

Danvers Indoor Sports

Soccer Referees - Information For Referees New To Us

Assignments

Assignments can be found on the DIS website under any of the Sports links, clicking on “Schedules”, then clicking on “Referees”

You are expected to come in for your assigned game about 15 minutes before the start of your shift. There may be traffic delays on Route 114 and sometimes it is difficult to find a parking spot close to the office.

When you first arrive, check in with the office staff and let them know your name, the start time of your shift, the end time of your shift, and what field you are on.

Find out if your shift involves the first game on that field

Are there soccer balls on the field ?

During your shift, will you need a different soccer ball from what you start with ?

Find out where the soccer ball bag is for your field

Is there a score / league schedule at the field ?

Is the scoreboard clock already counting down to the end of the warm up time ?

Is the score on the scoreboard showing zero for both teams ?

Is your field on a “compressed time schedule” ?

General Expectations when you are here

You are expected to have something to write down the score with (on the score sheet), you are also expected to have a watch to make sure you know what time of day it is. If your field is running behind, you are expected to catch up by strictly following the times for warm up and the half time rest periods - there is an additional 5 minutes in every game (except for the compressed game time situation).

Do you have your two minute card, a yellow card, and a red card on you before you start your first game ?

If you interact with any players, coaches, or spectators - you are to treat them with respect even if they “don’t deserve it”. Unreasonable behavior by those individuals is to be reported to the office staff (please know what team it is and their age group).

You are to dress and act like a referee as soon as you step into the building. The uniform, outer jacket, etc. makes you stand out in a crowd - be aware of that. Do not act in a manner that anyone could interpret as being favorable to one team or individual, nor should you act with disrespect towards any one team or individual.

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What is different indoors ?

Scoreboard remotes - There is a remote for the scoreboard clock which you must know how to operate (set the time, stop the time, update a score, correct a score, zero out scores, sound the buzzer).

The two line violation - There is a separate handout with an explanation for this which you should have a copy of, have read, and fully understand - before - you start your first game.

Play along the boards - The mandatory pre season referee meeting has a demonstration about this. Fair Play is not just a slogan here, it's a way of life.

Substitutions - There are on the fly substitution and there are free substitution rules. You must know the difference and enforce any violations. There are times when any team can do a free substitution. There are times when only the team with possession of the ball, and there is a restart, can do a free substitution. There are times when only one player can be substituted for (an injury) via the free substitution process. In addition, there are physical conditions that must be met to legally perform an on the fly substitution.

Going to ground to play the ball - Although this is described as sliding in the rule book, due to the difference between what this means in an indoor situation as opposed to an outdoor situation, it is best to use this phrase when calling a foul for this. Remember that even an offensive player can be in violation of this rule and it must be called even if there are no other players around the guilty player. Only the goalkeeper can go to ground to play the ball and only if the action starts within their own penalty area.

Playing a player down - There are situations that require a two minute penalty (blue card), or a five minute penalty (yellow or red card). There are different rules as to when the guilty player can re-enter the game (if at all).

With any of the above rules, if you don't have the rule book or you don't fully understand how the rule is to be interpreted and enforced (i.e. what is the restart, is there a card involved) discuss this with the assignor or a fellow referee that you know understands how the facility wants this to be treated.

One thing that brings frustration to a coach, player, or spectator is having different referees interpreting or enforcing a rule in a different way. As with any referee relationship (with a player, with a coach) we all need to be mindful of not creating un-necessary conflict. Calling the game in a very different way from other referees here can cause that.