



# Flags and Whistles

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VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

## The Newsletter for Katy Youth Soccer Referee's

Welcome to Volume Five Issue number one of Flags and Whistles, the official referee newsletter of Katy Youth Soccer. Spring is here with an end to those freezing wintry days we have experienced in recent weeks. With the return to warmer sunny days comes the long awaited return to the soccer fields and the start of a new Spring Soccer season as Katy Park.

The first weekend of the season is **March 5th**. Please mark this date in your diaries and make sure you are ready for the new season.

Being ready for the new season not only involves having your referee uniform and equipment clean and prepped but also means being fit to run and refreshing yourself on the Laws of the Game. Many of you only dust off those books when it is time to recertify and I urge you to take a moment and revisit them before the start of the season. In an effort to reinforce that approach I have included an article on Refereeing scenarios and how you as a Recreation level Referee would be expected to respond. I hope you find it interesting.

This season we will continue with a focus on Referee Assessments, referee appearance and of course coach/player/parent respect of the Referees. Please make sure that you have the correct uniform shirt, socks and shorts as well as your flags and whistle. Please do not come inappropriately dressed for your assignment with baseball shorts or lurid socks!!

Please be sure to let Linda, myself or any member of the KYSC Board of any problems you experience before during or after your games. We are here to help you have a good experience and one that will help you grow in confidence and ability to become a better Referee.

Don't be timid about blowing your whistle or raising your flag, be assertive and most important of all have fun and enjoy a great season!!!

## **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 also.

### **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 exceeds 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 Schedulers 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. If you feel you have adequate experience to help us with the Assessment process please contact me.

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 eventually EDDOA. In addition I would like to think that we could 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

Listed below are the new referee pay rates for the Spring 2011 season

Age Group	CR	AR
U7	\$20	
U8	\$20	
U9	\$20	
U10	\$20	
U11	\$26	\$13
U12 – U13	\$30	\$15
U14 – U16	\$36	\$18
U17 – U19	\$45	\$22.50

**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 any corrected or current details to me at the email address shown at the end of this newsletter.

## Recreational game scenarios

For KYSC Recreation soccer it is always important that Referees take into consideration the age group of the players and level of play we are playing. At all ages the players are still learning the game and as such I would hope that we as Referees apply the Laws of the Game appropriately. Please take a moment to review these 5 scenarios and the recommended actions for the Referee to follow.

### Situation #1

You are the referee in a Girls U-12 match. The blue team is awarded an indirect free kick within the blue's own penalty area. Blue #12 kicks the ball to a teammate standing in the penalty area who then quickly kicks the ball back to the blue goalkeeper, also in the penalty area. The goalkeeper picks up the ball and prepares to kick it up field.

#### Recommendation

Retake the indirect free kick since the ball was never in play. Remind the players that on all free kicks taken by the defense in their own penalty area, the ball must clear the penalty area before it is in play.

#### Rationale

Although this scenario will appear to some to be a violation of the so-called "passback" provision of Law 12, Law 13 of The Laws of the Game takes precedence here. It specifies that, when a free kick is taken by the defending team inside its own penalty area, the ball is in play only when it is kicked directly beyond the penalty area into the field of play. Therefore the ball was never in play and the restart must be retaken.

Make sure the participants understand that the younger players may also have 'new' coaches who do not yet know all of the Laws of the Game. In this particular scenario, the referee should remind the players that the ball must completely clear the penalty area before it is in play, and that it must be in play before any foul can be committed.

### Situation #2

You are the referee in a Boys U-10 match early in the fall season. A red attacking player dribbles the ball on a counter-attack and is soon past the last blue defender with only the goalkeeper between him and the goal. As the attacker approaches the penalty area, the blue goalkeeper comes out of the penalty area, falls on the ball, and collects it in his arms. The goalkeeper's actions did not affect the safety of the red attacker.

### Recommendation

Stop play and award the red team a direct free kick because the blue goalkeeper played the ball with his hands outside his penalty area. If you decide the goalkeeper prevented a goal or goal-scoring opportunity by handling the ball outside of his penalty area, the Laws of the Game also state that the goalkeeper should be sent off (see note below).

*Note:* It is the opinion of the KYSC Referee Program that children under 12 years of age should not be cautioned or sent off except under extreme circumstances. Referees should consider whether children in this age group are fully aware of their actions, and that they can usually be controlled by a verbal admonishment before a caution or send-off becomes necessary. In this scenario the action is not considered to be extreme so a verbal admonishment rather than a caution or send-off is recommended.

### Rationale

Law 12 lists the deliberate use of the hand (other than by a goalkeeper in his own penalty area) as a foul resulting in a direct free kick so a direct free kick is awarded to the red team. Law 12 also states that a player is sent off and shown the red card if he denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area). The note above explains why it is recommended that the referee speak to the goalkeeper rather than send him off.

Emphasize that the referee should consider why the goalkeeper collected the ball. For a U10 match early in the season, a goalkeeper may not be fully aware of the boundaries of the penalty area, but only with his responsibility to protect the goal at all costs.

### **Situation #3**

The red player #12 takes a corner kick against the blue team. He kicks the ball to a teammate who is 10 yards from the goal line. Red #12 then runs along the goal line toward the goal. From your vantage, it appears that only the blue goalkeeper is on the goal line. The red player with the ball passes it back to red #12 who scores.

### Recommendation

Look at your assistant referee to see if an offside infraction has been flagged (it should be!). If not, approach the AR and confirm the positions of the players at the moment the ball was kicked by red #12's teammate. Award an indirect free kick to the blue team at the point where red #12 was when his teammate played the ball.

## Rationale

A player cannot be offside directly from a corner kick. But as soon as red #12's teammate touches the ball, the corner kick is over, and the offside law comes back into effect. Since red #12 was closer to his opponent's goal line than the ball, was in his opponent's half of the field and did not have two or more defenders even with or between himself and the goal line, red #12 is in an offside position. As soon as red #12 plays the ball he has committed an offside infraction and any subsequent action is null and void. The penalty for an offside infraction is an indirect free kick for the blue team.

Emphasize that corner kicks, goal kicks, and throw-ins are considered 'over with' as soon as another player touches the ball, and that the offside law is back in effect. Even though younger players may have trouble grasping this concept, it must be enforced.

## Situation #4

You are the referee in a Boys U-10 match. A blue defender is standing in his penalty area with his arms at his side when the ball bounces up and strikes him on the arm. Immediately the excited coach of the red team yells in a booming voice, "Hand ball! We get a penalty kick!" Hearing the voice of authority, all the players stop playing.

## Recommendation

The referee could shout, "NO FOUL. BALL'S IN PLAY!" but if you were to allow play to continue when some or all the players "weren't ready" you could be perceived as allowing an unfair advantage. Therefore, it would be better to blow the whistle to officially stop play. It would be wise to take this opportunity to remind players that they should keep playing unless you blow your whistle or the ball leaves the field of play.

Take a moment to talk to the coach of the red team. Explain that, in your judgment, the blue player's action was not deliberate so no infraction could be called. Remind him of the negative impact his loud excited voice can have on players at this age. Restart the game with a dropped ball at the place where the ball was when you blew your whistle, unless it was inside the goal area, in which case it should be dropped on that part of the goal area line that parallels the goal line closest to where the ball was

(the "Special Circumstances" outlined in Law 8).

## Rationale

Law 5 of the Laws of the Game lists as a duty of the referee that he "stops, suspends or terminates the match because of outside interference of any

kind." The coach's loud outburst clearly was an outside interference since the players stopped playing.

Law 8 states that "a dropped ball is a way of restarting the match after a temporary stoppage which becomes necessary, while the ball is in play, for any reason not mentioned elsewhere in the Laws of the Game."

### **Situation #5**

You are the referee in a Girls U-10 match. A red attacking midfielder is dribbling the ball. She sends a nice pass forward to her open right wing just as a blue midfielder makes a late and clumsy challenge. The blue midfielder collides with her, then falls to the ground crying out in pain and clutching her knee. You glance forward to see the red attacker running with the ball on a breakaway heading toward the blue penalty area.

#### Recommendation

Stop play immediately for the injury and signal the blue coach to come on to attend to the injured player. Once the situation has been resolved you have two choices for restarting play (1) If you judged that the collision between blue and red was not a foul, restart with a dropped ball at the spot where the ball was when you blew your whistle to stop play. (2) If you judged that the blue midfielder was careless in her charge, that constitutes a foul and the restart would be a direct free kick for the red team at the point of the infraction.

#### Rationale

Although this is a classic illustration of an advantage situation, considering the age of the players, and the fact that you've witnessed the collision firsthand, you should forget about applying the advantage clause because at this age, the welfare of the child is more important than the possibility of scoring a goal.

## 2011 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 2011 Certification badge on your Referee shirt for every game. **If you do not display a current 2011 badge you will not be permitted to officiate.**

Last season we had several occurrences where Referees turned 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.

## KYSC Age related rule changes

The last pages of this newsletter contain the KYSC Law 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 laws that are applied on the full sized fields. 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!!

## Referee Officials contact information

Referee Assignor - Linda Oram  
E-mail: - [KYSCassignor@gmail.com](mailto:KYSCassignor@gmail.com)

VP Referee KYSC – Dave Oram  
Email: - [vp.kysec.refs@gmail.com](mailto:vp.kysec.refs@gmail.com)



## 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, twelve (12) 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 an indirect 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.



## 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, eight (8) 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 an **indirect** 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.



## 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.



## 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 (20) 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.