



Fire FC Volunteer Referee Training Series

Middle School Edition



Introduction

This presentation is designed to give all of the necessary information in order to have you prepared and confident to officiate a Fire FC Middle School soccer game. We are using much of the same information from a full U.S. Soccer Grade 9 referee course along with “local” law modifications that you should be familiar with. This presentation is designed for someone with very little soccer experience, so if you are familiar with the game, you may find parts of it unnecessary or rudimentary. Thus, please work through this at your own pace skipping sections you may find unnecessary based on your experience level.



Introduction (Cont.)

On many of the U.S. Soccer videos, there will be review questions pertaining to that topic. For the purposes of this training, they are not mandatory but again are provided as a learning tool for you to take advantage of should you wish to enhance this training.

At the end of this presentation, you will be directed to a Fire FC quiz that is mandatory to complete this training.



Law 1: The Field of Play

Please go to U.S. Soccer's Grade 9 Referee Training Series at <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>

Then click on Law 1: The Field of Play

Note: Corner flags & arcs are not always available for recreational games. Have the player place the ball within one yard of the corner in such a case.



Law 2: The Ball

Referees are required to obtain a safe, properly sized (size 5) and properly inflated ball from the home team (If the home team doesn't have one, ask the visiting team for a "good" ball.).

For more information, go to the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 training series at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>

And Watch the Law 2: The Ball video.



Law 3: The Players

For Fire FC Middle School games, teams will play with a maximum of 11 players at a time, one of which must be the goalkeeper, wearing a different colored shirt.

Substitutes may enter the field **ONLY** with the referee's permission, which should be granted at the following instances:

Offensive team's throw-in (the defending team may also substitute)

- Either team's goal kick
- Before a kick-off
- At halftime
- During an injury stoppage
- For a cautioned player



Law 3: The Players (cont.)

To review a very formal substitution process, watch the Law 3 video. On <http://www.usoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>



Law 3: The Players (continued)

Fire FC has a good sportsmanship rule in place for its recreational leagues. This allows for a team that is being dominated to have an extra player on the field or the coaches can trade players to make the teams more evenly matched. Only players listed on the rosters of one of the teams playing may participate (not a player registered with some other team).

This makes the game more enjoyable for all players and referees should allow for this.



Law 4: The Players' Equipment

The safety of the players is the #1 priority and responsibility of the referee. This should be kept in mind at all times and, especially at this level, should supercede any other point.

As such, please review the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 video at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx> and Watch the Law 4 video.



Law 4: The Players' Equipment (Continued)

Jewelry, other than medical alert bracelet/necklace, is not allowed to be worn by any Fire FC players. Simply taping or covering jewelry does not suffice. It must be taken off. A player can choose to wear jewelry and watch the game or remove it and PLAY. It's a simple choice!

Team Assistant Referees are expected to help the Referee check in the players - verifying that all players are listed on the rosters provided by the coaches, matching jersey numbers to the roster, and completing the safety inspection.



Law 5: The Referee

The center referee for each Fire FC Middle School game will be assigned by the club.

Each team is responsible for providing one assistant referee for each game, which brings us to Law 6: The Other Match Officials.

Note: For the playoffs, the center referee and assistant referees will be assigned by the club and team volunteers will not be needed.

Please note that the center referee will be 100 percent responsible for calling fouls and dealing with misconduct. He/she has final authority to control the match, but should act upon information or support from the assistant referees, who are there to assist him/her.



Law 6: The Other Match Officials (Assistant Referees)

Please go to:

<http://www.usoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx> and watch the Law 6 video.

This video is the most important of the entire training and will provide guidance on proper positioning and flag signals.



Law 6: The Other Match Officials (Assistant Referees) - Continued

It is the responsibility of the volunteer assistant referee to identify him/herself to the assigned referee. This should be **done at least 15** minutes prior to the game. The referee should not have to ask coaches or beg for help.

The referee should then lead a quick discussion and review of the volunteer's responsibilities, proper flag signals, etc. The volunteers should then assist with the team safety check process, coin toss and begin the game.

At halftime and again at the end of the game, the volunteers should again briefly meet with the referee in the middle of the field to review any game situations. This is important as it is a good opportunity for continued learning and improvement.



Law 7: The Duration of the Game

Fire Middle School Games will be played with two 30-minute halves (2 x 30) with a 5-minute halftime.

The referee will be the official timer but may ask you as the volunteer to “back them up.”

Games need to be started on time and as a volunteer, you can help in making sure this is done by identifying yourself in a timely manner, helping with a safety check, etc., which was mentioned on the last slide.



Law 8: The Start and Restart of Play

If you are inexperienced with the sport of soccer, the Law 8 video on the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Series at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx> may be helpful to watch.

Fire FC U-11 Recreational rules dictate that 10 yards of space be given by opposing players on the kick-off and free-kicks.



Law 9: The Ball in and Out of Play

As volunteer assistant referees, one of your biggest responsibilities is determining when the ball is in and out of play. As such, please watch the Law 9 video at:

<http://www.usoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>

You will be expected to give the appropriate re-start signals with your flag. This was discussed in the Law 6 video.



Law 10: Determining the Outcome of a Match

Fire FC Middle School Games (Regular Season) can end in a tie. No overtime will be played. In the playoffs, overtime and, if necessary, kicks from the mark will be used to determine a winner.

To review the requirements of a legal goal, please watch Law 10 on the U.S. Soccer Website at:
<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>

Volunteer AR's should work hard to be in proper position to assist with determining if the whole of the ball, crosses the whole of the goal line in between the goal posts and under the crossbar.



Law 11: Offside

The offside rule will be in place for Fire FC Middle School games.

All volunteers should familiarize and/or review the Law 11 video at

<http://www.usoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>

New interpretations have been added in recent years, so even if you are familiar with the game, this video is a **MUST WATCH!** The assistant referees are expected to raise their flag when they feel a player should be penalized for it.



Law 12: Fouls & Misconduct

The club assigned referee is responsible for calling all fouls and dealing with misconduct.

As a volunteer assistant referee, you are welcome to provide information to the referee if and only if your experience is sufficient and you are trained and confident to do so. This should be discussed in the pre-game conference with your assigned referee.

Please keep in mind that as a volunteer assistant, you are there to “assist”, not “insist”.



Law 13: Free Kicks

Volunteer assistant referees can and should assist the players in identifying the proper placement of the ball on free kicks.

As such, please review the Law 13 video on the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 series at: <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx> if you so desire.



Law 14: The Penalty Kick

As volunteer referees, you should move to a position on the goal line at the edge of the penalty area when a penalty kick is called.

You will serve as the “goal-judge” and if the penalty kick is saved or missed, return quickly to your proper position along the touchline. If a goal is scored, make eye contact with the referee and run to your normal position.

To review, please watch the Law 14 video on the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 series at:
<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>



Law 15: The Throw-In

Assistant referees should help determine which team should take a throw-in by using the proper flag signal and then assist in determining the legality of the throw-in per the instructions in the Law 15 video on the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 video series at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>

In the pre-game conference, this topic should be reviewed so that proper coverage and division of responsibilities can be assured.



Law 16: The Goal Kick

On a goal kick, the opposing team's players must retreat to outside the penalty area. The ball is "in play" **once it kicked and clearly moves**. This is one of the major law changes for 2019-20.

If you don't know why/when a goal kick should be awarded, please review the Law 16 video on the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 series at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>



Law 17: The Corner Kick

Volunteer assistant referee responsibilities are indicating when a corner kick should be awarded and then the proper placement of the ball. During the taking of the kick, you should take a position in line with the goal line to determine if the whole of the ball leaves the field. You can also assist the referee in ensuring that opposing players are giving at least 10 yards of space.

To review the procedures of a corner kick, please review the Law 17 video on the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 series at:

<http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Online-Training/Grade-9-Referee-Course.aspx>



Conclusion

Now that you have completed the training, please visit <https://goo.gl/forms/wXwG3duKxjXbMJla2> to take a short quiz upon what you have learned.

A passing score of 75% is required to be approved as a team volunteer assistant referee by Fire FC.

If you do not achieve this score, please review the sections you are struggling with and re-take the quiz.

Thank you for your time and new-found expertise. We look forward to seeing you on the field and appreciate your assistance!

Questions should be addressed to Fire FC General Manager Larry Johnson at larry@gjsoccer.org.