

2026 Spring Select / Area 1R/1N/1H Interplay Guidelines

Referee Summary

Before the Game:

- **Uniforms:** Players shall wear official AYSO uniforms, and all players on the same team shall wear the same uniforms (including socks).
The referee retains the ultimate authority to decide whether a color conflict between the team's uniforms or socks exists. If the referee deems a color conflict to exist, **both teams shall wear pinnies** if alternate jerseys are unavailable. The Home Region shall supply both sets of pinnies.
- **Player Eligibility:** Players are eligible to play in a match only if they are included on the team's current **printed** (hard copy) Picture Roster. The player's pictures must clearly show the player's face. The Picture Roster does **not** need to be laminated or signed. Electronic copies of the Picture Roster are not acceptable.
Referees must exclude a team or player from playing if the Picture Roster is missing or the player is not listed on the team's Picture Roster, even if the player was only recently added to the team. Referees have no discretion about this.
- **Player ID Cards:** Player ID cards are not a substitute for the official team Picture Roster form.
- **Roster:** If a team does not present a hard copy Picture Roster to the referee prior to the start of the game, the team forfeits the game. In those circumstances, teams may play a scrimmage.
- **Game Cards:** Each coach must fully complete their game cards prior to the start of the match, including all the team's players' first and last names in jersey number sequence.
Names of players or coaches who are not eligible to participate in the match **should be included** on the game card, but clearly lined through prior to the start of the match. Unless clearly lined through, a player's or coach's name on the game card will be considered clear evidence that the player or coach participated in the match.
- **Photo badge:** The head coach and assistant coach **must wear a laminated photo badge**. A forfeit will not be declared if a Qualified Coach is not wearing their badge, as long as they are, in fact, a Qualified Coach. However, if a Qualified Coach is not present at all times throughout the match, the match will be declared a forfeit.
- **Late starts:** Matches will begin within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time or field availability, whichever is later. The duration of the match will **not** be shortened if the match starts late.
- **Spectators:** Spectators will stay on their team's side of the field, and remain on the "non-AR" side of the touchline.
Referees may decide to use a "reverse diagonal" in which case the spectators may need to move to the other half of the touchline.
Spectators are not allowed to loiter behind the goal lines unless they are unobtrusively retrieving stray balls.

During the Game:

- Coaching (giving technical advice to the players) during the match is restricted to one badged head coach and one badged assistant coach. They must coach on their own side of the field and remain in the technical area.
- Substitutions a) for 16U and 19U: "free substitutions" (at any stoppage in play, with the referee's permission), and b) for 10U - 14U: the quarter system.
- Referees do not enforce local regional rules (for example: $\frac{3}{4}$ (versus $\frac{1}{2}$) play, how many quarters a player may play as the goalkeeper, no slide tackles in certain divisions, etc.) Regions vary widely in their policies. If a problem is suspected, the referee may add a note on the game card.

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- Timekeepers are required in the 16U and 19U divisions to record substitutions. The coach will provide the team's timekeeping sheet to the referee immediately following the match.
- Coaches shall not dissent calls by the Referee or Assistant Referees. Coaches shall actively encourage parents and spectators to exhibit similar respect and restraint.
- It is the Coaches' responsibility to monitor the behavior of their team's players and spectators and to be proactive in promptly correcting behavior problems before or immediately as they arise. This includes supporting any referee's decision regarding play on the field (even if they privately disagree with the call or non-call) or poor behavior from any player, coach, or spectator.
- If asked by the referee, coaches have an obligation to identify by name any spectator associated with their team, including if necessary, inquiries of all parents or other spectators associated with their team. If a coach does not comply, make a note on the game card (and/or any Send-off Report).
- Under LOTG, the referee may add time to a half if there is a good reason, including injury, excessive celebration after a goal, etc. Although referees may not decline a coach's request for a substitution, the referee may add time at the end of the half (as long as the game ends at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the next game).

Sanctions for Some Send-Offs Have Changed

- A player who receives a send-off (red card) will be ineligible to play in, participate, or observe the balance of the current game, plus the team's next two (2) matches that are played.
- A coach or spectator who receives a send-off (red card) will be ineligible to participate, or observe the balance of the current game, plus the team's next three (3) matches that are played.

Exceptions: 1) A player who is sent-off for:

- a) a second cautionable offense in a game, or
- b) denying a goal, or denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity,
 - 1) for a non-deliberate handball, or
 - 2) a foul against an opponent that results in a free kick restart, while making a reasonable, good faith attempt to play or challenge for the ball.

shall miss the balance of the current game, plus the team's next game that is played.

- 2) A player, coach, or spectator who is sent-off (or ejected) for violent conduct, or biting or spitting at anyone, will be ineligible to play in, participate in, or observe the balance of the current game, plus at least the team's next three (3) games that are played.

After the Game

- The referee team will complete the game cards with the results of the match, including a statement indicating whether the match had three Qualified Referees.
- Coaches (or a team representative) are responsible for signing the game card after the match as the team's verification that the score, substitutions, Qualified Referees, send-offs, cautions, spectator ejections, and all other pertinent information on the game card.
- At the conclusion of the match, the referee will:
 - a) review both game cards for completeness and accuracy, including the notation of any cautions, send-offs, or ejections, and the names and badge levels of the referee team on the match,
 - b) allow each team's coach (or representative) to review and sign the game cards and to take a photograph of the front and back of **both** game cards,
 - c) for 16U and 19U matches, collect each team's completed timesheets, allowing each coach (or representative) to take a photograph of **both** teams' timesheets, and

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- d) If any send-offs or ejections occurred during the match, the referee must submit a Send-off Report through the link on the Spring Select or Area Interplay pages of the Area 1R website (within 24 hours after the match),
 - e) submit the game cards, timesheets (if any), and any Misconduct Report to their Regional Coordinator and/or Regional Commissioner.
- Teams are penalized for not timely and completely reporting game results. Referees should not leave the field until the referees and the teams complete the five steps above (unless there's a threat to the referee's safety).

Additional Guidelines

Qualified Referees

A) The Referee

- 1) For 10U, 12U, and 14U matches, the Referee must be:
 - a) At least 14 years old, and at least two years older than the players, and
 - b) 10U and 12U - a Regional Referee (or higher) badge
14U – an Intermediate Referee (or higher) badge
- 2) For 16U and 19U matches, the Referee must be:
 - a) At least two years older than the players,
 - b) Spring Select 16U – an Advanced Referee candidate (or higher) badge.
An “Advanced Referee candidate” is an Intermediate Referee who has completed the Advanced Referee course.

Spring Select 19U – an Advanced Referee (or higher) badge

For Area 1R/1N/1H Interplay matches, the referee for 16U or 19U matches should be an Advanced Referee or an Advanced Referee candidate. However, if those referees are not available, an Intermediate Referee may be a Qualified Referee.
 - c) Approved in writing in advance by the region's Referee Administrator (or designee) to referee the level of the match. The Referee Administrator may approve a referee for some but not necessarily all 16U and 19U matches.
- 3) For all age divisions, the Referee:
 - a) Must have a current volunteer form on file and must meet all current AYSO “health and safety” certifications and training, including current unexpired LiveScan, SafeSport, and an AYSO background check.
 - b) May NOT be the Coach, Assistant Coach, parent, or relative of a player on either team, and
 - c) Must be in proper uniform including referee jersey, AYSO badge, shorts (or dark colored warm ups), referee socks and footwear. Dark-colored warm-ups worn over the proper referee uniform are acceptable. Street clothes, sandals, or bare feet are not acceptable. However, a match will not be forfeited if the Referee is a Qualified Referee except they fail to meet points regarding badge, shorts, socks, or footwear.

B) The Assistant Referee (for all age divisions)

- 1) Must be at least a Regional Referee (or higher) badge.

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- 2) Must have a current volunteer form on file and must meet all current AYSO “health and safety” certifications and training, including current unexpired LiveScan, SafeSport, and an AYSO background check (if applicable).
- 3) Must be 12 years or older and must be at least two years older than any players in the match.
- 4) May NOT be the coach or assistant coach of the Spring Select team. For Area 1R/1N/1H Interplay, the Assistant Referee may be the assistant coach of a team playing in the match.
- 5) Can be a parent or relative of a player on a team (as a courtesy, the opposing coach should be notified prior to the match, but they do not have the right of approval of the Assistant Referee).
- 6) Must be in proper uniform, including referee jersey, AYSO badge, shorts (or dark-colored warm-ups), referee socks, and footwear. Dark-colored warm-ups worn over the proper referee uniform are acceptable. Street clothes, sandals, or bare feet are not acceptable.

C) Club linespersons

Club linespersons are not permitted for any Area match. If an assigned assistant referee is unexpectedly delayed or unavailable due to an emergency or sudden unexpected circumstances, then a trained referee from either team is permitted to become part of the referee crew. The trained referee must (at least) be dressed in a proper referee jersey. If used, an untrained club linesperson is permitted only to indicate when the ball has left the field of play over the touchline or goal line.

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