

Referee Calls

We want to keep the game flowing with the least amount of stoppages as possible. As such, there are only 5 calls where mini soccer referees should blow the whistle:

1. **Sideline/Out of Bounds:** The team who did not touch the ball last before it went out takes the **THROW-IN**. Point in the direction that team is moving when you blow the whistle, call their colour (i.e. "Black Throw-in").

During a throw-in, the player must:

- face the field
- have two feet on the ground
- use both hands
- deliver the ball from behind and over his/her head
- not touch the ball again until it has touched another player

If any of the above is not correct, show the player the correct method and allow one re-throw. If the second throw is not correct, let the play go on.

2. **End of field/Out of Bounds:**
 - If the defending player touched it last, put the ball back in play by a **CORNER KICK**. Point in direction that team is moving and blow the whistle and call their colour (i.e. "Black Corner"). Place the ball at corner.
 - If the attacking player touched it last, put the ball back in play by a **GOAL KICK**. Point in direction of the goalie and blow the whistle, and call Goalie Kick. Goalie kicks ball from goal line.

*****Important:** For **GOAL KICKS**, please instruct attacking players to move back to half line. (Goalie development is part of mini soccer so goalies should be given space to learn).

3. **Player in Goalie Crease:** Only the Goalie can touch the ball once it enters the crease. To avoid potential injury, blow the whistle if it appears that a player is about to kick the ball inside the crease.

*****Important:** If a goal is scored from inside the crease, let the players know "No Goal" and explain the rule.
4. **Player Substitutions:** Substitutions should be made approximately every 3 minutes during a stoppage of play. When the ball is dead, blow the whistle and call subs.
5. **Rough Play:** Pushing, shoving, kicking (including take out slides) is not allowed.
 - 1st offence: Warn the offending player firmly
 - 2nd offence: Advise the coach you warned the player already. Coach warns player.
 - 3rd offence: Alert the coach. The coach will instruct the player to sit out the rest of the half.

Note: In Mini Soccer, we do not whistle for off sides, just instruct players not to cherry pick, e.g. "You need to get back on Defense") or hand violations (unless purposeful).

Red River Referee Responsibilities

What to bring:

- Stopwatch/phone
- Tossing coin
- Flags and Sanitizing Wipes from Dressing Room 6
- Face mask, to be worn at all times
- Hand Sanitizer
- Whistle
- plus THIS reference sheet

7:15 [Head Ref] - Greet each coach.

"We are your officials for today. My assistant ref is going to be inspecting players for shin guards right now. As a reminder, there is no pushing, shoving or kicking. If this happens, we will warn the player once. If it happens again, we will ask that the coach to warn the player and if it happens a third time, the player will need to sit out the rest of the game. We will do a coin toss at 7:25 and teams should be ready to start promptly at 7:30."

7:15 [Assistant Ref] - Inspect the players.

- All players must wear shin guards.
- Socks must be pulled over shin guards. (If a player is not wearing socks, still allow them to play but tell them they need to bring socks to the next game).
- Players' jerseys should be tucked in with number facing the back.

7:20 [Both Refs] - Set up flags and inspect the fields.

- Set up flags at each corner of the field.
- Remove all rocks, twigs, debris from the field.
- Ensure nets are securely fastened to the goal posts and netting pulled back so as not to interfere with the goalkeeper.
- Ensure goal posts are securely anchored to the ground.
- Sanitize game ball before the start of the game.

7:25 [Head Ref] - Coin toss/Rock paper scissors with coaches.

7:30 [First Half] - Whistle to indicate start of game. Start promptly.

7:50 p.m. [Half time] - Whistle to indicate the start of half time. Sanitize the game ball before the start of second half.

7:55 [Second Half] - The commencement of the second half is to be initiated by the team who did not start the first half. Whistle to indicate start of game. Start promptly.

8:15 p.m. [Game End] - Long, clear whistle to indicate end of game. Return all flags to dressing room 6.

Other Information

Covid Protocols

- Sanitize your hands when you arrive.
- Wear a mask at all times.
- Wipe the game ball down before games, and at half time.
- If you are sick, do not come to the field. Let Josh know as soon as you have symptoms.

Professionalism

- Arrive at the field on time.
- Greet each coach with enthusiasm, look each coach in the eyes.
- Issue firm, but simple instructions to the players.
- Start and end the game on time.

Abusive Parents

- Enlist the support of the coach. Ask the coach to speak with the offending spectators, and let the coach know that if the behaviour continues, the game will not. This will usually be enough to quiet most parents, but not all.
- If the situation continues, ask the coach to have the spectator leave the area. If the spectator refuses, tell the coach that if the spectator is not removed, the game will end. Give the coach a reasonable amount of time (1-2 minutes) to deal with the situation.

Abusive Coaches

- Remain calm. If a coach yells at you, don't yell back. Speak respectfully and quietly, so the coach must quiet down to hear you. In a polite and respectful way, inform the coach that this type of conduct is unsportsmanlike and continuing with this type conduct will result in removal from the game.
- If the behaviour continues, respectfully and professionally ask the coach to leave.
- If the coach refuses to leave, give the coach a warning that if he or she does not leave, you will end the game.
- If the coach does not leave in a reasonable amount of time (1-2 minutes), end the game.
- Be sure to file a very detailed report with the convenors so there is a good understanding of why the game was ended early.

Assignments and Cheques

- All games are Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m. through May and June. A schedule is typically emailed a week in advance.
- Shifts are also available for Jamboree Skill Competition.
- Shifts are assigned based on seniority, availability and reliability. If you call in sick, you will not be assigned as many shifts.
- Referees are paid by monthly cheque from the Red River Community Centre. An email notification will be sent when cheques are ready for pick up. Pick up is at the Red River Community Centre office.

Experience is the best teacher and confidence builder.

The more games you referee, the more comfortable and confident you will be!