

REFEREE TALK

Game time guide to the rules and players;

The following definitions are to clarify the referee's calls on the field.

Charge: to run into an opponent. This is legal if done from the side of the ball carrier. However, it is illegal against a player without the ball or from behind.

Hand Ball: a foul where a player (other than the goal keeper in the penalty area) deliberately touches the ball with the hand or arm. The opposing team is awarded a direct free kick.

Holding: When an opponent's movement is obstructed with either hands or arms, a direct kick is awarded.

Officials: (Referees) The official protects the players and enforces the rules. The referee officiates the game and is on the field with the players. The referee keeps the official time. The assistant referees (AR) each patrol one half of the field, from opposite sidelines. Their job is to provide assistance to the referee only. AR's use a flag to signal to the referee and to the players when the ball is out of bounds, when a player is potentially offside, or they have seen a foul committed. The referee makes the final determination whether or not to blow the whistle.

Tripping: If a player uses any part of their body to trip an opposing player, a direct kick is awarded.

Offside: (Does not apply to U-6 thru U-10 small sided games). This occurs when a player positions themselves nearer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent. No fewer than two defenders (usually the goalkeeper and one other defender) must be nearer to the goal line than the attacker. The person advancing with the ball must be the first to cross the line of defense.

A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball is played by a teammate, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play, interfering with play or any opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position. When a player who is in an offside position receives the ball from a teammate or is involved directly in the play, an offside is called and an indirect free kick is awarded to the defense.

Red Card: (Serious misconduct, violent play, offensive language or intentionally denying a goal). If a player receives a red card, they are immediately ejected from the game. The team may not replace this player and will play shorthanded for the remainder of the game.

Yellow Card: (Caution). This is shown to a player by the referee for dangerous or unsportsmanlike behavior. If a player is shown two yellow cards in one game, it is an automatic ejection from the game.

KICKOFF

Corner Kick: Awarded to the attacking team if the defense knocks the ball out of bounds over their own end line. The kick is taken from the corner nearest where the ball went out of bounds. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.

Goal Kick: Awarded to the defense when the attacking team knocks the ball out of bounds over the end line. The kick is taken from within the goal area, and must clear the penalty area before being touched by another player. Extremely rare and unlikely, but a goal can be scored directly from a goal kick.

Free Kick: Awarded by the referee due to an infraction of the rules. The kick is generally taken from the spot in which the infraction took place. The defending team must be a minimum of 10 yards away from the ball (modified for small-sided games). There are two kinds of free kicks, (direct and indirect), determined by the severity of the infraction.

Direct Kick: Awarded when a serious foul is committed against another player. This is a free kick in which a goal can be scored directly by the kicker. Some fouls resulting in a direct kick are holding, striking, tripping, pushing and hand balls.

Indirect Kick: Awarded when an infraction of the rules has taken place or a less serious foul has been committed. On an indirect kick, a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by a second player. Some minor fouls or infractions resulting in an indirect kick are offside and dangerous play.

Penalty Kick: A direct kick is awarded to the attacking team when a major foul is committed by a defender inside his own penalty area. The kick is taken from the penalty spot. Only the kicker and the keeper are allowed in the penalty area. The goalkeeper must be on the goal line until the ball is kicked.

PARENT QUICK TIPS:

Sportsmanship is important for kids to learn. Set a good example on the sidelines by offering positive encouragement and support.

Weather can be unpredictable. Be prepared by bringing sunscreen, rain jackets, blankets, etc.

Proper hydration is one of the keys to a good game. Be sure to bring plenty of water for kids to drink both before and after their practices and games. Healthy snacks like orange wedges, grapes and sports drinks are also good for replenishing nutrients after strenuous activity.

Arrive at the soccer field early. Players need adequate time to warm up and stretch before practice and/or game time.