

Windham Youth Soccer Association

Volunteer Referee Guide Supplement

Recreation Soccer Overview and Exceptions to Common FIFA Rules

Divisions requiring volunteer referees: 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 and 7/8/9 grade divisions

- Please arrive 15 minutes early for your scheduled game
- If you're not sure where to go, report to the concession stand and a coordinator will assign you to your field.
- If you don't have a whistle, please ask for one at the concession stand.
- Decide which referee will keep the time and which side of the field each will work.
- Call captains of each team to center of the field to shake hands and perform the coin toss.
- The winner of the toss selects which side of the field to defend.

Exceptions to FIFA rules

- There are no direct penalty kicks, all free kicks will be indirect.
All defending players must remain six yards from the ball prior to the kick.
For any free kick within six yards from the goal line, the ball will be moved out six yards from the goal line and defenders will be allowed to stand on the goal line.
The ball must touch a second player (of either team) before a goal can be scored
A hand ball in the penalty box counts as a goal.
- Slide Tackles are NOT allowed
- Off side rule applies to all except the PK/K and the 1/2 grade boys and girls divisions
- No overtime play, game can end in a tie score.
- Game Duration: Two halves of 25 minutes with a 5-minute break at the half. Game end signaled with horn at top of the hour. Please blow your whistle following horn to indicate end of game.
- For safety reasons, no jewelry of any kind is allowed on the field.
Shin guards must be worn underneath the player's socks.
- No Yellow or Red Cards are used.

1/2 Grade Exceptions:

- *There is a fall back rule for the 1/2 grade teams. On a goal kick, the opponent needs to fall back behind the mid-field line until the ball is kicked.*
- *1/2 graders get a second chance for an illegal throw-in. Explain and demonstrate the correct method and have the same player throw again. After the second consecutive illegal throw, the other team gets the ball.*
- *The "off sides" rule DOES NOT apply to the 1/2 grade boys and girls divisions.*

Note: This is developmental youth soccer. If you see any illegal play, please blow the whistle loudly and explain the infraction so the player has the opportunity to learn the laws of the game.

This overview is intended to provide a brief review of the detailed rules covered in the WYSA Referee and Coaches Guide. Please read the complete guide prior to your game, available in print or at www.windhamyouthsoccer.com

All youth volunteers are welcome to a free drink and hot dog, compliments of WYSA.

Thank you very much for volunteering your time to benefit WYSA recreational soccer.