

Woburn Youth Soccer Referee Checklist

Pre-game:

Arrival Time: Travel Games: Referee should arrive at the field 30 minutes before the game starts.

City Games: Referee should arrive at the field 15 minutes before the game starts.

Game Cards: Get them from the Soccer Shack: Orange (for City games); Yellow (for Travel games)

Cards can be found in the Shack, in the drawer, under the popcorn machine.

City Games only: Both team's coaches must sign *before* the game (so you can get paid).

Make sure you have a working PEN, your WHISTLE, your STOPWATCH, a COIN to toss.

Field Check: No rocks, sharp objects, or trash on the field. Goals placed properly on endlines and weighted down (large goals only).

Player Check-in: Every player must have:

- Uniforms shirts tucked in.
- Shin pads (under their socks, not over)
- Proper soccer cleats. (They cannot have a stud at the top, those are football or baseball cleats. Player cannot play with such cleats. Tell the coach of his/her team, if this is the case.)
- No jewelry (esp. earrings): Medical bracelets or necklaces are acceptable, only if taped down. Earrings must be removed; Band-Aids over them is not allowed. Tell the coach of her/his team to have them taken out.

Coin toss: Captain of the away team calls the toss. Winner chooses which goal to defend. Loser kicks off to start the game. Alternate which team kicks off each quarter/half.

Before starting the game:

Count the players for each side. Make sure they're even (See below for # of players per side).

Also, remember to properly set your stopwatch. (See below for periods of play for each age level.)

And, definitely remember to *start* your stopwatch at kick off!

IN-GAME:

Take charge! Referees are in charge of the games. You make the decisions. USE YOUR WHISTLE, and BLOW IT LOUDLY! This is for the safety of the players. Also, *speak* loudly when making calls, and, at the same time, signal the direction with your arm when declaring whose ball it is. This helps *everyone* understand your calls.

Keep player safety as your first priority! Whistle dangerous plays immediately, and stop play immediately if there's an injury. Explain to young players what the foul was. (E.g., "You kicked her in the ankle. That is a foul." OR "You headed that ball, which is not allowed for your age," or, "Pushing a player is a foul.")

Remember that heading the ball is not allowed at any level below U12. This should be strictly enforced. An *indirect* free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a player, in the opinion of the referee, a player deliberately heads, or attempts to head the ball. If, in the opinion of the referee, a deliberate header or attempt to head occurs *within the goal area*, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line (i.e. at the edge of the box) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

If, in the opinion of the referee, a player does not deliberately head, or attempt to head the ball, even though it may touch his/her head, then play should be allowed to continue.

Substitutions on-the-clock can only be made with your permission. At U10 and above, players entering the game must wait at the mid-line. Team in possession may make substitutions; the other team may also be allowed to do so, only if the team in possession is subbing.

Record each goal, as it happens.

AGE SPECIFIC RULES

U6:

3v3 on field

Play 4 eight-minute quarters

Substitutions can take place only at the end of each quarter (except for injuries).

All restarts are by **kick** ins.

No slide tackling or intentional heading of the ball.

Indirect free kicks only – i.e., free kick shots directly on goal are not allowed. No penalty shots.

Fouls committed inside the penalty area by defending team result in *indirect* kick restart from OUTSIDE the penalty area, on the area line (i.e., at the edge of the box) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

U7

7 v 7 on field (*including the goal keepers*)

Play 4 ten-minute quarters; 2 minutes between quarters; 5-minute halftime

Restarts are standard: goal kicks, corner kicks, and throw ins from the sideline.

(Referees may give one 2nd chance on incorrect throw ins. You may also instruct these young players on what they did incorrectly. Say it loud to the player, so coaches and parents also understand what was incorrect.)

Substitutions only allowed at the end of the quarter (except for injuries).

No slide tackling or intentional heading of the ball.

Indirect free kicks only – i.e., free kick shots directly on goal are not allowed. No penalty shots.

Fouls committed inside the penalty area by defending team result in *indirect* kick restart from OUTSIDE the penalty area, on the area line (i.e., at the edge of the box) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

U8

6 v 6 on field (*including the goal keepers*)

Play 4 twelve-minute quarters, same restarts as above and subbing.

Restarts are standard: goal kicks, corner kick, and throw ins. (Referees may give one 2nd chance on incorrect throw ins. You may also instruct these young players on what they did incorrectly. Say it loud to the player, so coaches and parents also understand what was incorrect.)

Substitutions only at the end of the quarter (except for injuries).

No slide tackling or intentional heading of the ball.

Indirect free kicks only – i.e., free kick shots directly on goal are not allowed. No penalty shots.

Fouls committed inside the penalty area by defending team result in *indirect* kick restart from OUTSIDE

the penalty area, on the area line (i.e., at the edge of the box) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

U10

Girls play 8v8, Boys play 9v9 on field (*including the goal keepers; Can play fewer if available player numbers are low, and all coaches agree.*)

Play 2 twenty-five minute halves

Substitutions allowed on goal kicks (for either team), or by teams in possession when making throw ins. If the team who is throwing in is subbing, both teams may be allowed to sub. Players must enter from the mid-line and only with your permission.

The Offside Rule should be called. *Indirect* free kick is awarded to the defending team.

Direct free kicks are allowed on penalty fouls. E.g., kicking, tripping, pushing, or tackling a player; or on hand balls.

For fouls inside the penalty area, a direct kick from the penalty spot is awarded at this age level, except in the case of a headed ball infraction. If, in the opinion of the referee, a deliberate header or attempt to head occurs *within the goal area*, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line (i.e. at the edge of the box) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

U12

Boys play 9 v 9; Girls 8 v 8 (*Teams may play fewer if available player numbers are low, and all coaches agree.*)

Play 2 thirty-minute halves

Substitutions allowed on goal kicks (for either team), or by teams in possession when making throw ins. If the team who is throwing in is subbing, both teams may be allowed to sub. Players must enter from the mid-line and only with your permission.

The Offside Rule should be called. *Indirect* free kick is awarded to the defending team.

Direct free kicks are allowed on penalty fouls. E.g., kicking, tripping, pushing, or tackling a player; or on hand balls.

For fouls inside the penalty area, a direct kick from the penalty spot is awarded at this age level, except in the case of a headed ball infraction. If, in the opinion of the referee, a deliberate header or attempt to head occurs *within the goal area*, the indirect free kick will be taken on the goal area line (i.e. at the edge of the box) parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred.

AFTER THE GAME:

If you have no more games to referee, deliver your signed card (Orange for City games; Yellow for Travel games) to the Shack. You will be paid \$8/game for city games. Always check your envelope before leaving Shack, to make sure you have been paid the correct amount.

Questions or concerns should be brought to Ken Harkins, Woburn Youth Soccer Referee Assignor, or another WYS officials (e.g., Mark Ecolini, Kevin Brothers, etc.)

Useful Reference sites:

<https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/referees/advice-for-new-referees/>

Great advice for new, young referees.

<http://www.watchandwhistle.org/>

Comprehensive Primer for Youth Soccer Referees