

Northwest Soccer Club Referee Policies

In order to help ensure our referees are prepared for the soccer season, listed below is information that you need to read and understand.

REQUIRED Documents: GDMJSL policy is that each referee MUST ensure that when checking in teams each coach has the following in order for the players to be allowed to play. If any of these are not present, the coach has until halftime to produce them. If the roster, cards or name badge isn't there at half, cancel the game.

- 1. Player Cards:** A valid player card for each player on the approved roster. The player card must be signed by the player and it must have a picture attached in a permanent manner to the card, and it must be valid for the current season.
- 2. Roster:** The approved roster the Iowa Soccer Association. If you are refereeing a U10 or younger game, you will still need the roster, it may just not be stamped "approved".
- 3. Coach's Badge:** Coaches should wear the plastic Coach's Badge while on the sidelines. This is mandatory unless they have the paper coach's card, signed with picture attached. If they do not have either of these cards they may not be on the team side of the field.

Player Apparel:

- 1. Alternate Jerseys:** Make sure you ask teams to change jerseys if you deem the jerseys too similar in color for you to officiate the game.
- 2. Safe apparel:** Make sure the players aren't wearing any earrings, bracelets, watches, necklaces or hard (metal or plastic) hair ties. Check for safe cleats, shin guards, and socks that fully cover the shin guards.

The Field:

- 1. Corner Flags** – each field MUST have corner flags in order for the game to be played. If the corner flags are not there, you CANNOT start the game. Let the Northwest coach know that you will delay the start of the game for 15 minutes to allow them time to get the flags. If there is a delay, the game will be shortened by that amount of time, divided equally between the two halves. If it is not possible to get the flag in 15 minutes you will need to call me to determine whether we can delay the start of the game further or if the game will not be played.
- 2. Player and Fan Seating:** Be sure that the players and fans are seated on opposite sides of the field. Do not allow fans to sit near the corners. No one can be seated behind the goal, and do not allow coaches or parents to stand near the goal, either.
- 3. U8 Goals:** These must be weighted down with sandbags. Check prior to games.

Referee/Assistant Referee Pay: Both Referees and Assistant Referees are paid on the field at the end of the game. Be sure to sign the referee pay sheet. If the coach doesn't have this, call me to let me know you reffed the game. If we didn't have a full crew, write "Absent" in the pay slot for the missing referee(s).

Weather and Field Conditions: The Director of Fields opens and closes the fields due to rain and other conditions, but if you feel your field is unsafe to play on, stop the game and give me a call. For lightning, use the 30/30 Rule: If you see lightning and hear thunder within 30 seconds, suspend play immediately. You must then wait at least 30 minutes until after the last lightning strike to restart play, no exceptions; this is for the safety of everyone. If restarting a game would make your next game start more than 30 minutes late, do not restart the game. Inform the coaches that the match cannot proceed and report the incident on the game report (on Arbiter) and the league will determine how to proceed.

The information and rules above ARE NOT DISCRETIONARY on your part! They are MANDATORY as prescribed by GDMJSL, our insurance carrier, and/or Iowa Soccer Association. You MUST enforce them consistently to ensure fairness and safety to all players and teams. Call the Director of Referees with questions.