Danvers Indoor Sports - Soccer Referee Guidance - 2026-2027 Season

There are several things that are different from outdoor soccer and indoor soccer in terms of what a referee has to pay attention to. This is a breakdown of how the referee here at DIS is expected to handle each situation, with notations about age group considerations.

Food and Drink - It is the referee's responsibility to monitor and prohibit any of the items mentioned from making it onto the field or into the bench area.

Substitutions - It is the referee's responsibility to recognize when this happens and to penalize any such substitution that does not follow the procedure correctly, awarding a two minute penalty when it is done incorrectly.

Release of the ball when in possession of the goalkeeper - It is the responsibility of the referee to start a five second count once the goalkeeper has the ball in their hands.

Going To Ground To Play The Ball - It is the responsibility of the referee to monitor all players near the ball or away from the ball, and to penalize a player going to ground as appropriate (see our rules for penalty specifics).

Play along the boards - It is the responsibility of the referee to monitor players as they approach the walls, especially if there is an opponent between them and the wall.

Referee communication during the game - It is the responsibility of the referee to communicate many of their decisions to a player or a coach, to ensure they understand that you are paying attention to what is going on.

Appropriate size of a shin guard - It is the responsibility of the referee to ask each team's coach, prior to the start of the game, if they have checked their players for proper equipment (including the wearing of jewelry) and during play to evaluate the size of a shin guard.

Keep the game moving if safe to do so - It is the responsibility of the referee to allow play to restart quickly. Get out of the way and allow for a quick restart. The exact blade of grass is not important, unless a restart is for a two-line violation or a penalty kick.