kicking drink bottles or other objects
- gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the match officials
 - e.g. sarcastic clapping

CTO5- Excessively/persistently gesturing for a yellow or red card

CTO6 – Gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner

CTO7- Persistent unacceptable behavior (including repeated offenses)

CTO8- Showing a lack of respect for the game

For Video Assistant Referee Competitions. (VAR)

CTO9- Entering the referee review area

CTO10- excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR review.

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses
Based on IFAB's 2020-21 Laws of the Game (LOTG)



Team Officials Sending-off

Sending-off offenses include but are not limited to:

SOTO1- Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g.

- holding onto the ball
- kicking the ball away
- obstructing the movement of a player

SOTO2- Deliberately leaving the technical area to:

- show dissent towards or remonstrate with a match official.
- Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner

SOTO3- Enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner

SOTO4- Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field

SOTO5- Entering the field of play to:

- Confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
- Interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official

SOTO6- Physical or aggressive behavior (including spitting or biting) toward an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. boy boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)

SOTO7- Receiving a second caution in the same match

SOTO8- Using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment

SOTO9- Violent Conduct

For Video Assistant Referee Competitions. (VAR)

SOTO10- Entering the video operations room (VOR)

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program Supplemental Referee Report



Complete and submit this form, along with a U.S. Soccer Referee Report, to the appropriate competition authorities (e.g., local league, tournament director, cup coordinator, etc.) as directed for the dismissal of team officials, sending-off offenses, serious injuries, game abandonment or other substantial occurrences. For instances of referee assault or referee abuse, complete and submit this form, along with a U.S. Soccer Referee Report, to the appropriate competition authorities (e.g., local league, tournament director, cup coordinator, etc.), State President with jurisdiction for the competition and State Referee Administrator.

Home Team: _____ Score: _____

Away Team: _____ Score: _____

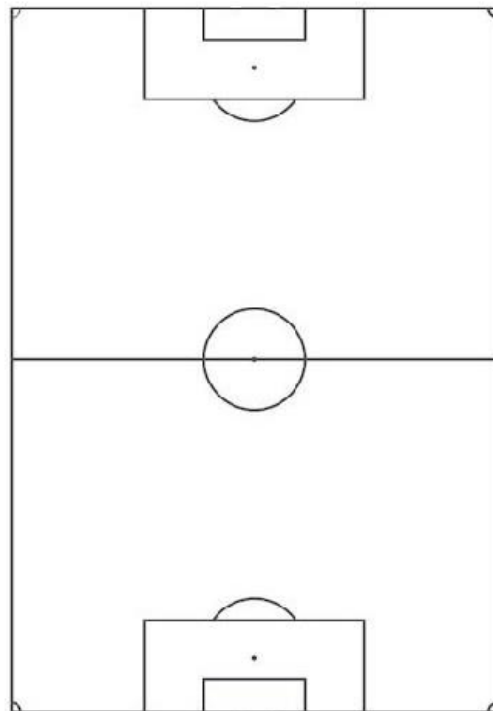
Association/League: _____

Division/Age Group: _____

Game Number: _____

Game Date: _____

Statement:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____

Date:

USSF ID Number:

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Fourth Official Report



This form can be used to collect match data to assist referees with the completion of the game report required by the competition authorities (e.g., local league, tournament director, cup coordinator, etc.).

Home Team: _____

Score: _____

Away Team: _____

Score: _____

Association/League: _____

Division/Age Group: _____

Game Number: _____

Game Date: _____

Referee: _____

Grade: _____

Assistant Referee 1: _____

Grade: _____

Assistant Referee 2: _____

Grade: _____

Fourth Official: _____

Grade: _____

Goals

Home Team

#								
Minute								

Substitutions

# In								
# Out								
Minute								

Misconduct

#								
Minute								
Code								

Goals

Away Team

#								
Minute								

Substitutions

# In								
# Out								
Minute								

Misconduct

#								
Minute								
Code								

Notes:

Sample Game Report



Midwest Regional Championships 2022

system.gotSPORT.com/scoring

Event Code: e98a76

Event PIN:

Printed At: 06/18/22 12:47AM EDT



Field: Grand Park: GP #19				Date: 06/24/22		Time: 08:00AM EDT																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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Referees	Grade	USSF ID Number	Instructions/Notes

Cautionable Offense Codes UB = Unsporting Behavior DT = Dissent by word or action PI = Persistent Infringement DR = Delays restart of play	Sending-Off Offense Codes FRD = Fails to respect required distance L = Leaves the field without permission E = Enters the field without permission SFP = Serious foul play VC = Violent conduct AL = Offensive, insulting, or abusive language DGH = Denies opposing team of obvious goal-scoring opportunity DGF = Denies obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent S = Spits at opponent 2CT = Receives 2nd caution
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Midwest Regional Championships 2022

system.gotSPORT.com/scoring

Event Code: e98a76

Event PIN:

Printed At: 06/18/22 12:47AM EDT

Game Day Checklist

GAME TIME: _____

At least 60 minutes before game time

- ☐ Complete crew check in together at referee tent

60-30 minutes before game time

- ☐ Conduct pregame conference
- ☐ Leave referee tent for field

30-5 minutes before game time

- ☐ Complete crew arrive at field in uniform
- ☐ Inspect field
- ☐ Have coach check no more than 18 players as "game active" on team roster printed on game report
- ☐ Check in players
 - Cross-reference player passes and jersey numbers against team roster printed on game report
 - Inspect players' equipment
 - Collect player U.S. Youth Soccer issued member passes for all players
- ☐ Verify no more than 18 players dressed in uniform
- ☐ Verify no more than 4 non-active players, who must be out of uniform (**collect player passes**)
- ☐ Verify no more than 4 bench personnel in the technical area (**collect bench personnel passes**)
 - All bench personnel must also have "Bench Pass" credentials

5 minutes before game time

- ☐ Conduct coin flip with team captains

3 minutes before game time

- ☐ International entry

0 minutes before game time

- ☐ Kick off ON TIME! No exceptions!

Throughout game

- ☐ Verify no more than 4 bench personnel in the technical area with "Bench Pass" credentials

Post-Game

- ☐ Keep player passes for red carded players or bench personnel passes for anyone dismissed
- ☐ Return player and bench personnel passes to teams
- ☐ Have coaches sign game report in "Verification of Score" section
- ☐ See field marshal and sign score verification card
- ☐ Return to referee tent
- ☐ Complete game report – all crew members verify correct info & sign
- ☐ Complete supplemental report for send-offs and serious injuries
- ☐ Turn in game report, team rosters, fourth official log, and supplemental reports
- ☐ Conduct post-game debrief with complete crew and assessor or mentor (after paperwork submitted)



FIFA Considerations for Match Officials

CHALLENGES

- Match Control
 - Protect the game – Protect players
- Football Understanding
- Use Clear Considerations
 - Point of contact
 - Intensity-Speed-Force
- Illegal use of Arms
 - Clear movement or 2nd Action
- Teamwork
 - Communicate important details



FIFA Considerations for Match Officials

Handball

- Football Understanding
- Use Clear Considerations
- Natural position or movements
 - Close to / Justifiable movement / support the body
- Additional movement
 - Moving toward / In the path of the ball
- Taking a risk – Making body unnaturally bigger
 - Extended arm / away from the body
- Exceptions – Deliberately play against him/herself – Teammate)
- Attacker Handball Concept
 - Accidental – Directly – Immediately



FIFA Considerations for Match Officials

Offside

- Football Understanding
- Responsibility of the Full Team
- Interfering with an opponent
 - Clear impact
 - Challenging – Preventing – Obstructing
- Gaining an advantage
 - Deliberate play vs. deflection / rebound
 - Deliberate save
- Teamwork - communication



FIFA Considerations for Match Officials

Tactical Fouls

- Football Understanding
- Reading and Anticipation
- Red Card = 100% obvious
- DOGSO
 - Number and location of players
 - Direction / Distance
 - Control of ball
- SPA – Different scenarios (Speed-Space-Options)
- PAI: Attempt to play the ball
- Teamwork
 - Priorities
 - Communication



FIFA Considerations for Match Officials

Penalty Area Incidents

- Football understanding
- Big priority
- Positioning and reading
- Proximity and angle of view
- Obvious simulation 100% sure
- Use Clear Considerations
- Prevention (set pieces)
- Teamwork – communication



FIFA Considerations for Match Officials

Positioning And Reading The Game

- Football Understanding
- Anticipation / Pressing
 - Systems of play
 - Correct reading
- Penalty Area
 - Main priority
 - Proximity & angle of view
 - Explosive movement
- Advantage
 - Location and severity of the incident
 - Flow / control
 - Wait and see / Signal
- Fast Transitions
 - Adapting to the demands of the match
 - Reaction / Speed / Sprint ability



- Set Pieces
 - Planning and preparation
 - Offensive and defensive tactics
 - Prevention
 - Location & blocks of players
 - Priorities of control
 - Next step / counter attacks

- Assistant Referees
 - Anticipation
 - Priority of control: Law 11 vs Law 12
 - Penalty area / Goal line / Touch line
 - Concentration
 - Offside line/Running technique
 - Wait and see / Delay
 - Teamwork / communication

PRO2 Match Report Writing Guide

Complete a supplemental Report for each of the following:

- RED CARDS
- SERIOUS INJURIES
- TECHNICAL AREA DISCIPLINE
- FIELD INSPECTION ISSUES
- BREACH OF COMPETITION RULES
- SPECTATOR INCIDENTS

Use the following examples as templates to write the reports.

Red Cards

SFP

“In the 51’ minute of the match, Sporting Kansas City player #9 Kriztian Nemeth was shown the red card and sent off for serious foul play. Nemeth challenged Vancouver’s #8 Felipe for the ball, while using excessive force with a straight leg, lunging tackle, studs exposed-which contacted the lower part of the shin, endangering the safety of the opponent. Nemeth left the field of play in a timely manner, without causing any further incidents.”

VC

“In the 93’ minute of the match, Orlando City player #14 Dom Dwyer was shown the red card and sent off for violent conduct. Play was stopped after Dwyer used his elbow to forcefully strike Columbus Crew’s #3 Josh Williams in the head (who was seriously injured on the play and did not return to the match). Dwyer did not leave the field in a timely manner, which caused further mass confrontation.”

2nd Caution

“In the 69’ minute of the match, Colorado’s #9 Caleb Calvert was shown the red card and sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match. Calvert received his first caution (for dissent) in the 67’ minute, and the second caution (for entering the field of play without the referee’s permission) in the 69’. Calvert left the field of play in a timely manner, without causing any further incidents.”

DOGSO-hand

“In the 75’ minute of the match, Seattle’s #26 Casey Murphy was shown the red card and sent off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity. Murphy was outside of her penalty area and was the last defender and used her hands to stop a shot toward the goal. Murphy left the field of play in a timely manner, without causing any further incident.

DOGSO-foul

“In the 60th minute of the match, LAG #22 Leonardo was shown the red card and sent off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity by foul, with no attempt to play the ball. The offence occurred inside the penalty area approximately 8 yards from goal, where Leonardo pulled down FC Dallas’ Blas Perez from behind,

to prevent Perez's imminent goal scoring opportunity. Leonardo left the field of play with no further incidents and play was restarted with a penalty kick.

Multiple Supplemental Reports (use first person)

Ref Report "In the 89' minute of the match, the 4th official used the communication system to indicate that play must be stopped to issue a red card. After stopping play and speaking with the 4th official, I was informed that Houston Dash player #3, Rachel Daly, had used her elbow to strike the face of Utah player #xx, causing her to stumble several yards backward. Upon confirmation from the 4th official that the off-the ball contact involved excessive force to the face, Daly was shown the red card and sent off for violent conduct. Although Daly did exit the field in a timely manner, I saw that while she was leaving, she showed dissent by action by making sarcastic clapping gestures toward the 4th official."

4th Official Report "In the 89' minute of the match, I used the communication system to tell the referee to stop play to issue a red card. After stopping play and coming over to me, I was able to tell the referee that Houston Dash player #3, Rachel Daly, had used her elbow to strike the face of Utah player #xx, causing her to stumble several yards backward. After the referee showed Daly the red card, I noticed that Daly moved toward me and was clapping at me and I also noticed that she spat out before leaving into the midfield tunnel."

Serious Injury

In the 93' minute of the match, Josh Williams #3 for Columbus Crew SC was seriously injured after receiving an elbow to the head from Orlando City #14 Dom Dwyer (who was sent off for violent conduct). Upon recognizing that Williams had shown visible signs of having a possible head injury (falling to ground, clutching the head, slow to get up, bleeding), the referee immediately beckoned medical staff onto the field. After a preliminary on-field assessment, Williams was escorted off the field for further evaluation. The medical staff and the VMD determined that Williams was unable to continue playing in the match and he was subsequently transported to the hospital. Play was restarted in the 97' minute.

Technical Area Discipline

"During a stoppage of play in the 69' minute, Giovanni Savarese, the head coach of Portland, was shown the red card and sent off for leaving his technical area to show dissent towards the referee in a provocative and inflammatory manner. The fourth official observed that Savarese had jumped up from the technical area, wildly waving his arms and loudly yelling at the referee. Savarese had previously been warned in the 37' minute by the fourth official to refrain from any further minor actions of disagreement, and to stay calm and in his team's technical area. Savarese left the field without further incident."

Field Inspection Issues

"During the officials' pregame inspection of the field, it was discovered that the left goalpost (scoreboard side) was noticeably taller than 8 feet (by almost 2 inches). The field managers were able to correct the issue before the start of team warmups."

Breach of Competition Rules

“The halftime interval lasted 17 minutes, which exceeded the 15-minute time period that is stipulated in the IFAB LOTG and the competition rules. The delay occurred because team XXXX was late to reenter the field of play within the allotted 15 halftime interval.”

Spectator Incidents

“In the 63’ minute, before the taking of a corner kick near the home team’s supporters’ section, play was stopped when the referee observed that a green laser light beam was being directed at the visiting goalkeeper’s face. Security was able to quickly identify and remove the wrongdoers from the stadium. Play was restarted in the 65’ minute.

James Conlee’s report writing tips:

- State only the facts of what happened.
- Use terminology/language from IFAB LOTG and FIFA considerations.
- Use names (and NOT pronouns (he, she, they, them, etc) to avoid any confusion.

In order for Disciplinary Committees to evaluate serious misconduct, match reports must include:

- The name of (and additional identifying information for) the player who was sent off
- The time of the send off
- The specific reason in the IFAB Laws of the Game for the send off (Law 12)

In addition, the referee must supply sufficient detail regarding the circumstances of the misconduct to aid in evaluating its level of seriousness. Among the factors that should be addressed, where relevant, are:

- Whether the action occurred during a challenge for the ball
- Whether the misconduct occurred at a stoppage of play or during play
- If anyone was injured as a consequence of the misconduct
- Whether there was any prior incident that may have led to the player’s actions
- The demeanor of the player during the send-off (including any difficulties in implementing the player’s removal from the field)
- The location of the action in relation to the goal line and penalty area being attacked at the time
- The subsequent intrusion of any other players (teammates or opponents) during the time the referee is managing the send off
- The specific words or gestures which were determined to be insulting, offensive, or abusive
- The identity of the opponent or official toward whom the misconduct was directed
- A summary of the prior misconduct (or a reference to the section of the report which detailed the prior caution) preceding the second caution for which the player was sent off
- The identity of the assistant referee, fourth official, or reserve assistant referee who provided independently observed facts to the referee regarding the misconduct
- All other details of the action which materially shaped the decision to send the player off

Any other facts which a Disciplinary Committee might decide it needs as a result of its review of the match report can be supplied by the referee on request of the Committee, but the most useful information

will come from a properly completed, accurate, detailed, and clear match report. Match reports provided independently by assistant referees, fourth officials, or reserve assistant referees should follow these guidelines as well.

- **Post-game misconduct:** referees may issue and display yellow or red cards to players, substitutes, or team officials after the game. These reports must be as descriptive as reports made for misconduct during the game.

Information for Teams Regarding Discriminatory Language During Matches

Following examples set by FIFA, Professional Soccer Leagues worldwide and other organizations, US Youth Soccer rejects any form of discrimination, harassment or epithets directed towards an individual based on race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age or physical/mental disability.

Foul and Abusive Language is a sending off offense and may include, but are not limited to, epithets in any language that are perceived to be derogatory or inflammatory towards any player (opponent or teammate), coach, referee, spectator, administrator or other individual.

Epithets by a Player or Team Official heard by a Referee During a Match:

When the Referee hears an epithet by a Player or Team Official or is advised by a member of the Referee crew that they did:

- The Referee is required to issue an ejection per the Laws of the Game.
- Event Staff will respond and remain at the field for the duration of the match to monitor and take action if necessary.

Epithets by a Player or Team Official and reported to a Referee During a Match:

When a Player or Team Official informs a member of the Referee crew that an epithet was directed towards them or another individual, but no member of the Referee crew heard the epithet:

- At the next stoppage of play, the Referee will bring the target and the individual alleged to have conveyed the epithet to the midfield touch line, along with the Head Coaches of both teams, the Referee crew and responding Event Staff where the alleged epithet will be reviewed.
- Following that meeting, coaches may bring their team to the touchline to advise that additional incidents may result in an immediate ejection, a temporary suspension of the match, the match being abandoned and/or teams being removed from the competition.
- Play will be restarted and time added to account for the delay.
- Event Staff will remain at the field for the duration of the match to monitor and take action if necessary.

Epithets by Spectators heard by or reported to a Referee During a Match:

- At the next stoppage of play the Referee will direct players to go to their respective benches.
- The Referee will bring the Head Coaches from both teams, the Referee crew and responding Event Staff to an area away from the benches.
- Both Head Coaches will be advised of what was reported, and if identified, the spectator that said it.
- Both Head Coaches will be requested to inform their spectators that any additional incidents may result in a temporary suspension of the match, removal of spectators for the balance of the match and possibly future matches, the match being abandoned and/or teams being removed from the competition.
- If the offending spectator was not identified, the Head Coach will be requested to ask their spectators to assist in identifying the offending spectator.
- If the offending spectator is identified, Event Staff will inform the spectator they must leave sight and sound of the field before the match will resume. Security will intervene if the spectator refuses to comply.

- Additionally, the sideline may be cleared of all spectators from the offending team for the balance of the match and possibly future matches.
- Event Staff will remain at the field for the duration of the match to monitor and take action if necessary.