



REFEREE MANUAL

2017-2018

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SEDGWICK COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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I. WELCOME TO SCSA

SCSA was founded in June of 1991 by a small group of soccer enthusiasts who were interested in merging KJSF and WUSA into a unified soccer league. The main goal of this organization was to build a unified soccer league incorporating Wichita and surrounding areas.

II. SO YOU WANT TO BE A SEDGWICK COUNTY SOCCER ASSOCIATION REFEREE

Being a referee is a fairly simple process - you attend the entry level referee class, you pass the test, you buy a uniform and you do your first game. Sounds easy. We can help you get started. Sign up to attend any referee training at the Kansas Referee Development Web Page at www.kansasreferee.org.

The Uniform and Equipment

Once you have passed the test and registered with USSF, it's time to buy your first uniform. The basic uniform for referees is a yellow shirt, black referee shorts, black socks with two stripes, and black shoes. Uniforms in other colors may be purchased at a later time. Best order for colors would be green, then red, black or blue. In addition to a uniform, you will need a watch that counts down time. You'll need a whistle, a small book to keep score, a flipping coin, red and yellow cards, and a set of flags. Your local soccer retail store can outfit you with everything you need.

Getting Games

The current SCSA league assignor's contact info is available on the SCSA website, or call the SCSA office. You will need to be sure to get on their email list so that you can record your availability.

Your First Year

After you have been on the fields for a while and have mastered how to be an AR (assistant referee) now what? You will be classified as a grade 8 referee and will start getting assignments as a Center Ref to develop your skills for issuing cards and dealing with coaches and sideline. Every year after you become a grade 8 referee you will be required to take a re-certification clinic and test.

Evaluations

To help new referees as they make the transition from the classroom to the field and to help them enjoy refereeing and be successful at it, SCSA administers an evaluation program. Experienced referees share their time and talents to work with and observe new referees. Be sure and work with your Director of Officials to be included in the process.

Want to Advance?

Once you are ready for more challenging games, let your local assignor know. The evaluator will come to the field, evaluate your game, and give you pointers on how to improve. The evaluator is there to help you, so take their feedback as constructive criticism. Of course, the more games you do the more your confidence improves and games will seem easier. One thing to remember is that we all have a bad game from time to time so don't despair. With evaluators and assignors helping you, these will be few and far between. If you have any questions, contact your Director of Officials.

III. LEAGUE SPECIFIC STANDARDS

A. UNIFORMS

1. Competitive players must be in proper uniform on the field in order to participate in the game. Proper uniforms means matching shirts, shorts, and socks. Each shirt must be tucked in and have a different number on them for each player.

2. Recreational Division players must have a shirt or a t-shirt with a different number on it.

3. If both teams have the same color uniform jerseys, the home team will change to an alternate jersey. It is advisable that both the home team and the visiting team carry an alternate jersey (or t-shirt) with numbers on them to all League games. As a last option, pennies are available in the referee shed if neither team has an alternate jersey. Referee is responsible for collecting at the end of the game and returning to the referee shed.

4. When a problem with uniforms does occur, unusual circumstances (e.g., a team still awaiting uniform delivery) will be dealt with at the referee's discretion. The referee will report this incident to the Field Administrator, Assignor or Director of Officials.

B. SCHEDULING

1. The home team is responsible for certain actions listed elsewhere in this manual, including providing the game ball and changing to an alternate shirt if a uniform color conflict occurs.

2. Games can be postponed or canceled only by the President, League Administrator, Field Administrator or the President's designee.

3. In the event field conditions are such that a game should be moved, the President, League Administrator, Field Administrator or President's designee will determine if a game can be moved to another field site, at which time the age group coordinators will be called to notify teams involved in any changes. We will attempt to do this as early as possible.

4. Referees or field personnel can SUSPEND a game due to weather or field conditions if, in his/her opinion, it is dangerous for the players to continue. In the event of a delay or cancellation, it is the responsibility of each team to verify the status of their game before leaving the complex. When a game has reached half time, and the game is canceled due to the weather, the game is considered over and the score at the time of the cancellation is the final score. **In the event a game is canceled by a league administrator prior to the start of the second half, this fact shall be noted on the game card.**

5. If a team fails to show up for a regularly scheduled game or cannot field the minimum number of players to play the game, that game will go on record as a forfeit by that team. The score will be posted as a 3-0 win for the winning team.

a. Fielding a Team:

11 per side games (U-13 & Older) minimum of 7 players

9 per side games (U-11 & U-12) minimum of 5 players

7 per side games (U-9 & U-10) minimum of 4 players

4 per side games (U-7 & U-8) minimum of 3 players

3 per side games (U-5 & U-6) minimum of 2 players

b. At any time during the match, the team unable to field the minimum number of players shall forfeit the game and be held liable for the forfeit fee.

6. Abandonment of Game – A game shall not be prematurely terminated by either one or both of the competing teams. Should a team terminate a game without permission of the referee, it shall forfeit said game and be held liable for the forfeit fee.

7. Once game is forfeited or abandoned, all team/coaches/spectators are to leave the field. Teams are not allowed to scrimmage or have a friendly. Referee should contact Field Administration immediately to alert them of the forfeit/abandonment. Referees should leave the field once coaches are notified.

C. LINEUP CARDS, GAME CARDS AND MEMBERSHIP PASSES

1. The lineup card is the official record of players who have participated in a given game.

2. It is the responsibility of both the home team official and the visiting team official to sign and completely and properly fill out his/her respective **LINE-UP CARD**, verifying the eligibility of those players listed, and submit the lineup card to the referee PRIOR to the start of the game. The lineup card must contain the FULL name of all participating players, as listed on their official USYS roster, and their jersey numbers.

3. All players listed on the lineup card will be considered to have played in the game, whether they actually played or not.

4. The captain on both teams are to be indicated by an asterisk (*) next to the name.

5. A USYS **MEMBERSHIP PASS**, LAMINATED WITH A PICTURE, shall be given to the referee prior to each game for the following persons:

All Coaches (Except U5 or U6 teams)

All U-9 & Older Players.

D. RULES OF PLAY

1. General

a. Except as otherwise provided herein, the FIFA "Laws of the Game" shall apply to any and all competition sponsored by this organization. Any deviation from FIFA Laws for the betterment of soccer in the League shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

b. If teams are not ready to commence the game after a ten-minute delay, the center referee shall consult with field personnel regarding status of the game.

c. Nobody is to be behind the goal lines for any reason when the game is being played. Referees will

request these individuals to move.

- d. The coaches and players will be expected to remain within any marked coaching boxes. **The maximum number of rostered coaches allowed on the sidelines with the players during a game will be three (3).** For all U8 & younger teams: The teams and their coaches will be on the opposite side of the field from the spectators. The teams and their coaches will be located on the North side of the field. For all U9 & older teams: The team, their coaches and their spectators will be on the same side of the field. The home team will be located on the North side of the field. The visiting team, their coaches and their spectators will be located on the South side of the field. No spectators will be allowed behind the assistant referees.
- e. In the tradition of the League, some type of handshake between the players and team officials following the game is encouraged.
- f. All persons on the sidelines are expected to remain within the technical area so as to facilitate the unencumbered movement and sight of the assistant referee.
- g. **THE COACHES (AND TEAM OFFICIALS) ARE ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF HIS/HER PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS.**

2. Substitutions

a. Substitutions shall be unlimited in number. (If there is a goalkeeper change it is required that notification be given to the referee. If the goalkeeper is to become a field player, his/her jersey number is to be reported to the referee.)

b. A substitution can be made, with the consent of the referee, at the following times:

- The team in possession may substitute anytime the ball is out of play (corner kicks, throw-ins). However, teams not in possession of the ball can only substitute during these situations provided that the team in possession is also substituting.
- Free substituting is allowed for both teams after goals, during goal kicks and at half time.
- The substitutes must be at the centerline ready to enter before the referee will allow the substitution to take place.
- The referee has the authority not to allow the substitution if he/she believes that the procedure will stop the flow of the game or is being used as tactical time wasting ploy.
- After an injury by either team, when the referee stops play.

- If a player is shown a yellow card, the player **must** leave the field and the team official may substitute for the yellow-carded player, with the referee's permission. The opposing team will be allowed one substitution at this time only if the team official elects to substitute for the yellow-carded player. The yellow-carded player may re-enter the field only at a guaranteed

substitution.

- o If a player has a bleeding injury or blood on his/her uniform, the player must leave the field of play. The player will only be allowed back on the field of play when the injury is cleaned and covered or the uniform cleaned or changed.

c. Substitution will specifically not be permitted for any red carded player ordered from the field of play by the referee.

d. No player shall leave or enter the field of play without the consent of the referee. This includes stepping over the touch line for a drink.

e. The incoming players will come to the substitution box at the half line. They will not enter the field of play until the players coming off the field have left the field of play at the half line.

3. Special Playing Rules

SCSA will follow all rules as provided by FIFA laws of the game unless otherwise specified. This rule applies to U-5, U-6, U-7 and U-8 play as all competitive soccer rules including direct and indirect kicks, restarts, corner kicks, goal kicks and throw-ins. (See Addendum A)

4. Length of Games

U-17, U-18 & U-19	Two 40 minute halves
U-15 & U-16	Two 40 minute halves
U-13 & U-14	Two 35 minute halves
U-11 & U-12	Two 30 minute halves
U-9 & U-10	Two 25 minute halves
U-7 & U-8	Two 20 minute halves
U-5 & U-6	Two 16 minute halves

a. League games can end in a tie. No overtime will be played in a regular season league game.

b. Mercy Rule—If at any time after the 1st half of a game is completed, the goal differential becomes 10 goals, the team leading will be awarded the win. The coach of the team that is trailing by 10 goals will have the option to continue play to the conclusion of the game; however, no additional goals will be officially recorded for either team through the remainder of the game. The official score will be recorded when the 10 goal differential occurred.

c. Half-time is to be five (5) minutes for U-10 and below age groups. Half-time is to be ten (10) minutes for U-11 and older age groups. **However, a referee should cut the half time if the games are running behind schedule.** The referee will notify both coaches if he/she is cutting the half-time.

5. Ball Size

- a. A Size 5 ball will be used for U-13 and older.
- b. A Size 4 ball will be used for U-9 through U-12

c. A Size 3 ball will be used for U-5 through U-8

6. Number of Players

The League will follow the recommendations of USYS regarding the number of field players per team. (*See also minimum number of players to field a team; Section III – B; Page 5) The number of players per team shall be as follows:

- U-5 and U-6** (3 v 3) no goalie
- U-7 and U-8** (4 v 4) no goalie
- U-9 and U-10** (7 v 7)
- U-11 and U-12** (9 v 9)
- U13 and older** (11 v 11)

E. REFEREE INFORMATION

1. Referee Compensation - Outdoor

<i>Crew</i>	<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Center Referee</i>	<i>Asst. Referee</i>
1 man	U-7 & U-8	\$17.00	none
3 man	U-9 & U-10	\$20.00	\$14.00
3 man	U-11 & U-12	\$25.00	\$16.00
3 man	U-13 & U-14	\$30.00	\$21.00
3 man	U-15 & U-16	\$36.00	\$26.00
3 man	U-17 thru U-19	\$40.00	\$30.00

To receive payment, a signed and completed W-9 form must be on file with the SCSA league office. W-9 forms may be found at irs.gov—Forms. Checks are available each week during normal SCSA office hours on Tuesday evenings. Checks will only be mailed out every two weeks.

SCSA reserves the right to withhold payment of referee fees for failure to follow and administer SCSA rules and regulations. The League recognizes the inconvenience of referees being scheduled for weeknight games (Monday through Friday) and shall authorize the payment of \$5.00 for any referee scheduled for only one (1) game on a weeknight.

2. Officiating Crew

- a. U-9 and older outdoor matches shall be officiated by the three (3) person FIFA/USSF Referee System: In the event the assigned referee fails to appear (within 10 minutes of the match time), a certified official must be found to officiate the match.
- b. The referee may appoint replacements for assistant referees who fail to show up by match time. In the event certified USSF officials are not available, the referee may appoint club assistant referees.

3. Club assistant referees shall be limited to decisions only on touchlines and possession as specified by FIFA.
 - a. The referee is in total charge of the game. No overt disagreements with a decision of the referee or assistant referee shall be tolerated on or off the field.
 - b. Under no circumstances may a coach request or refuse any assigned referee. If a coach refuses to play a game with a certain referee, the coach refusing to play the game will forfeit that game. The violation of this section will result in the penalties.
 - c. The referee and assistant referee will not entertain questions about the Laws of the Game or their interpretation of same with either players, team officials or spectators except as listed below in "d".
 - d. The team captain does not have the right to discuss the game with the referees. As team captain, the player is given responsibility, not privilege. The captain may address the referee on any aspect of the game or on its progress with the permission of the referee. The captain's sole duties are to maintain discipline and fair play among the players. Team officials should instruct players never to question the referee's decisions. The referee's decisions are final and are not arguable by the players, captains or team officials.
 - e. The Referee Assignor shall assign age appropriate, certified referees to both Recreational and Competitive divisions.
 1. Center referees scheduled for Competitive games shall have a minimum of one (1) full season experience.
 2. SCSA promotes the development program for referees as set forth by USSF. SCSA referee evaluators are 18 years of age or older, and have been officiating for a minimum of 5 years. Evaluators are assigned by the Director of Officials in consultation with the assignors, and are paid per game as follows:

\$15 (U7-U10), \$20 (U11-U14) and \$25 (U15 & above)

4. Referee Responsibilities

- a. It is the referee's responsibility to properly document eligibility of players and coaches by checking membership passes prior to the start of each game.
- b. The center referee is responsible for completion and submission to league the yellow and red card reports. The center referee should inform Field Administrator that an incident has occurred after the game has ended. Player and/or coach membership passes for any red carded individual(s) must be submitted with a completed USSF red card report followed by notification to the League Director of Officials.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR FILING REPORTS

A. GENERAL

1. The Referee Game Report should give a clear, concise account of an incident. Well-presented

reports make it easier for a disciplinary committee to clearly see what happened and arrive at a just decision. You are the “eyes and ears” and your report must reflect only information related to the incident. Make sure that what you write is legible.

2. Referees are required to submit a report containing details of misconduct relating to:
 - a) Yellow card reports— Cautionable offenses: Yellow card report is a one-line of information on the game, player, team and reason for the caution.
 - b) Red card reports—Send-off offenses: Red card report is detailed information about the incident including game, player, team and reason for the red card given.
 - c) Misconduct report—Players after the match, team official and/or spectators: Misconduct report would be filled out after the match and include concerns with the team official(s) and/or spectators.

B. GUIDELINES

1. You must differentiate between the “offense” and the “incident” when making a report. The “offense” is a classification according to the laws of the game of a player’s misconduct. The “incident” is what the player actually did at the time he committed the offense.

- Written reports shall be submitted to the Director of Officials, Field Administrator or other league designee at the field. **Referee abuse and assault reports shall be submitted by the league to the Kansas State Association & the State Referee Administrator within 48 hours.**
- For non-league events and tournaments, the referee shall submit report to the Event/Tournament Director as required by the event/tournament.

2. A yellow card report is completed when a player is CAUTIONED for

- Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game.
- Dissent by word or action from the Referee’s decision.
- Unsporting behavior.
- Entry, re-entry, or departure from field of play without the referee’s permission.

3. A red card report is completed when a player is SENT OFF.

a. Potential reasons for player SEND OFF are:

- Violent conduct
- Serious foul play
- Foul or abusive language towards the referee or assistant
- Racial remarks
- Second cautionable offense after having received a caution

b. Your red card report must be clear with specific, detailed information and include:

- The time at which the incident took place and how long it lasted
- Whether it had any consequences and, if so, of what nature
- Where it took place using a field diagram to establish location, if necessary
- Your position and distance from the incident
- Whether the ball was in play or not
- If a player was fouled, the part of the body that was struck
- Whether the player received medical treatment

4. Termination of Game Resulting in Misconduct:

a. Potential reasons for game terminated by the referee for actions by the players, coaches or spectators:

- as refusal to play
- disorder such as field invasion or thrown objects.

b. A misconduct report completed by the referee should be clear with detailed information and include:

- Team(s) involved
- Game date and time of incident and how long it lasted
- Name(s) of the parties involved including coaches, substitutes, or supporters were responsible for any misconduct on or off the field of play.
- Consequence of misconduct
- Where it took place using a field diagram to establish location , if necessary
- Your position and distance from the incident
- Any other information related to the incident which applies.

5. Must contact the SCSA Director of Officials within 24 hours of all Send Offs.

6. Events & Tournaments: The referee shall submit report to the Tournament Director.

V. MISCONDUCT

A. TOWARD GAME OFFICIAL (USSF RULE 3042)

1. General: Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to and from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.

2. Terms and References as used in this rule-

“Referee” includes the following: All currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees or

other duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match, any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee, any club linesman.

“Hearing” means a meeting of at least three (3) neutral members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as chairman.

3. Referee Assault

- a. “Referee assault” is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee. For purposes of this policy, “intentional act” shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
- b. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee’s uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.

4. Referee Abuse

- a. “Referee Abuse” is a verbal statement of physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee’s property or equipment.
- b. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee; spewing any beverage on a referee’s personal property; spitting at (but not on) the referee; or verbally threatening a referee.
- c. Verbal threats are remarks that carry the implied or direct threat of physical harm. Such remarks as “I’ll get you after the game” or “You won’t get out of here in one piece” shall be deemed referee abuse.

5. Report to be submitted to the appropriate event official immediately and the event official shall submit report to the National State Association within 48 hours.

B. BY GAME OFFICIAL (USSF RULE 3043)

1. Terms and References: Except as noted in section 2 of this rule, the terms and references are the same as those defined and outlined in Rule 3042.
2. When any referee is alleged to have committed misconduct toward another referee, participant, or a spectator at a match, the State Referee Committee, or the State Referee Administrator if there is no Committee, will hear such allegations and report it’s findings and any punishment of the referee to the National State Associations of the State and National Referee Committee within thirty (30) days of the hearing.

VI. REFEREE ADVANCEMENT

A. PROGRESSION PLAN INTRODUCTION

The decision to referee soccer can be rewarding and fulfilling. Soccer officials are professionals, not because they are paid to officiate, but because they are trained, tested and registered and they must maintain their training and registration to continue officiating. If a referee wants to progress through the various grades, which correspond to the level of game competition, he/she should plan for the work and time required to rise through the ranks. While every referee's progression through the grades will be at a different pace, an average of two (2) years per grade after becoming a Grade 8 referee will provide a rough guide line for the time required to meet all the requirements of each grade, including game experience, to move on. At every level it is essential that the referee be educated in the Laws and procedures of the game, be able to recognize and understand the action of the game, and have the experience of different levels of the game. This will allow the referee to develop skills and apply them correctly in game situations.

You must be able to verify how many games you have officiated. Keep a written record of the games you have done. When was the last time you looked at the Laws of the Game? If your book looks new, you have not used it enough. Each time you read it, you will learn something new. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to know the Laws of the Game and your league specific rules. You cannot referee effectively if you are not physically fit. This applies to old and young at any level of competition.

B. ASSESSMENT

In order to "upgrade" from one level to the next, a formal assessment by a certified state or national referee assessor is required. (Advancing from Grade 9 to Grade 8 is not considered an upgrade.) Work through your Assignor & Director of Officials to be sure you meet the requirements and to schedule an assessment. Assignors shall exercise care to increase the difficulty level of the game assignments in a gradual and orderly manner for the good of the official and of the players. Start several days before by reviewing the Laws and by checking your uniforms and equipment. Contact your Assistant Referees to confirm their attendance. Get to the field 45 minutes before the scheduled start time. Meet the AR's and walk the field.

C. REFEREE GRADES

To provide uniform standards for soccer referees across the United States, the National Referee committee has adopted eight (8) referee grades.

1. "8" – USSF Referee Class 2

Minimum age – none

Badge – USSF Referee, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all youth games, assistant in comparable games.

To upgrade to Level "7": formal assessment on a U-19 youth or above game; 75 games as a center and 25 games as an assistant referee in any affiliated match; 12 months as a "8"; pass the referee entry level test with a minimum grade of 85%; pass a physical test which evaluates your level of fitness.

2. "7" – USSF Referee Class 1

Minimum age – 17.

Badge – USSF Referee, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all youth games and mixed leagues, assistant referee in all amateur games below the top division.

To upgrade to Level “6”: two assessments as a center in U-19 or higher games and one as an Assistant Referee; 100 games as a center and 25 games as an assistant in any U-19 or above match; 12 months as a “7”; pass the state level test with a minimum grade of 75%; pass a physical test which evaluates your level of fitness.

3. “6” – USSF State Referee Class 2

Minimum age – 18.

Badge – USSF State Referee, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all youth games and amateur games through second division and assistant referee in the top amateur division and amateur cup games.

To upgrade to Level “5”: two assessments as a center and one as an assistant referee in Amateur Division 1 or higher; 100 games as a center and 50 games as an assistant referee; 12 months as a “6”; pass the state level test with a minimum grade of 85%; pass a physical test which evaluates your level of fitness.

4. “5” – USSF State Referee Class 1

Minimum age – 19

Badge – USSF State Referee, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all youth games and amateur games including first division and assistant referee in professional league and international cup games.

To upgrade to Level “4”: Contact your State Referee Administrator (SRA) for more information.

5. “4” – USSF National Referee

Minimum age – 25

Badge – USSF National Referee, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all games except formal FIFA international matches, assistant referee for international matches.

To upgrade to Level “3”: Contact your SRA for more information.

6. “3” – USSF National Referee (International Panel Candidate)

Minimum age – 26

Badge – USSF National Referee, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all games except formal FIFA international matches.

To upgrade to Level “2”: Contact your SRA for more information.

7. “2” – USSF International Assistant Referee

Minimum age – 26

Badge – FIFA Assistant Referee, with current year

Recommended assignment level – all games

U.S. citizenship required.

To upgrade to Level “1”: Contact your SRA for more information.

8. “1” – USSF International Referee

Minimum age – 26 / Badge – FIFA, with current year.

Recommended assignment level – all games / U.S. citizenship required.

D. UPGRADE

The upgrade process is complete when the State Referee Administrator (SRA) receives and approves the Referee’s request for upgrade (the referee registration form), a complete list of the required games, formal proof of assessments, formal proof of clinic attendance and passing score on the test, and the required registration fee. The SRA will forward the completed paperwork to USSF for registration. Badges and membership cards will be issued by USSF.

VII. MALE & FEMALE YOUTH REFEREE OF THE YEAR

A. Nominations

Any member may nominate an individual. There should be sufficient documentation and solicitations attesting to the accomplishments of the individual being nominated as a referee, student, and contributing member of the community. These materials should be as specific as possible in citing accomplishments and personal attributes.

B. Qualifications

1. Must be 18 years or younger on July 31 of the current calendar year.
2. Attending high school or below.
3. Currently registered as a referee with the USSF.
4. Possess personal qualities reflecting accomplishments as a referee, a student, and a member of the community.

VIII. LEGAL

All referees are independent contractors, used by the league for which they officiate. All referees must have a signed and completed W-9 on file at the SCSA league office. As a self-employed independent contractor, the

referee is liable for filing a federal income tax return and paying all applicable taxes on game fees. The referee is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to lack of assignment.

IX. CONCLUSION

Your personal commitment to the game has brought you into a role that is unglamorous and frequently unpopular – a role in which you may sometimes feel inadequate, alone, abandoned. Whatever your motives, you chose to fulfill this role to ensure that others, the players and spectators, can enjoy the game. Knowledge of the Laws of the Game is essential. **You must know it.** There is no time to stop during a match and consult your book to determine whether a direct free kick or an indirect free kick is the proper restart. Next is mechanics. Knowing the mechanics of officiating takes less effort than knowing the Laws but has greater practical impact on your effectiveness. Do you know the diagonal system of control? Do you know and practice the approved signals for referees and assistant referees? The appropriate mechanics must become reflexive in nature and are the second requirement for effectiveness on the field. Lastly is concentration. Do you psyche yourself up before a match the way the players do? **Good concentration** will allow you to quickly assess the conditions of the match, what is the style of play, what influence the spectators have, and any potentially hazardous situations. **Be Prepared!**

FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME!!!

Sedgwick County Soccer Association is an affiliated member of Kansas Youth Soccer (KSYSA). KSYSA is the National State Association representing Kansas in the United States Youth Soccer Association.



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