

Youth Soccer Referee & Staff Guide (1st-6th Grade)

League Supervisor Staff:

- Mandee Matzke - Youth Sports Coordinator - 616-886-6223
- Pam Michielsen - League Site Supervisor - 616-610-1135
- Quincy, ZC, ZWHS, and ZEHS - Head Referees is the point of contact on game-day.

Helpful Links:

- Team Sideline
- League Rules
- 5th/6th Quick Rules
- Master Staff List
- Field Locations
- Weather Policy

League Outline:

Description	1st-2nd grade	3rd-4th grade	5th-6th grade
# of players on field	5 v 5	7 v 7	9 v 9
Game Format	(4x) 10min Q's, Running Clock	(4x) 12min Q's, Running Clock	(4x) 12min Q's, Running Clock
Half Time	4 min	4 min	4 min
Goalie	NO	YES	YES
Equipment/Field Info.			
Field Size (roughly)	50 yd x 20 yd	55 yd x 35 yd	80 yd x 50 yd
Ball Size	3	4	4
Goal Size	4' x 6'	6.5' x 18.5'	7' x 21'
Referee(s)/Staff	1	2	3

Referee Attire

- Zeeland Rec will provide:
    - Sideline Referees:
        - Black ZRec Staff shirt
        - Whistle
        - Stopwatch
        - Flags
    - Center Referee (5th/6th Grade Leagues)
        - Stripes or referee jersey (yellow)
        - Red/Yellow Card billfold with score card
        - Whistle
        - Stopwatch



Tips and Advice:

- Dress for the weather!
- Your staff shirt should always be the top layer and clearly visible.
- Early Fall days will be chilly in the morning, but heat up fast. Layers are recommended.
- Late Fall days may be wet and can remain cold and frigid. Be sure to dress appropriately with multiple layers and/or pants, multiple shoes, etc.
- Cleats and shinguards are recommended but not required (for referees)
- Whistle and time keeping device
  - ZRec will provide a basic model, but you're welcome to provide your own.
- Coin flip: Have a coin in your pocket to decide the offensive and defensive sides at the start of the game.
- Remove all jewelry and other valuables prior to the game.
- Bring a water bottle and quick snacks for between games to stay hydrated and alert. You're welcome to leave personal items in the shed during the day, but the shed is left unlocked and sometimes unattended.

Game Day:

- Pre Game:
  - Check in at your location shed and with the site supervisor to confirm your assignment.
    - If there are referee no-shows or last minute changes, the site supervisor may move people around to best fit the needs of the games/divisions.
    - Site supervisors or head ref will direct/lead field setup including corner flags and soccer ball bags per field.
      - Assist and be ready to help with these tasks pre and post game.
  - At the Field:
    - Check the field (goals secure, lines visible, equipment/goals/nets safe)
    - Walk the perimeter of the field to ensure ample space for reffing duties
      - Spectators must sit on the opposite side of the field from the teams
      - No spectators allowed on the field, on the same side as the teams, near the corner flags, or near the goals.
      - A good distance rule for seating is 2 feet back from the sideline
    - Greet Coaches
      - "Hi my name is ___! I will be a referee for today's game. Do you have any questions or are there any concerns I should be aware of? Let's have a great game!"
    - Player Equipment Check



        - Have coaches line up teams a couple minutes before the game time
        - Check for shin guards and close-toed shoes
            - Cleats are not required but are highly recommended
            - NO Metal cleats are allowed
        - Check for jewelry (necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc) - no jewelry is allowed.
            - If earrings cannot be taken out, cover them with athletic tape or bandaids.
- During the Game
    - Make sure you know your league specific quarter time, half time, and timeout lengths
    - The game starts with your whistle. Be sure it is loud and confident!
    - As soon as you blow your whistle the clock starts. Be sure you have your timer ready.
    - Be confident!
        - Not everyone will be happy with or agree with your call - that's ok.
        - You will make mistakes - that's ok.
        - You will second guess your decisions - that's ok!
        - Make calls with confidence and keep things moving! Do not engage in back and forth arguments or combativeness with spectators or coaches regarding calls.
    - Be an extension of the coach!
        - Explain your calls so players learn, understand what a call means, and can work to prevent the calls in the future!
        - Encourage positive play. It's ok to remind players gently instead of constant whistles in younger leagues or more often in the first couple weeks of the season.
            - Calls should become more consistent and aggressive in later weeks.
    - Remember - Rec leagues are about development, having, fun and learning the game, not just winning and losing. Teach the game, make consistent calls, and keep the game under control.
- Post game
    - End of game whistle is (2) two short and (1) one long whistle - make sure it is loud, clear and concise!
    - Have the teams line up, shake hands, and show good sportsmanship
    - Collect all equipment into a pile near the center line on the sideline in preparation for the next game



- Score Reporting: Hosting sites are responsible for collecting scores and for Lakeshore League games. Referees should report scores to the league coordinator and/or site supervisor after each game or at the end of the day.
- Last game of the day:
    - Put all soccer balls in the bag, collect corner flags, and return all items to the shed
    - Check the sidelines for any left equipment, personal items, and trash
        - Lost and found items can be put in the shed
        - Please collect trash and throw away in the site bins

Non-Game Situations (Dealing with Spectators, Coaches, and Adversity)

- Dealing with difficult situations and/or people is an inevitable part of the job
    - Stay calm and listen, but remain confident and direct.
    - Ask clarifying questions if needed, but don't delay game play to argue or engage in lengthy conversations.
    - Explain a call or decision briefly, then move on.
    - Admit fault if appropriate, but don't reverse a call.
    - You will make mistakes. Own them, learn from it, and move on.
    - **If someone becomes a persistent problem or is making you uncomfortable let your site supervisor know IMMEDIATELY! They are there to be your advocates.**
        - **Do not engage in argumentative behavior or back and forth confrontation. This is your cue to involve a site supervisor or coach.**
    - Coaches can be advocates for parent/spectator problems - please use coaches whenever possible and/or appropriate
- Common scenarios
    - If a spectator questions why they cannot sit on the same side as the team, tell them something like…
        - The players need space to warm up during the game…
        - Spectators may be a distraction to players who should be paying attention to the game…
        - Coaches need the space to coach…
    - If a spectator asks you why they need to move away from the sideline explain to them that..
        - You need room to ref…
        - To keep everyone involved safe…
    - Coaches and spectators might get mad at you for calls, shake off the complaints and carry on with the game
    - Sometimes coaches won't stay off the field. Remind them that they need to stay on the sidelines.