

WSA Referee Meeting – 8/27/2016

- Referee Team
 - Director – Michael Kilkelly, referees@wakefieldsoccer.org, 781-929-7088 (c)
 - Assignor – Ivan Silva, wsa.assignor@gmail.com, 857-236-7819 (c)

- Assignment Schedule (subject to change)
 - Sunday - assignor sends out email requesting referee availability for upcoming games
 - Monday - Tuesday – assignments made based on responses;
 - once assigned, referee will receive an email with a link that allows them to accept/decline the assignment
 - Thursday, Friday – reconcile non-assigned games

- SportsManager System – <http://www.sportsmanager.us/WakefieldSoccer.htm>
 - Accounts will be set up for everyone
 - Select “Referee or Assignor Login” tab and then Login in as a Referee
 - Referee Schedule has Accept/Decline Options
 - Center Refs – use REPORT button to fill out game report after game

- Pay Rates 2016 – 2017
 - Payments are usually made at the end of the season but we will have a mid-season payment for AR’s and Intramurals Refs only (i.e. those paid by WSA)
 - Travel center ref pay comes from MYSL; AR pay comes from WSA
Intramural ref pay comes from WSA

Travel Games:

U-10 Center: \$25.00
U-12 Center: \$40.00
U-14 Center: \$45.00
U-12 AR: \$20.00
U-14 AR: \$22.50
(these increases need to be confirmed)

Intramural Games:

U10 Center: \$15
U14 Center: \$30
U14 AR: \$15

- Course Reimbursements
 - www.wakefieldsoccer.org – Information tab – Reimbursement Request Form
 - Submit for reimbursement by the end of each season
 - Must have reffed 1 game to qualify for reimbursement

- Heading Rule U10 and U12

If in the opinion of the referee, a player deliberately heads or attempts to head the ball, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team. If the deliberate header or attempt to head occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infraction occurred.

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New U10 rules

Offside

The offside rule will apply in an under-10 match starting Fall Season 2016.

Fouls and Misconduct

Keeper Distributions (punts, drop kicks, and throws) may not travel in the air over the halfway line. An indirect free kick from midfield is awarded to the other team if this happens.

Goal Kicks

Opposition players to retreat into their own half of the playing field on goal kicks. US Youth Soccer recommends that opponents should remain in their own half until the ball is in play. The team taking the goal kick does not have to wait for the opposition to retreat and has the option to restart the game beforehand should they so choose, The ball is in play when it is kicked directly out of the penalty area.

Wakefield Soccer Referee Resources (As of 8/27/16)

1. World

www.theifab.com

2. U.S.

www.ussoccer.com/referees

www.usyouthsoccer.org/referees

3. Mass.

www.massref.net

www.mayouthsoccer.org

4. Middlesex

www.sportsmanager.us/orgmanager/mysl.htm

www.sportsmanager.us/WakefieldSoccer.htm

5. Wakefield

www.wakefieldsoccer.org

6. Soccer Uniforms

www.officialsports.com

Referee Reminders

Pre-game:

- Be sure to get to the field at least 20 minutes before game time.
- It's important to look neat, even as soon as you get out of the car. Make sure your shirt is tucked in, your black shorts fall above the knee (and are actually black), and that you have the official socks with the 3 stripes at the top. We provide the first uniform, but you can get official replacement pieces online. <http://www.officialsports.com/> is just one site, and they offer some nice package deals on uniforms.
- A handshake when introducing yourself to the coaches is good practice. I know that's hard for many people, especially some younger folks, but give it your best try.
- You can check-in the teams for your game before the ongoing game is finished if it will help to keep the games on time (or if you're waiting for a field and time is limited, or even if you just feel like it so it's done).
- Make sure to do a field check! We want to keep our players and our referees safe. Make sure the goals are secure, and that there are no obvious hazards on the field. Don't assume that everything was checked for the game before you, or that anything is still safe. Do a field check for every game.

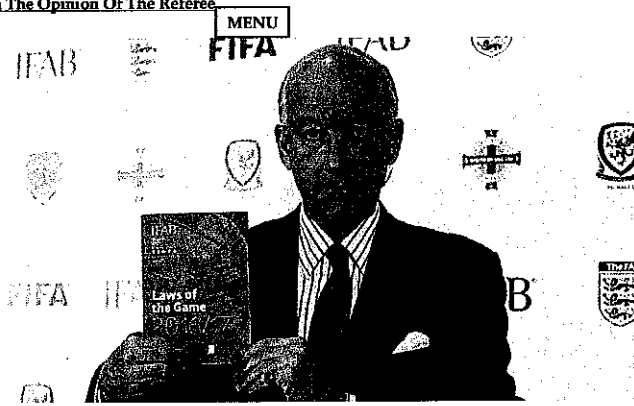
Communication:

- Make sure those hand signals (or flag signals) are nice and sharp. Be clear on throw ins, corner kicks, goals, etc. and make sure you are using the correct signal for soccer :)
- Blow that whistle with authority!
- Be loud enough on your calls for people to hear you from a distance.
- Stay instructional with the players on your calls (especially for U10).

Positioning:

- Make sure you are in the correct position to best see plays.
- Centers can go deep during plays to show presence and help sell that call.

Also, just a helpful hint, don't chase the ball, let the players get it. Stay focused on the game, and smile every once in a while! It's okay to look like you're enjoying being there :)



Major Changes Coming to 2016/17 Laws of the Game

Blog
The Laws of the Game are set for a major overhaul in 2016/17. They won't be officially published until May, but I've been scouring the Internet for clues, and have been able to come up with a fairly clear picture of what's ahead.

Background

For the first time, the Laws of the Game will be published by IFAB (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Football_Association_Board), the International Football Association Board, the organization responsible for updating the Laws for many years. This means the IFAB logo – and not the FIFA logo – will be featured on the cover.

This is the result of IFAB being formed as a legal entity separate and apart from FIFA. IFAB exists solely for the purpose of setting the Laws of the Game.

The Laws had not seen a comprehensive rewrite in many years. IFAB selected retired English referee David Elleray (pictured above) to oversee the rewrite. Among other goals, Elleray has said the rewrite should make the laws “clearer” and less subject to contradicting interpretation.

Administrative Changes

Until now, the Laws were actually two separate publications: the Laws “proper” and a separate section called “Interpretation of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees”, or simply “The Interpretations” to most referees. Under the rewrite, these two separate sections are merged into a single publication. Interpretations are discussed within each Law itself.

Referees in the USA may be familiar with this approach, as it has been utilized for years in the NCAA and the NFHS Soccer Rules publications (both of which vary to some extent from the LOTG).

The Laws will now be gender neutral. Instead of using only masculine pronouns, the revised Laws use language that does not refer to one gender.

The Laws will be much briefer. In the current edition of the Laws and Interpretations, the document clocks in at over 20,000 words. The revised Laws will be about 10,000 words.

Law Changes

The most significant change to the Laws is the removal of the controversial “triple punishment” requirement. In the current Laws, if a defender fouls an attacker in the defender’s own penalty area, and the referee determines that the defender should be sent off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, the defender (and their team) is subject to three punishments:

1. The defender is sent-off (and the team must play with one less player)
2. The attacking team is awarded a penalty kick.
3. The defender is subject to a further suspension (which varies by league, but ranges from 1 to 3 games).

Under the revised Laws, if the defender is making a legitimate attempt to play the ball and simply mis-times a tackle, for example, the defender will be cautioned instead of sent off. This only applies to fouls committed *inside the penalty area*, and only when the referee determines there was a legitimate attempt to play the ball. If the defender should, for example, grab the jersey of the attacker, the defender would still be subject to being sent off.

Further, if the foul occurs outside of the penalty area, the defender would continue to be subject to a send off, consistent with the current edition of the Laws.

Other changes to the Laws include:

- o A kick-off may now be kicked in any direction, including backwards
- o Players who are injured as the result of a reckless or excessive force challenge (resulting in a caution or send off to the offender) will not be required to leave the field of play to receive treatment, if treatment can be handled expeditiously
- o Goalkeepers who come off their line during a penalty kick will be cautioned if the kick fails, in addition to the kick being re-taken
- o If the kicker of the penalty kick violates the Laws, the kick will no longer be retaken and play will be restarted with an indirect free kick for the defending team
- o If opposing players are off the field of play (through the course of normal play) and one commits a foul, play will be restarted with the appropriate free kick, on the touchline or goal line. Under the current Laws, play restarts with a dropped ball, as only misconduct and not fouls can be committed off the field of play. The example given by Mr Elleray to illustrate is when a pair of opponents go off the field during the run of play, and one grabs the other to prevent him/her from re-entering the field of play. The team of the player whose shirt was grabbed will now be awarded a free-kick on the appropriate boundary line. Note that this could result in a penalty kick being awarded.
- o Offside restarts will be taken from the point on the field where the offending player was when they became offside. Under the current Laws, the restart would be taken from the point where they were originally in an offside position. (Editor’s note: it will be interesting to see how the Assistant Referee mechanics might be updated to handle a situation where a player starts a play from an offside position in the attacking half of the field and then becomes involved in active play on the defending half of the field)

There are other minor changes to the Laws, but I’ve attempted to list what I believe to be the most significant changes. There’s certainly enough change to ensure 2017 recertification classes will have plenty of discussion points.

The Game Assistant Referee

- * Pay close attention to the referee during the pre-game conference. If you don't understand something the referee is saying, ask for clarification.
- * Make sure you understand what the referee wants you to do in managing substitutions, how long to hold the offside signal, etc.
- * Hold the flag in the proper hand. The flag should be held in the hand closest to the referee. Referees usually run a left diagonal, which means the flag will be in your left hand most of the time.
- * If you turn sideways to walk up or down the field, switch hands with the flag as necessary so the flag is field side and the referee can see the flag clearly. The flag should always be switched hand to hand in front of you, below your waist, and not above your head.
- * Make eye contact with the referee as often as possible throughout the game when you are not watching for offside or attending to other AR duties.
- * Stay even with the second-to-last defender (remember - the goalkeeper is usually the last defender, but not always); this positions you to make accurate offside decisions.
- * Follow the ball all the way to the goal line so you'll be in position to see if the ball completely (even just barely) crosses the goal line. Following the ball to the goal line each time is an excellent habit to get into.
- * When you're running a line, side-step so you stay square to the field as much as possible. This position allows you to continue to see the field and players. When you need to sprint to the goal line to follow play or the ball, then you will run in a normal sprint, while watching the field.
- * Run to the corner flag, or close to it, when signaling for a goal kick or corner kick. Raising your flag yards away from the corner flag or goal line not only calls attention to the fact that you are not in the correct position to make that decision, but also carries with it the idea that you are either lazy, or you don't care enough about the game to be in the proper position to make the call.
- * When signaling for a ball that is clearly off the field across the touchline, point your flag in the direction the throw-in will be taken (not straight up); this is very helpful for the referee in making a decision on which team last touched the ball and which team should be awarded the throw-in.
- * Assist the referee in making sure the throw-in is being taken from the correct spot by pointing with your free hand to where the player should be standing when taking the throw-in. Be proactive, don't wait for the player to make a mistake, help them get it right.