



2026 MYSA MONTANA CUP– REFEREE GUIDE

Thank you for officiating the 2025 Montana Cup. MYSA appreciates your services and we hope you have a great tournament. MYSA would like to ask that all referees follow this guide and contact a tournament administrator if you have any issues. This guide is to be followed by all referees. Deviation from this guide is prohibited, unless the SYRA or MYSA provides written approval.

General Information

1. **Player safety is our #1 duty and priority.** Call fouls and address unsafe play early. Talk to players, but don't hesitate to use cards if needed to control play.
2. The Referee must check in at the administration area at least 30-minutes prior to your match. If you have back-to-back matches, notify the admin that you will meet the crew at the field. The Referee will receive the match card. The Referee is responsible for the match card being returned into the administration area.
3. **Look professional!** Black shoes, 2-stripe socks, black shorts, like style and color tucked in jerseys. No jewelry for referees either. There should be 5 distinct colors on the field. If you need to borrow a jersey, ask.
4. Game cards received at check-in are to be used as the sole official roster when checking teams in.
All players, substitutes and bench personnel must be on the printed match card and must have a player pass or they may not be in the technical area. Do not write in any players or bench personnel. Rostered players that are not in uniform are allowed on the bench (and may be carded.) Please report any roster or pass issues to the admin tent immediately. Club managers and trainers may be in the technical area if they are on the roster. (Trainers are the only ones rostered that may remain if red carded.) There is a maximum of 4 bench personnel permitted in the technical area.
5. Game cards are used to report match scores and misconduct, and the back may be used for supplemental information. All members of the crew should review the match report before the referee signs and turn it in. Please be very clear and neat with reports so they can be read. Take your time filling it out and ask for help if needed. You do not need to get coaches' signatures.
6. Deal with **misconduct** by coaches and spectators early, and at the first sign of it.
 - a. Ask: **"Coach your behavior right now is irresponsible, please stop."**
 - b. Tell: **"Coach you are acting irresponsible. If your behavior continues, you will be dismissed. Do you understand?"** (Show a yellow card here.)
 - c. Dismiss: **"Coach you are dismissed."** (Show a red card.)
 - d. Spectators: Do not deal with spectators directly. Stop the game and make the coaches do it. There will also be field marshals around that can facilitate the removal of a spectator. Do not continue the match until the spectator has left sight and sound of the field. They don't have a right any longer to watch the game. Keep your watch running during this time.
7. **Remember, you are only wearing one hat at a time!** If you are watching a game, you need to remove or cover your uniform (including socks) and enjoy the game. We ask that all spectators observe from the spectator areas. This includes referees not working the match. You may prefer to stay closer to the end line, but the technical area

and team side are meant for only the referees on the match, mentors/assessors, admins and teams. **Misconduct by a referee that is spectating a match will not be tolerated!** If you have a concern about a referee in a match, please bring it to the SYRA or a tournament administrator.

Playing Rules

All Games to be played under [2024/2025 IFAB LOTG](#) with the below revisions.

1. **All matches are 30-minute halves with a 5-minute half-time.** Pool play and consolation games may end in a tie.
2. Teams may substitute an unlimited number of players at any stoppage in play with the permission of the referee.
3. Only 22 players are permitted on the roster with a max of 18 in uniform. 4 bench personnel in the technical areas, and they must be on the roster.
4. If temperatures reach 80 degrees Fahrenheit, admins will notify of a 1-minute water break to be added to each half. Notify coaches that this will happen prior to the game.

Classic Division: Halves may be shortened if agreed upon by both team's coaches prior to the start of the match. Reduce to equate is in effect for any Classic division match and is optional for other divisions. If Team A only has 9 players to start, Team B must reduce to 9 players. Additional players, up to 11 total, may be added to each team at any stoppage, should they arrive late. Teams must start all available players. If they have 10, they start 10, and the opponent must match.

Referees are reminded that the classic division may be a broad spectrum of player ages, size, and abilities. **The Classic division asks that foul thresholds are monitored and called sooner than you may at another level.** Clear advantage is okay to award, but make sure you show/vocalize the advantage and be quick to award the free kick if advantage isn't obvious.

Red Card Procedure: A sent-off player **MUST** leave the field and technical area. Bench personnel must escort players under 18 to their parents. If only one adult with a beach pass is present, the game shall be temporarily suspended while that adult escorts the player off. The coach must return after a few minutes or the game will be abandoned. That player may stay on the spectator side of the field, but they must remain quiet and cover or remove their jersey.

If a red card is issued, pull the player/coach pass and turn it in with your game report. Don't forget to give back the remaining passes to the teams.

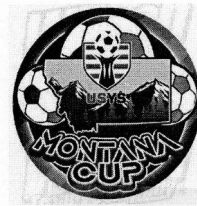
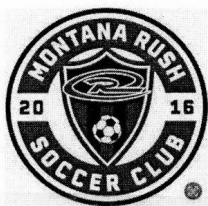
If a team has you sign a sit out form for a player/coach serving a sit-out, please record it in the game report.

Determining the Outcome of a Match

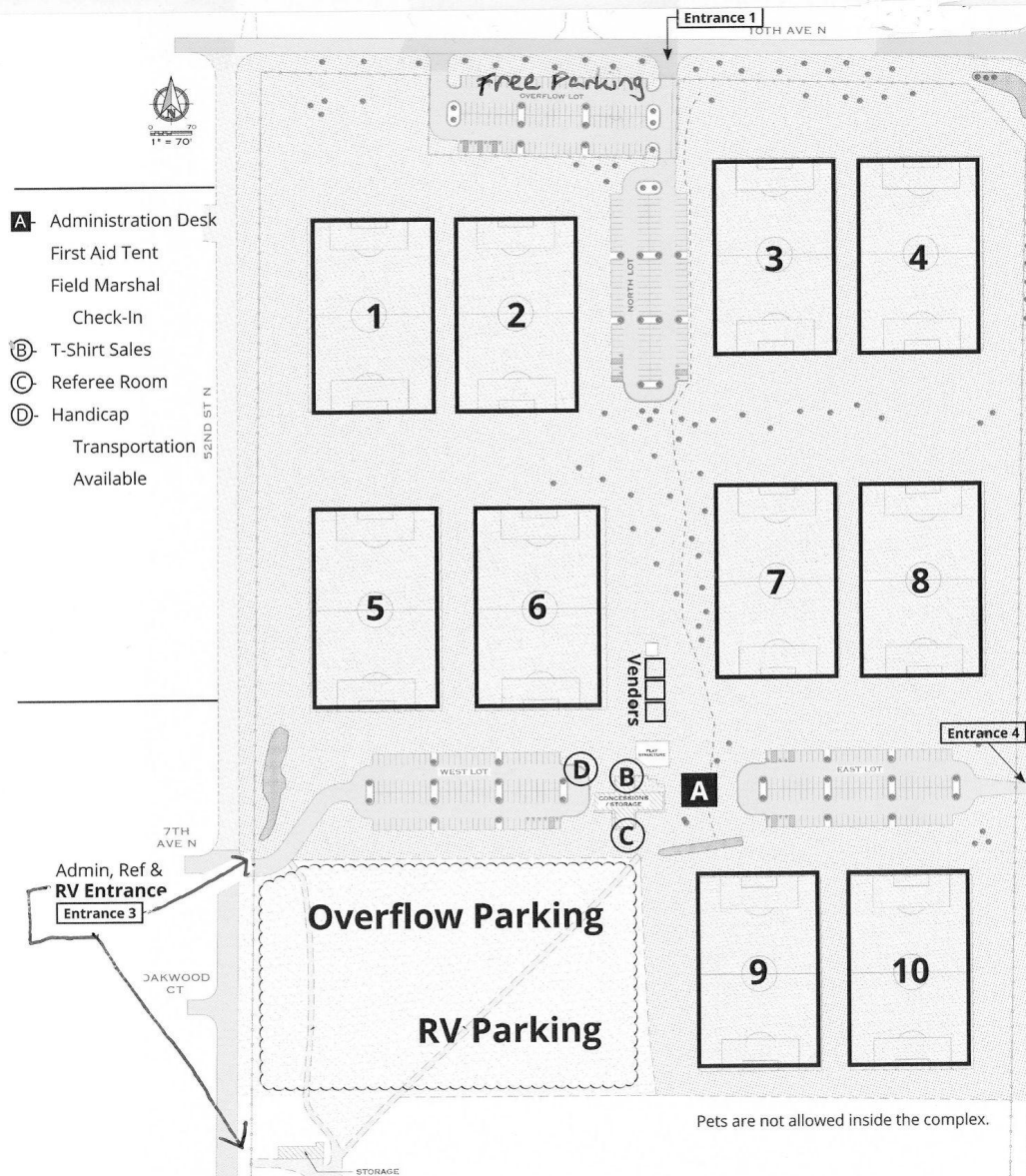
Pool play matches may end in a tie. Semi-Final and Final matches will need a winner and will go straight to [Penalties Shoot-Out](#) (No Overtime Periods) Only the players that are on the field at the end of the last half may take part in kicks, do not let them leave the field! All substitutes and coaches must remain on the benches. Please review [Law 10](#) procedures with your crew during your pre-game.

MYSA admins will monitor the weather and will sound a horn to stop play if a delay is needed and will sound a horn when play can resume. Please be prepared for all the weather.

Temperatures in the 80's are anticipated, please begin hydrating now and continue to hydrate at every opportunity. Water jugs to refill water bottles will be available. Last but not least - Smile and have fun! Attitudes are contagious.



Siebel Park Layout



Contacts:

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