

Referee By-Laws

1. Referee meetings will be held at the discretion of the Referee Director with a location and time announced by email.
 - a. Attendance is considered mandatory, with exceptions made only by contacting the Referee Director via email or phone.
2. The VYSL will use the website www.arbitersports.com and all Referees will be expected to **frequently check** the website and emails for game assignments.
 - a. Failure to check the website and accept/decline assignments in a timely manner will be noted by the Referee Assigner and may lead to less assignments for the remainder of the season.
 - b. Referees must use the website to block dates/times that they are unavailable.
 - c. If you accept a game, then discover that you cannot make the assignment; it is YOUR responsibility to contact another Referee to take your game.
 - d. After finding someone to cover a game that you cannot Referee, you also must notify the Referee Director with the final arrangement.
 - i. **Both parties involved in the switch must personally call the Referee Director to verify the new arrangement.**
3. Failure to show up to a game to which you were assigned without prior notification WILL RESULT IN A FINE. The fine will be the same amount that you would have made refereeing the game that was missed, with all deductions taken from the final paycheck.
 - a. Failure to show up to three consecutive games will result in dismissal from the VYSL Referee Program.
4. All games will follow the “Laws of the Game” as in accordance with what is required or appropriate, unless noted below as deemed by the Vermillion Youth Soccer League Referee Director.
5. Referees will follow the 5 S’s of being prepared guideline as outlined in the United States Soccer Federation Referee Administrative Handbook:
 - a. Shirt – Must be an USSF approved color and pattern
 - b. Shorts – Black
 - c. Socks – Black Referee socks
 - d. Shoes – Black (some leeway may be given here with approval from the Director)
 - e. Supplies – i.e. flags, stopwatch, whistle, cards (Yellow and Red), pen/pencils, paper to record game information, etc.
6. The Referee and Assistant Referees are expected to be at the field **15 minutes prior to kick off** fully prepared in order to:
 - a. Carefully inspect field to determine adequacy of markings, safety, and general playing conditions
 - b. Obtain and check game balls
 - c. Check players’ equipment – inspect players’ shoes, shinguards, etc.
 - d. Carry out the pre-game meeting with coaches and captains.
7. After the game the Referee team will be responsible for contacting the Referee Director with any questions or concerns relating to the game, field, or conduct of players/coaches.

- Players' equipment will be inspected before each game.
 - In addition to shinguards, Referees will inspect shoes and any other items worn
 - All jewelry **must be removed** – earrings may not be taped as a substitution to this rule.
 - Regular tennis shoes are acceptable, as long as the Referee deems them safe.
 - Any equipment that is deemed dangerous by the Referee will **not** be allowed.
- No VYSL game will be canceled due to a shortage of players.
- Teams will play with an equal number of players on the field appropriate to the age group.
- The home team shall be responsible to change jerseys if the Referee deems it necessary.
- The Referee is the sole timekeeper on the field. The Referee may add time to each half to account for time lost due to injuries, substitutions, etc.
- Unlimited substitutions, with the CONSENT OF THE REFEREE, may be made at the following times:
 - Before a throw-in (by the throwing team)
 - Before a goal kick (by either team)
 - After a goal is scored (by either team)
 - When play has been stopped for an injury (by either team)
 - At half time/quarter break (by either team)
- Players with active bleeding must leave the playing area until the bleeding is stopped and all blood has been removed from his/her jersey/uniform.
- Goalkeepers may be changed only with the Referee's permission.
- Coaches/Team officials must stay on their own side of the field and within their "technical area." In addition, the coaches must be on the opposite side of the spectators.
 - The "technical area" includes the team bench and 10 yards in each direction from that bench. Coaches, assistant coaches, and spectators are not allowed to "coach" from behind the goal line or the opposing side of the field.
 - Coaches/team officials are allowed to convey "tactical instructions" to their players.
 - Coaches/team officials are not permitted to "question" or "protest" decisions made by the Referee.
 - Any questions about the decisions of the game officials should be forwarded to the Referee Director.
- Game Discipline: Players and substitutes are subject to discipline/suspension for misconduct.
 - Yellow Card = Caution
 - Red Card = Dismissal from that match and suspension from his/her teams next scheduled match. The VYSL Board of Directors may impose additional suspensions/penalties.
- Coaches, assistant coaches, other team officials, and spectators are subject to expulsion/suspension at the discretion of the Referee/VYSL Board of Directors. Behavior

that is not consistent with good sportsmanship and providing a mentality where all can enjoy recreational soccer is strictly prohibited.

- Coaches, assistant coaches, and other team officials who are sent-off/dismissed from a match will be assessed an automatic one game suspension and local and state authorities for possible additional action if deemed necessary will review any incident(s).
 - If the Referee deems it necessary:
 - Upon refusal to leave premises after a coach, player, or fan is behaving disorderly/unruly, the game will be terminated and proper authorities will be contacted.
 - In such an instance, the Referee and Assistant Referees must provide a game report to the Referee Director, which may be reviewed by the VYSL Board of Directors.
- Games will be stopped for lightning, violent weather, darkness, or any other reason the Referee deems necessary, including disruption from the sidelines, in accordance with VYSL.
 - A game so suspended may be restarted, rescheduled, or terminated.
- If a Referee fails to stop a game for lightning or other severe weather conditions, the respective coaches, if they agree, may themselves stop the game by telling the Referee of their decision.
 - Once the Referee is informed, game is considered suspended, play will stop, and all players will be removed from the field until the Referee determines either: that play can resume, or that the balance of the game is canceled.
 - VYSL shall make the final decision in disputes that may arise under this rule.
- All rules/regulations that are not addressed in this document or any other document provided by the Vermillion Youth Soccer League will be governed using the following:
 - VYSL Board of Directors
 - South Dakota State Soccer Association
 - United States Soccer Federation
 - FIFA Laws of the Game

This document has been approved by the Vermillion Youth Soccer League Board of Directors and may act as the nonprofit organization's legally binding rules of operation.

Organized and updated January 4th, 2011 by the VYSL Referee Director, Levi Froke, a certified United States Soccer Federation Assignor and Referee.