



NORTH ROYALTON SOCCER CLUB

SATURDAY RECREATIONAL LEAGUE

REFEREE RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT 3/18/2019

In addition to your duties and responsibilities under the laws of the game

Early is on time.....on time is late.....LATE, you lose your game.

If you want to be the one entrusted with keeping the time and the laws of the game, you first need to make sure you are there well in advance of the scheduled game time and that everyone and everything is ready to start on time..

- All Center Referees and Assistant Referees must report to the referee's station at the concession stand and check in for their game at least **15 minutes** prior to the scheduled start of their game. After signing in, the center referee is to pick up the game scorecard, verify the game, teams, time and field location, assemble his crew, review their game assignments and report to the game field. **Notify the referee supervisor on site immediately if a crew member is missing.**
- **If you are assigned a game at Memorial Field or Serpentine Stadium** and there is no referee supervisor on site, one referee, preferably the center referee is to check in with Guy DiSiena at 440-666-8846 no less than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time to report that your crew is on site and the field is open.
- All game referees are to be at their game field, no less than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. Bring the right size game ball with you. **Any referee not checked in 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game start time will be replaced by the referee supervisor on site. – The replacement will not be rescinded even if the late referee shows up prior to the games start time.**
- At the game field, the center referee is to introduce himself to the coaches. Remember that the next 5 minutes will leave an impression that may take the whole game to shake. So practice your aplomb: be easy and brief. No one respects a jerk, nor do they respect a pushover. If you are easygoing, you can avoid being a jerk. If you are brief, they can't peg you for a pushover. Verify that the correct teams are at the field, confirm the correct number of players to be on the field for that age league and confirm to each coach the game start time by your watch. (Note if there are any issues because the previous game ran late.)
- At the same time on the game field, the assistant referees are to inspect the field to be sure the appropriate goals for their game are in place, safely secured with weight bags, all flags are in place (bring flags out for first game), field markings are clear and any debris and or safety hazards on the field are cleared or corrected before the start of the game.
- **All games must start on time.**
- **Rainouts – As a game official your assumption must be that the games will be held on time. If in doubt, show up** and find out from a Board Member of referee supervisor on site. Before you make a decision to show up, check the NRSC.NET web page or TEXT or call the Referee Coordinator or better yet in advance, check the web site "Club Notes Page" to find out how to sign up for RainOut.net and get the official message text to your phone or Emailed to you..

No shoes..... no shirt..... no game!

Without a word, your professional appearance signifies to the coaches and players that you respect the game as well as yourself, that you will conduct the game in a professional manner and will accept nothing less from them throughout the game.

- All referees must be properly dressed in order to work their assigned game and must present themselves dressed and ready when they check in for their game.
- Proper dress includes – only - official yellow referee's shirt, all black shorts, black high socks and black (soccer cleats, turf or referee) shoes. In lieu of a long sleeve shirt in inclement weather a long sleeve black tee shirt or "under armor" type shirt is permitted under the yellow referee's shirt. **Reasonable exceptions may be approved in extreme weather.**
- No hats, sunglasses, short socks, rolled down socks or rolled up sleeves will be permitted. Your shirt must be tucked in.
- **Every referee, center and assistant** must come to all games properly equipped with at least one working whistle, watch and pen or pencil along with their red and yellow card set.
- **Center referees** must come prepared for the game with a complete flag set. (While all referees should have a set and have them for every game, an allowance will be made for first year referees, in the spring season, who are assigned training as a assistant referee and until they work enough games to afford the additional equipment,)
- **If you do not come fully equipped and properly attired, a replacement referee (not replacement equipment) will be found for your assigned game.** Substitute clothing and equipment is not available at the concession stand. Don't even ask! "I forgot" or "I lost" is not an acceptable excuse.

As an official, you're supposed to be above reproach, and what that means is you can't even give the appearance that you're going to do something wrong.

As a young referee it is hard enough to convince the coaches, players and spectators that you are in control of the game without giving them reason to think you are not giving the game your full attention.

- No cell phones out and/or turned on while you are working your game including pre-game and half time. **Your cell phone is never a game watch or timepiece.** No cell phone means the ringer is off, no talking, no texting, no tweeting, no messaging and no internet.
- Your focus must be on the game field, this means no talking or visiting with friends and family while your working your game. This includes other referees unless they are following that game with you as a mentor and/or instructor. In particular, assistant referees should be completely focused on the game and not be in conversation with someone following them along the sideline.
- You may not like everyone you work with, however, referees stand by each other. Don't diss another referee, especially while he or she is on the field officiating. Different referees have different styles, levels of tolerance and enforcement, and behind that different degree of experience and plain ability. If people solicit comments from you on another referee, just remember: we'll have perfect referees when we have perfect players.

I'm willing to admit that I may not always be right, but I am never wrong.

Our recreational leagues are instructional leagues. Players are learning to play the game, many coaches may be learning to coach and most of our referees are learning how to referee. Mistakes will be made.

- Every effort will be made to have older and more experienced referees work with and/or mentor younger and newer referees as they progress through our program. **It is your responsibility to let us know if you need help or feel you are assigned to a game that you are not prepared to handle or you are assigned to a game with a team or coach that you may have had a problem with in the past.**
- All of our referees new or experienced are expected to officiate their games with confidence. If you think there may be a foul or a call that needs to be made, make the call. **Blow your whistle and raise your flag with authority.** While someone at the game may complain, we will not criticize you for making a wrong call (a mistake that we can help you learn from) but we will be concerned if you let the game get out of control by not making the call.
- We know that it may feel intimidating to be in control of the game at your age with adult coaches and spectators all around. Again we remind you to be confident in your calls and most players and coaches will play on without dissent. Our coaches are instructed by the Board not to yell at, criticize or complain to our referees and to be sure that their players and parents are told the same thing. If any parents are out of control and affecting your ability to officiate the game, you are to bring them to the attention of the coaches. In an extreme situation with a coach that cannot be controlled through the full extent of your authority as a referee of the game and you receive no help from the opposing coach you may stop the game and immediately bring it to the attention of a referee supervisor or Board Member on site. Usually this can be avoided by the proper attention to the details and flow of the game, from the first whistle, by the center referee and the assistants.

The end is just the beginning

You've blown the final whistle and center referee and the assistant referees should meet in the center circle. You have just a few minutes left.

- Your job now is to oversee the handshakes. Players and coaches may come by to shake your hand as well. Center referee make sure you **bring the game ball back with your score card.** Don't leave it there for the next game. **AR's should bring back the flags if it is that field's last game of the day.**
- The center referee is responsible for completing the game card -- usually by now just entering the total score and having the coaches sign it. **It must be signed and turned in at the concession stand immediately after your game in order for the crew to be paid for the game.** If your crew has a second game, you can wait until the end of that game before turning in the game cards.
- All referees must resist the temptation to lecture the coaches on anything, and resist their attempts to lecture you. If you can't avoid them, or feel it would be too rude to cut them off, just make sure you don't actually start conversing, or you'll find yourself defending every call. Instead, just listen to their complaints and, if necessary, apologize for their dissatisfaction.
- Leave the field as quickly as you can, however the referee crew should spend a few minutes together, out of earshot from the players and coaches before they head back to go over the game and any issues or questionable calls that may have come up. **The most senior referee is expected to help those junior to him/her learn from their game experience.**
- If you had any issues with the players, coaches or parents, had questions on calls or procedures of your game **or if one of the coaches wrote any comments on your game card,** be sure to meet with the referee supervisor on site before you turn in your scorecard.

Before you leave, please check in with the referee's station at the concession stand to see if all of the referees have arrived for the next set of games. There is a chance you can pick up an additional game or two while you are still at the field. Your help in covering games for those not taking their commitment responsibly will be appreciated. You may be assigned the missing referees next assignment too.

Any questions or comments to the above policy and rules, please contact Bill Werner or Guy DiSiena