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VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1

Flags and Whistles

The Newsletter for Katy Youth Soccer Referee's

Welcome to Volume Four Issue number one of Flags and Whistles, the official referee newsletter of Katy Youth Soccer. After another successful Fall season we face a busy Spring season with this being the lead in season to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. This will raise the profile of soccer in the US particularly as the US National team has been drawn in the same group as England. With soccer being in the public eye it is important for us as a group to help promote our sport with both players and parents. We as Referees have a responsibility to apply the Laws of the Game and ensure the smooth running of each game we officiate. If you are a new Referee or just new to KYSC please be sure to review the contents of this newsletter as it should contain answers to most of your questions.

The new season begins Saturday March 6th.

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. We have many experienced Referees in our group and I encourage you to introduce yourself to them and use their experience and knowledge to make yourself a better Referee.

2010 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 2010 Certification badge on your Referee shirt for every game. **If you do not display a current 2010 badge you will not be permitted to officiate.**

In the Fall 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.

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 maybe 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 30 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-ordinator 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 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!

Game Cards

When you sign in at the Referee table you collect the game card for your game. The card is pre-populated with the team name, coach name, field number and of course the names of the match official(s). Make sure these details are correct.

At the end of the game please confirm the result with each coach and have them sign the card. The winning Coach gets to keep the game card or in the case of a tie the Home coach gets the card. **DO NOT RETAIN THE CARD**

AT THE END OF YOUR GAME IT IS THE COACHES RESPONSIBILITY TO HAND THE CARD IN.

Points of Focus for the season

This season KYSC will be focusing on specific areas of the game where we had problems last season. Take a moment to review the 3 items below and be sure to run through them with the Coaches in your pre-game talk.

1. The number of Coaches permitted on the player side of the field is restricted to 2 Coaches for all none 11 a-side games. For 11 a side games 3 coaches are permitted.
2. Substitutions are done from the half-way line and only with the Referees permission. There are no exceptions to this rule.
3. Each Coach must present you with a printed Team Roster and you must check the players against this roster. There can be no handwritten additions or players playing that are not on this roster.

As in all cases of dispute or lack of conformance to these rules please seek out a KYSC Official to intervene in every instance. It is not the Referees job to get involved in disputes just to apply the Laws of the Game. Do not start the game until the situation has been resolved.

After the game please inform the Referee Assignor or myself if a problem has occurred so we are aware of what is going on and so we can work with the appropriate KYSC Officer to address the problem.

Referee Pay Rates

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
U12	8 v 8	\$28
U13	11 v 11	\$32
U14 – U16	11 v 11	\$36
U17 – U19	11 v 11	\$40

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.

THE REFEREE'S SURVIVAL GUIDE

A fantastic referee book written by Jeffrey Caminsky from the USA was featured in the 2007 April edition of The Corsham Referee newsletter, where you can get details of how to buy Jeff's book entitled 'The Referee's Survival Guide'. *Can be bought from Amazon.com*. The book comes highly recommend by me and provides answers to many of your problems on the field of play. Clearly written and easy to understand. The Referee's Survival Guide explains many of the "what's, how's, who's and why's" of life on the soccer field, as well as many of the things for a referee to avoid.

Below is a monthly excerpt to whet your appetite for Jeff's brilliant book.

Deliberately handling the ball

Among all fouls arising during the course of the game, handballs-or deliberately handling the ball, in the terminology of the Laws-mat- well cause the most trouble, especially for beginning referees.

Handling is the only foul not committed against an opposing player, but against the opposing team. It is also the only penal foul that requires deliberate intent by the player committing the foul. The foul is not, after all, "letting the ball touch the hand" but "deliberately handling the ball." As a result, it is often said that if the ball plays the hand it is not a foul, but if the hand plays the ball, then it is.

Unfortunately, this rule of thumb is more easily stated than put into practice. It also conflicts with the more conventional rule applied by players, coaches, and spectators around the world: if it hits the hand of an opposing player, it is a handball. As a result, applying the Laws properly may lead to sharp comments by participants and spectators alike, but they are usually comments born of misunderstanding and should not be taken to heart. It would be unfair to penalize a player for an accidental touch which is neither intended nor avoidable, and a few moments of thought should be enough to grasp the basic concepts involved.

Handling fouls require deliberate contact between the ball and a player's hand or arm. This, in turn, means that the player either chose not to avoid touching the ball, placed his arms in an unnatural playing position to make it likely that he would touch the ball, or that he chose to continue playing a ball after an initial, accidental contact. Perhaps this is best illustrated by studying examples of what handling is not

- A ball deflecting off a player's hand or arm from a shot or pass taken a few feet away is not a foul-unless the player deliberately placed his arm in an unnatural position to block the pass. (And placing the arms or hands over a sensitive area of the body while standing in the wall at a free kick is not, by any stretch of the imagination, unnatural).
- Using the arms instinctively to protect a sensitive area of the body from the sudden approach of the ball is not a foul.
- A ball striking the arm of a player who is looking the other way is not a foul.
- A ball innocently striking the arm of a player does not magically turn the play into a foul by falling in a place that happens to benefit that player.
- On the other hand....a player who continues to control the ball with his arm after an initial, innocent touch is committing a handling foul.
- And a referee may have cause to wonder just how innocent a handball contact is, if the ball just keeps happening to fall in a convenient place for the same player in the same game.

There are many aspects of hand-to-ball contact to note and consider when deciding whether a handball is deliberate or inadvertent. Uneven playing surfaces often cause the ball to deflect at odd angles, making it hard for players to know how it will bounce. Players who are unchallenged in the open field have no incentive to handle the ball, since it will be easily detected. Often, this suggests an unintentional handling, especially on the many fields where the playing surface itself is less than putting-green smooth. On the other hand, since players intending to commit a foul may want to hide their actions from the officials, many intentional handballs will occur just out of sight of the referee, or when the referee is screened from the play, making cooperation between all three officials essential.

KYSC Age related law changes

The last three 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. The separate pages, when printed, can be folded three times to make a handy reference guide prior to each game. Getting the laws out mid-game will not instill sideline confidence in your understanding of the laws!! Take time to familiarize yourself with the 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.kyssc.refers@gmail.com

Contrasting the KYSC exceptions to FIFA rules by age group.

	U-7 & U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11
Playing Field (L x W)	Field Size 25 x 20 yds	Field Size 35 x 25 yds	Field Size 50 x 35 yds	Field Size 80 x 60 yds
Ball	Size 3 Ball	Size 4 Ball	Size 4 Ball	Size 4 Ball
Number of Players	4 Field Players No Goalkeepers	6 Field Players 1 Goalkeeper	7 Field Players 1 Goalkeeper	7 Field Players 1 Goalkeeper
Referees	Single Center Referee	Single Center Referee	Single Center Referee (Three crew when poss)	Three Referee Crew
Game exceptions	No Penalty Kicks No Offside Throw Ins (Second throw in must be allowed if player makes an improper first attempt)	Blatant offside only	Blatant offside only	FIFA Rules Apply
Duration of Game	4 - 10 Minute Quarters 2 Minute Breaks between Quarters 5 Minute Half Time	2 - 25 Minute Halves 5 Minute Half Time	2 - 25 Minute Halves 5 Minute Half Time	2 - 30 Minute Halves 5 Minute Half Time
Focus of Referee	Educate, teach, help, control, explain what is going on.	Educate, control, apply appropriate age rules	Educate, control, apply blatant offside rule,	Manage, apply rules, educate



U-7/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 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-created soccer shoes are recommended. Shin guards are mandatory.

Law V-The Referee:

The club may use a parent/coach or an assigned licensed referee to officiate 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 four (4) 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 exceptions: All fouls shall result in a direct free kick with opponent four (4) 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 direct. 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 seven (7) 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:

No Assistant Referees will be provided at this level.

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: Blatant offside is called at this age group..

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: When possible Assistant Referees will be used at this age group.

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: If 1 official only blatant offside is called. If 3 officials normal FIFA rules apply/

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.