

WASA

Referee Guidelines



July 2010

Notice

The information in these guidelines should not be construed as a replacement for, the rules of FIFA, USSF, or the various soccer organizations under which WASA operates.

The information is intended as a procedural reference for WASA's two-referee system.

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WASA Rules and Points of Emphasis

1. WASA uses a two referee system.
Both referees are considered Head Referees with equal authority to enforce the Laws of the Game.
The referee that is closest to the goal being attacked is called the **Lead Referee**.
The referee that is furthest from the goal being attacked is called the **Trail Referee**.
2. Proper Referee Uniform
 - Gold referee shirt (or alternate black, red, blue, or green)
 - Black stockings with white stripes at the top
 - Black shorts and black shoes
3. Referee Equipment
 - Whistle
 - Time piece (*must show seconds*)
 - Coin
 - Yellow & red cards
 - Game score sheet
 - Pen or pencil
 - Referee flags (*optional*)
4. Cell Phones and other communication or entertainment devices are not permitted during games. Texting, talking, message checking, browsing the web, listening to music, etc. while refereeing a soccer game is **not permitted**.

If someone calls you during a game, ignore the call. If you are unable to ignore your communications device, turn it off.

You have been hired to referee. Anything that distracts you from that responsibility is cheating those who employ you and the players in the game.
5. Be at the field at least 15 minutes before game time. Start the game on time.
6. Rain is NOT a reason to cancel a game. If there is no thunder or lightning, make every effort to play the game. (*See... Weather Procedures*)
7. Soccer players are not permitted to wear earrings. Period!! If a player has recently had their ears pierced and chooses not to take out their earrings, the player cannot play. **There are NO exceptions**. Parental consent is irrelevant. It is not the parent's decision to make.
8. Coaches must remain off the field and on their own end of the team sideline.
9. Spectators should be on the opposite side of the field from the teams.
Spectators should stay at least 5 feet from the touch-line so players have room to make throw-ins and the referee has room to move up and down the sideline.

10. Coaches and spectators are not permitted to provide instruction to players from behind the goals.

Photographers and other spectators are permitted behind the goals as long as they do not distract the players or interfere with the game.

11. WASA is an instructional league. When a child is not playing within the laws of the game, referees and coaches should cooperate to help them learn.

Calling fouls is part of the instruction process. Briefly and loudly tell players what foul you have called and what you want them to do.

If there is an arm signal for your call, USE IT.

12. Be consistent with your calls and do not allow coaches or spectators to influence you.

Never, never, never make, or change, a call because a coach or spectator complains.

13. Do not take verbal abuse from a coach or spectator. If a coach or spectator yells the names of fouls (*or makes other objectionable comments*) during the game, ask them to stop. Even if they are correct, it appears that they are calling the game for you. (*See... Dealing with Sideling Abuse*)

14. Coaches and WASA staff all want referees to be decisive and take charge.

Use your authority with wisdom and restraint.

What to Do If You Need a Replacement

It is your responsibility to find a replacement when you are unable to referee an assigned game. At the beginning of each season, the Head Referee provides a list of active referees.

If you know someone who is available to take your place, make arrangements directly with him or her. Make certain that your replacement knows which game(s) they are covering for you.

If you cannot find a substitute on your own, call:

Replacement Referee Hotline
614-827-BALL (2255)

What to Do If the Other Referee Is Not There by 10 Minutes Before the Game

Assume that your partner is not going to show up.

Do not wait. Immediately do the following pre-game duties as quickly as possible.

1. Tell the coaches that there will be only one referee and ask each of them to supply a club linesman. Don't start the game until you get two linesmen.
2. Instruct the club linesmen about what you want them to do (*see notes below*)
3. Inspect the players' equipment
4. Flip the coin
5. Get the game ball
6. Start the game on time

Notes about club linesmen:

1. Generally, a club linesman will be a parent, brother, sister or friend of someone on one of the two teams. They are usually not trained as referees. Do not assume that they will be impartial.
2. Show them where they should be positioned on the sideline and how far up and down the sideline they should go.
3. Ask them to indicate when the ball **completely** crosses the touch line (sideline) and which direction the throw-in will go. If you do not have flags, have them raise their arm.
4. Tell them that you reserve the right to change their calls about which team gets the ball.
5. If you do not have a clear view, a club linesman may also be able to help you determine who last touched the ball before it went over the goal line.
6. Make offside calls yourself. **Do not let club linesmen make or help with offside calls.**
7. At the end of the game thank your club linesmen for their help.
8. Write "Alone" on your game score sheet to indicate that you were the only referee.

Weather Procedures

Go to the field unless you have been notified by the Head Referee or an assistant that your specific games are cancelled or (by www.cancellations.com) that all fields are closed.

Cancellation at Game Time

Rain or heavy showers are NOT sufficient reason to cancel a WASA game. If there is no lightning or thunder, every effort should be made to play the game.

After you arrive at the field (15 minutes before game time) ask yourself:

Is there Thunder or Lightning?

Yes... **Cancel**

No... **Play the Game** *if the field is playable*
Cancel only if the field is not playable

Guidelines for Judging a Field to Be Playable

- 80 percent of the field, and both goal areas, should be free of standing water and heavy mud.
- The turf should not be soggy.

The safety of the players is the foremost consideration.
A second consideration is the preservation of the fields for future games.

WASA U6 & U7

The U6 and U7 divisions play small sided games with split squads. Both teams split in half and play two games on adjacent small fields.

If one field is unplayable, BOTH games are cancelled no matter what the condition is on the other field.

The referees on the unplayable field are authorized to cancel the games on both fields...
after consulting with the other referees and the coaches.

Rain or Heavy Showers

Delay the start of a game or call a rain delay (if it's during a game) to see if the weather passes.

- WASA Rec. matches for ages U12 or below...
Play may start or resume if the rain delay is 15 minutes or less.
Halves may be shortened so the next game can begin on schedule.
- Middle School age or above...
Play may start or resume if the rain delay is 30 minutes or less.

If heavy rain continues beyond the time limit, the match may be terminated.

Important Note:

Termination of one match due to rain or heavy showers does not automatically cancel matches that follow.

The procedure outlined above should be followed at game time for all subsequent matches you are assigned on the same day.

This means that if you cancel or terminate a game, you need to stay at the field.

WASA Policy regarding Thunder and Lightning

If anyone hears thunder or spots lightning during a game, take immediate action.

Do not continue play!

- WASA Rec. matches for ages U12 or below...
Terminate the match. Advise everyone to seek shelter.
- Middle School age or above...
There must be a full 30 minute delay. Advise everyone to seek shelter.
Each subsequent occurrence of thunder or lightening restarts the 30 minute clock.
If after 30 minutes it is apparent that conditions are not improving, terminate the match.

Coach Authority

Coaches are not authorized to cancel games. That decision belongs to WASA staff or the referees.

A coach cannot disregard a referee's decision to cancel or terminate a game.

If the referee decides to play, and a coach feels that weather or field conditions threaten the safety of his players, the coach should inform the referee of the concern and pull his team from the field.

This situation is not a forfeit. Referees have no authority to issue forfeits. League officials will determine the status of the game.

Game Day Activities

Arrive at the Field / Pre-Game Activities - 15 Minutes before kickoff

1. Meet your partner and write his or her name on your score sheet.
2. Inspect the nets, field condition and markings.
3. Inspect the flags - in correct place, upright, and stable so that they will not fall over during the game.
Make sure the mid-field flags are at least one yard off the field.
4. Write team colors and coach names on your score sheet.

Meet with the Teams - 8 minutes before kickoff

1. Inspect Equipment:
 - Cleats and shin guards
 - Casts or braces properly padded
 - No metal or hard plastic in hair
 - No Jewelry of any kind... no rings, bracelets, watches, earrings, necklaces, or piercings
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Coin Toss - 5 Minutes before kickoff

1. Meet with the captains.
2. Ask who will call the coin toss for the visiting team.
3. Ask the team that wins the coin toss which end of the field they want to defend.
(This is the only choice they have. They cannot choose to kick off.)
4. The other team will kick off.
5. Record which team will kick and the direction on your score sheet.
6. Decide which side of the field each referee will take and who will keep the official time.
7. Get a game ball from the home team and inspect it for proper size, inflation, and condition.

Take Position - 1 Minute before kickoff

1. Both referees check that their watches are set correctly and ready to operate.
2. Team-side referee... blow your whistle and get the teams on the field.
3. Both referees take their positions.
 - Trail referee... on the center-line.
 - Lead referee... in the end of the field being attacked, even with the 2nd to last defender.
(the last field player)
4. Both referees count the players.

Start the Game - on Time

The **Trail Referee** controls the kickoff:

1. Make sure the ball is stationary on the center spot.
2. Make sure the Lead referee is in position and ready for the kickoff.
(*The Lead referee makes eye contact and points in the direction of the kick.*)
3. **Blow the whistle** to signify that the game may start.
4. Start your clock when the ball is kicked forward into the opponent's end of the field

Time Keeping, Quarter Breaks, Halftime and End of Game

1. The referee that keeps the official time blows the whistle when time has expired.
2. If a penalty kick needs to be taken, time is extended until the PK is complete.
3. Halftime for WASA games is five minutes.
4. Teams are required to switch ends for the second half.
5. In U6 and U7 games:
 - Breaks after the 1st and 3rd quarters are two minutes.
 - Teams do not switch ends after the 1st and 3rd quarters.
 - Teams alternate kickoffs.
One team kicks off for the 1st and 3rd quarters.
The other team kicks off for the 2nd and 4th quarters.
6. One minute before halftime is over, blow your whistle to get the teams back on the field.
7. After the game, have each coach sign your score sheet.
8. Make sure the game ball gets back to its owner.

At Home, After the Game

1. Record your games on your WASA Referee Work Record sheet.
*It is highly recommended that you fill out the Referee Work Record on the day you referee.
Don't put it off to a later date.*
2. Document and report: any red cards you gave, coaches you dismissed, or if a match was terminated due to coach or spectator abuse.

Referee Positioning

During normal play the two referees should be positioned where the two Assistant Referees would be in the FIFA three man diagonal system of control. This positioning provides the best opportunity to see fouls, determine offside position, see when the ball leaves the field, and judge if a goal is scored.

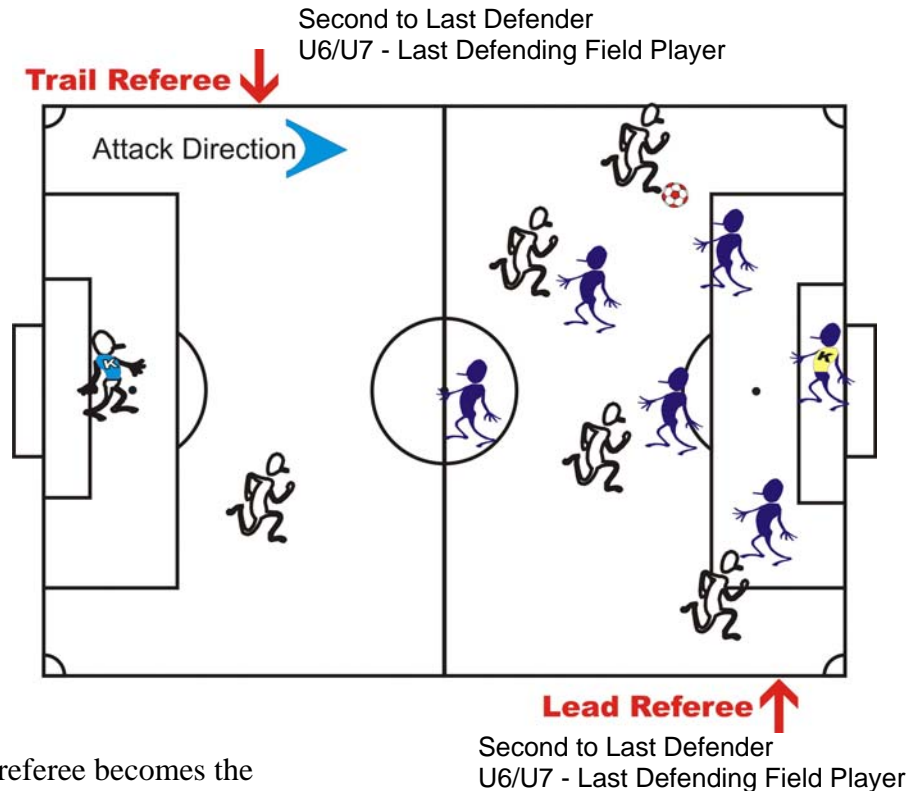
Trail referee:

Positioned even with the second to last defender in the end of the field not being attacked.

If play goes deep into the attacking end, the Trail referee may move up to the mid-line... but no further.

Lead referee:

Positioned even with the second to last defender in the end of the field being attacked, or even with the ball, if the ball is closer to the goal line.



If the direction of play changes, the Trail referee becomes the Lead referee and must quickly get into position in his/her end of the field, even with the second to last defender, or the ball, as described above for the lead referee.

Referees should not go past the mid-field line into the other end of the field.

Penalty kicks and dropped balls are exceptions to this limitation.

U6 & U7 games

There are no goal keepers in U6 & U7.

- The Lead referee is positioned even with the last defending field player in the end being attacked, or even with the ball if the ball is closer to the goal line.
- The Trail referee is positioned even with the last defending field player on the other end of the field.

These are the same positions where they would be if there were goal keepers.

Referee Positions when Restarting Play

Corner Kick

1. If the kick is from the far corner, the Lead referee stands on the goal line at the corner where the goal line intersects the touch line.
If the kick is from the near corner, the Lead referee is even with goal line and behind kicker.
2. After the kick is taken, the Lead referee watches to see if the kick curves out of bounds in the air before it lands in bounds.
3. The Trail referee is even with the attacking team's second to last defender, but no closer to the kick than the mid-field line.

Goal Kick

1. The Trail referee sees that the ball is placed properly and then moves to a point on the sideline even with the front of the penalty area. The Trail referee ensures that opponents are outside the penalty area and that the ball leaves the penalty area before a second player touches it.
For U6 & U7 games, the Trail referee is on the sideline even with the goal area.
2. The Lead referee is even with the opponent's second to last defender, but no closer to the kick than the mid-field line.

Drop Ball

1. The Referee on the side nearest to the drop location drops the ball. The spot should be at least five yards in from the sideline. The referee faces the field (not the sideline) while dropping the ball.
This may require a referee to temporarily go deep into the other end of the field. After dropping the ball, this referee must quickly return to his (her) own end of the field and take up position even with the second to last defender. This referee should continue to watch play while returning to position.
2. The other referee is in a normal position on the opposite sideline ready to move up-field or downfield with the second to last defender.

Throw-in

1. Both referees should be even with the second to last defenders in their respective ends of the field.
2. Additionally, the referee on the side of field where throw is being taken should stand far enough away from the thrower to observe both the thrower's hands and feet.

Penalty Kick

For penalty kicks, the Trail referee serves as the Center Referee would in a three man system.

1. The Trail referee position is just to the side of the penalty area even with the line that is parallel to the goal line.
2. The Lead referee position is on the goal line outside the goal area.

How to Deal with Sideline Abuse

Coach Misbehavior:

Referees are encouraged to use the "Ask-Tell-Remove" approach used in MLS.

1. First, 'ask' the coach to please stop the behavior.
2. Next 'tell' the coach his (her) behavior is no longer going to be tolerated.

Say, "Coach, your behavior is not acceptable. If you don't stop (*fill in the blank*), I'm going to be forced to take further action. The decision is yours."

Always tell them, "The decision is yours." This puts the sole responsibility on the coach to manage his/her behavior.

3. The final step is an ejection.

Say, "Coach, your behavior leaves me no choice. You need to leave. The game will restart after you have left the field." If the coach refuses to leave, terminate the game.

If the coach tells you that when he leaves there will be no coach, say, "I'm sure one of the parents will volunteer. If none of them volunteer, we'll have to terminate the game."

Parent/Spectator Misbehavior:

Dealing with abuse from parents is tough because technically you can't dismiss parents. Work through the coach.

Go to the coach and say, "Coach, you have responsibility for the conduct of your parents. We are at the point where I feel they are negatively impacting our ability to referee this game and they are affecting the players on the field. If no one deals with it, we will have to terminate the game."

Stop the game until the coach deals with the parents. Tell the coach, "I'll give you a couple minutes to go over and tell the parents to stop... (*abusing the referee, berating opponents, etc.*)."

The coach is forced to take action because he knows that if he doesn't deal with his team's parents, the game can be terminated. While the game is stopped for the coach to walk across the field, the focus is off the referee and on the coach and parents.

If the coach refuses to address the parents, or if the coach talks with the parents, but the abuse continues you have the authority to terminate the game.

Important Note - WASA U6 through U12 Rec Games

If you eject a coach or terminate a game, phone Henry Bell (614-890-0696) within 24 hours to report the specifics of the incident.