



Flags and Whistles

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 2

The Newsletter for Katy Youth Soccer Referee's

Welcome to Volume Three Issue number two of Flags and Whistles, the official referee newsletter of Katy Youth Soccer. After a successful Spring season we face a busy Fall season with lots of games to officiate in our expanding league. We have a couple of rule changes to implement and details of some positive changes at Katy Park that will benefit our Referee group. These items will be addressed separately in this newsletter.

The new season begins Saturday September 12th.

Look out for an email from Linda checking on your availability for the opening day and the rest of the season!

This newsletter is put together to help provide you with information for the up-coming season and to highlight what you as Referees need to do to make this a successful season. Please take a moment to read through all the information provided as there are some important issues that require your attention and as always some useful guidelines for Referees to follow.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fields.

2009 certified?

For those of you just starting out as a Referee I hope that you will enjoy your first season with us and look forward to seeing you for many more seasons in the future. For those of you returning for another season, Welcome back! Please make sure that you display your new 2009 Certification badge on your Referee shirt for every game. **If you do not display a current 2009 badge you will not be permitted to officiate.**

In the Spring season of 2009 we still had Referees turning up to officiate in non-standard uniforms, incorrect shorts, incorrect socks etc. KYSC pays each of you an allowance towards your equipment and as a result expects you to dress only in official referee attire. Please do not turn up in non-standard uniform. In addition please make sure you bring Flags, Whistle, Cards, Notebook and pencils as a minimum to every game as part of your standard equipment.

Changes for the new season

There are several changes this season that you all need to be aware of.

Game Cards

All game cards will be held by the Referee Assignor at the Referee table. The coaches WILL NOT bring the game card to the field. This is new for the Fall 2009 season and we need your help to make it work. The game cards will be pocket size and pre-populated with the team name and number. Please make sure that the team name and number match the teams on the Rosters provided by the Team Coaches.

Rosters

The Coaches will produce a complete KYSC Roster for the Referee prior to kick-off. The Referee will go through the player names and numbers when checking the player equipment. The Referee needs to be sure that the number on the shirt matches the number on the roster so that goals and cards are allocated to the correct players.

Fields

There full size fields and most U-10+ fields will all have 1 meter spectator lines to ensure that the Assistant Referee has a clear view up the line and of course easier movement up and down the field. Encroachment over the line should be politely corrected by the A/R and any persistent infringement needs to be escalated to the Referee and if necessary the Field Coordinator.

Rule Changes

There are rule changes for the younger age groups where we do not have a goal keeper. This season free kicks at U-7, U-8, where we have no goalkeeper are **INDIRECT**.

A full set of rules are attached to this newsletter. Please make every effort to read these and keep them with you through-out the season.

The Problem Player - U6/8

It has always been KYSC policy that Yellow and Red cards NOT be used in U8 or younger games. However, this does not mean that the referee is without a course of action when it comes to dealing with a "problem player."

Most coaches will request a substitution for a player that gets out-of-hand during a game. If you happen to have the good fortune to have a game in which a player refuses to listen to correction from either the referee or the coach, and the coach leaves the player on the field, you can request that the coach replace the offending player. While this is not an ejection, it is a means by which a player can be coaxed into participating in a more benevolent manner.

Tell the coach that he needs to take the player off the field in order for the coach to better instruct the player as to what the player is doing wrong. Let the coach know that the player will be allowed to return provided he cease the inappropriate activity. Let the coach know (so he/she can tell the player) that if the player returns and continues to play inappropriately they will not be allowed to participate any further in the game.

If you should have to take this course of action, you must submit an incident report as you can be sure that the coach will be submitting one as well.

This should be the rare exception rather than the rule, but we had an incident in a game this season in which the child refused to stop pushing people down. While KYSC states that every child will play half-a-game, we also stipulate it must be in Fair Play. We also allow coaches the leeway to discipline a problematic player with excess "bench-time."

How the KYSC Referee process works

Tell us you are available

Every Monday throughout the season an email will be sent out to the entire KYSC Referee group asking your availability to officiate the following Weekend's games. If you wish to Referee on that weekend you must respond by email to this request stating that you are available in the morning (8-12) or afternoon (12-5) or the entire day. If you wish only to officiate small sided games or act as an Assistant Referee only please include this information in your response.

Your game assignments

This information sent in by each Referee is used by the Assignor to allocate crews to each and every game. The details of the weekend assignments are sent out by email on Thursday of each week to all assigned Referees.

Got a problem?

If there is a problem with the games you have been assigned or something unexpected prevents you fulfilling your commitment it is important that you contact the Assignor or myself as detailed on the contacts page of this newsletter. If you fail to turn up for your assignments without prior notification on two occasions in a season you will not be assigned any further games.

No games assigned?

It may be possible that on some weekends the number of volunteering Referees exceed the number of game assignments. In this event the Assignor will give priority to those that have not been assigned for the following weekend to ensure a fair and reasonable game allocation throughout the season.

Why Standby Referee?

Each weekend we will be assigning a Referee as the official paid Stand-by Referee to cater for any unexpected problem. A Stand-By Referee should be prepared to officiate any age group game as either a Center or Assistant Referee. If the Stand-by officiates games they are paid the Standby pay plus the game pay.

Game Day procedure

It is important that each assigned Referee arrives at Katy Park at least 15 minutes before kick-off time. There needs to be sufficient time to check-in the teams and meet your other officials. Before proceeding to the first game every Referee MUST sign in at the Referee Scheduler's table located alongside the Katy Park concession stand. Signing in informs the Field Co-Coordinator that you are present at the park and working your assignments. It is important that you sign for every game you are assigned to officiate at because this is the only proof the Assignor has that you worked these games. If you fail to sign for your game you may not get paid!

Referee Assessments

This season KYSC will continue using its cadre of senior referees to assess the performance of all referees and assistant referees. These assessments are completely informal yet will provide valuable and impartial feedback from a qualified and experienced referee. The number of Referees greatly outnumbers the number of available assessors that I have available so please bear with us as we work through you all.

The assessment provides me, as VP KYSC Referees, feedback on how well each official is performing and if they are ready to be offered a chance to move up to an older age level game and ultimately on to more competitive games. This approach gives referees and assignors a clearer understanding as to which level of competition each assessed referee is ready to officiate at and avoids situations where inexperienced officials are tasked with officiating games they are not yet equipped to handle.

My intention as VP KYSC Referees is to promote KYSC Referees for use by HYSA, TYSA, EDS2 and EDDOA. In addition I would like to think that we could continue to provide officiating support for local tournaments held at Bear Creek and Katy Park. This will in turn enable you as Referees to improve your skills, earn more money and develop your officiating abilities.

Referee Pay Rates

The new pay scale changes reflect the change in Referee responsibility as we introduce the 8 v 8 format for U-12. Where possible we will need to use Assistant Referees at every age group where FIFA Offside rule is applied.

Age Group		CR	AR
U7	6 v 6	\$20	
U8	6 v 6	\$20	
U9	7 v 7	\$22	
U10	8 v 8	\$24	
U11	8 v 8	\$26	\$13
U12	8 v 8	\$28	\$14
U13	11 v 11	\$32	\$16
U14 – U16	11 v 11	\$36	\$18
U17 – U19	11 v 11	\$40	\$20

Referees are paid by check every other week and checks are mailed to the address we have on record for you. If you have moved house or had mailing issues last season that you think could be related to an incorrect or incorrectly spelt address please send your corrected and current details to me at as shown below.

KYSC Age related rule changes

****u-7/u-8 rule change****

The last three pages of this newsletter contain the KYSC Rule changes implemented for the small sided games for the younger age groups. Please take a moment to review the changes as there are rules here that are different to the standard FIFA rules. The separate pages, when printed, can be folded three times to make a handy reference guide prior to each game. Getting the rules out mid-game will not instill sideline confidence in your understanding of the rules!! Take time to familiarize yourself with the rule changes at every age bracket.

Referee Officials contact information

Referee Assignor - Linda Oram
E-mail: - KYSCassignor@gmail.com

VP Referee KYSC – Dave Oram
Email: - vp.kysec.refs@gmail.com



U-7 Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 35 yards nor less than 25 yards and its width not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle is provided with a four (4) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: Three (3) yards from each goal post and three (3) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Area: None

Goals: The maximum size of goals will be 6 x 12 feet. Preferred size is 4ft x 6ft.

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III-Number of Players:

Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4). There are NO goalkeepers.

Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 3.

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed eight (8) players.

Substitutions: Anytime ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee.

Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time

Law IV-Players Equipment: Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee: There will be an assigned official licensed referee for this age group. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players WHY! This is their first experience with soccer and the best time to educate.

Law VI- Assistant Referee: Not used.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters with a two (2) minute break between quarters one and two and quarters three and four. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes. In hot weather, team water breaks are permitted with agreement from both coaches and referee prior to kick-off. The clock continues to run and the players must remain on the field during the break.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to be a goal.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exceptions: All fouls shall result in a direct free kick with opponent five (5) yards away. No slide tackles are permitted. The referee must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: All free kicks will be **INDIRECT**. Opponents must be five (5) yards away

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Goal kick may be taken any where within the goal area. Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball.

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.



U-8 Modified Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 35 yards nor less than 25 yards and its width not more than 30 yards nor less than 20 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle is provided with a three (3) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: Three (3) yards from each goal post and three (3) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Area: None

Goals: The maximum size of goals will be 6 x 12 feet. Goals may be smaller.

Law II-The Ball: Size three (3)

Law III-Number of Players:

Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is four (4). There are NO goalkeepers.

Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is three (3).

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed ten (10) players.

Substitutions: Anytime ball is out of play with the permission of the Referee.

Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time

Law IV-Players Equipment: Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee: There will be an assigned official licensed referee for this age group. Their job is to keep the playing environment FUN, SAFE and focused on the child. Duties are: keep time, enforce the rules, stop and restart play. When you stop play for a foul or other reason, take the time to explain to the players WHY! This is their first experience with soccer and the best time to educate.

Law VI- Assistant Referee: Not used.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

The game shall be divided into four (4) equal, ten (10) minute quarters with a two (2) minute break between quarters 1 and 2 & 3 and 4. There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

In hot weather, team water breaks are permitted with agreement from both coaches and referee prior to kick-off. The clock continues to run and the players must remain on the field during the break.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be five (5) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball In and Out of Play: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line to be out of play.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA: Ball must completely cross over goal line and between posts and beneath crossbar to be a goal.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside rule at this age.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: All fouls shall result in a direct free kick with opponent four (4) yards away. There are no slide tackles permitted. The referee must explain ALL infractions to offending player.

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: All free kicks will be **INDIRECT**. Opponents must be four (4) yards away

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: There are no Penalty Kicks.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA with the exception that an improperly performed throw-in can be retaken once.

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Goal kick may be taken any where within the goal area. Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball.

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be four (4) yards away from the ball. Corner Kicks are Indirect Free Kicks.



Under 9 Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 60 yards nor less than 45 yards and its width not more than 45 yards or less than 35 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a

line drawn parallel with the goal line.
Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.
Goals: 6 x 18 feet maximum. Goals may be smaller.

Law II-The Ball: Size four (4)

Law III-Number of Players:

Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is six (6) including the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 5. Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed 10.
Substitutions: At any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.
Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Law IV-Players Equipment:

Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee: An official licensed referee will be assigned to each game.

Law VI-Assistant Referee:

Two (2) official licensed assistant referees will be assigned to each game when available.

Law VII-Duration of the Game:

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty five (25) minutes each, There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

In hot weather, team water breaks are permitted with agreement from both coaches and referee prior to kick-off. The clock continues to run and the players must remain on the field during the break

Law VIII-The Start of Play:

Conform to FIFA, with the following exception:
Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play:

Ball must completely cross line to be "out of play". Ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

Law X-Method of Scoring:

Conform to FIFA- ball must completely cross goal line, between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

Law XI-Off-Side: There is no offside rule at this age.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA

Law XIII-Free Kicks:

Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks:
Conform to FIFA.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA

Law XVII-Corner Kick:
Conform to FIFA with the following exception:
Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.



Under 10 Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 70 yards nor less than 60 yards and its width not more than 50 yards nor less than 40 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.

Goals: 6 x 18 feet maximum. Goals may be smaller.

Law II-The Ball: Size four (4)

Law III-Number of Players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8) including the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 6.

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed 12.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.

Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee: An official licensed referee will be assigned to each game.

Law VI-Assistant Referee: Two (2) official licensed assistant referees will be assigned to each game when available.

Law VII-Duration of the Game: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes each, There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play: Ball must completely cross line to be "out of play". Ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA- ball must completely cross goal line, between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

Law XI-Off-Side: Conform to FIFA

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct: Conform to FIFA

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.



U11 & U12 Playing Rules

Law I-The Field:

Dimensions: The field of play shall be rectangular, its length being not more than 70 yards nor less than 60 yards and its width not more than 50 yards nor less than 40 yards. The length in all cases shall exceed the width.

Markings: Distinctive lines not more than (5) inches wide. A halfway line shall be marked out across the field. A center circle with an eight (8) yard radius. Four corner arcs each with a two (2) foot radius.

Goal area: six (6) yards from each goal post and six (6) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty area: fourteen (14) yards from each goal post and fourteen (14) yards into the field of play joined by a line drawn parallel with the goal line.

Penalty Spot: eight (8) yards out from center of goal line.

Goals: 6 x 18 feet maximum. Goals may be smaller.

Law II-The Ball: Size four (4)

Law III-Number of Players: Maximum number of players on the field at any one time is eight (8) including the goalkeeper. Minimum number of players to start or continue a game is 6.

Maximum number of players on the roster should not exceed 12.

Substitutions: At any stoppage of play with the permission of the referee.

Playing time: Each player should play a minimum of 50% of the total playing time.

Law IV-Players Equipment: Players may not wear any item of equipment that may be dangerous to themselves or others. Tennis shoes or soft-cleated soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee: An official licensed referee will be assigned to each game.

Law VI-Assistant Referee: 2 official licensed Assistant Referees will be assigned.

Law VII-Duration of the Game: The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes each, There shall be a half-time break of five (5) minutes.

Law VIII-The Start of Play: Conform to FIFA, with the following exception: Opponent must be eight (8) yards from the center mark while kick-off is in progress.

Law IX-Ball in and Out of Play: Ball must completely cross line to be "out of play". Ball is "in play" if any part of the ball is on or above the line.

Law X-Method of Scoring: Conform to FIFA- ball must completely cross goal line, between posts and beneath crossbar to count.

Law XI-Off-Side:
Conform to FIFA.

Law XII-Fouls and Misconduct:
Conform to FIFA

Law XIII-Free Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XIV-Penalty Kicks: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away before kick is allowed.

Law XV-Throw-In: Conform to FIFA

Law XVI-Goal Kick: Conform to FIFA

Law XVII-Corner Kick: Conform to FIFA with the following exception: Opponents must be eight (8) yards away from the ball.