


Loudoun Soccer Adult League

*Fall 2013 Pre-Season
Referee Meeting*


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Today's Plan

- Welcome and Introduction
- Pre-Game Details and Procedures
- Post-Game Responsibilities
- Modified Laws of the Game
- Common Issues
- Understanding the Adult League Player
- Managing the "Boiling Point" Moments
- Q & A


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Welcome and Introduction

- **Dan Raben**
 - Director of Player Development
 - Oversees entire House (rec) program
 - Adult Leagues Director
 - 00g Red Head Coach
 - Grade 8 Referee
 - Referee Assignor
 - Previous Presenter to MI Grades 5-7

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=PR= Performance Sports Sale

- Saturday September 7-Sunday September 8
- Ashburn location
- 20% off soccer merchandise

=PR=

Performance Sports
Running • Soccer


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Pre-Game Arrival and Parking

- > Arrive at least 10-15 minutes before kickoff
- > Park in designated spots (Mon/Thur are busiest nights)
- > Drive carefully through lot

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Pre-Game Field Set-up

- > Assist LSP staff and LS coaches in field set-up
 - > Goals moved to positions
 - > Extra goals near fence
 - > Corner flags

Teams have been instructed to assist.


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Pre-Game Check-In

- > Items needed for Pre-Game Check-in:
 - > Game Report
 - > IDs for all participating players

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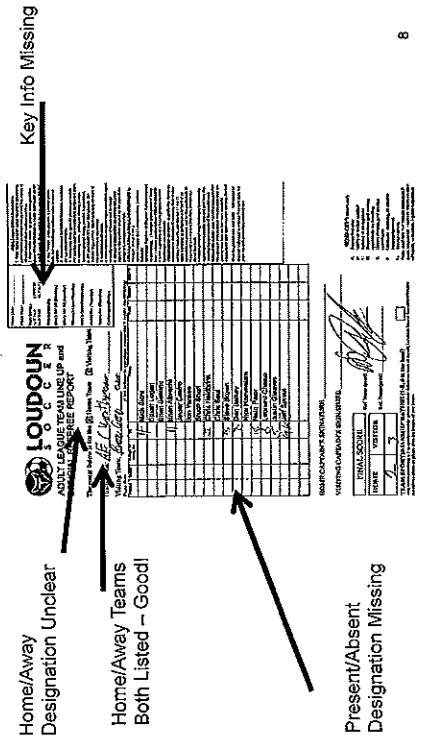
Game Report - BAD

Home/Away Designation Unclear

Home/Away Teams Both Listed - Good!

Present/Absent Designation Missing

Key Info Missing



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Game Report - GOOD

Home/Away Designation Clear

Home/Away Teams Both Listed with Color Good!

Present/Absent Designation Clear

Most Key Info Present - Division not listed

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ID Checks

- Photo IDs required:
 - Objective: make sure players on game report are those on field
 - Creates spirit of fairness (no ringers)
 - Captains informed of this requirement
 - If in doubt: allow to play, make note on game report
- All players must bring a Photo ID
- Photocopies are OK

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Uniforms

- Home team responsible for changing in case of color conflict
 - Numbered pinnies provided
 - Update Game Report with new #s
 - Captain's responsibility
- All players **MUST** have their own distinct # and jersey
 - Matching color, preferably style
- Home Team provides Game Ball

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Equipment

- Shin-guards mandatory
- Cleats/turfs permitted
- No jewelry
- Hard casts – referee's discretion

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Pre-Emptive Cancellations

- Inclement Weather
 - Games only preemptively canceled under extreme or likely conditions
- Forfeits:
 - Captains instructed to contact me
 - Will contact Tammy

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Pre-Game Procedures

- Objective is to start on-time!
- Please do your part to assist.

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In-Game Details

- Game length: 50 minutes
- Bench Areas – teams on same touchline but opposite halves
- Spectators – on opposite touchline
 - Captains responsible for the conduct of team and fans
 - “Knucklehead” rule: remove any non-player from bench as needed
 - First to opposite touchline
 - Then from field

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Post-Game Responsibilities

- Game Report
 - Ensure accuracy in score and bookings
 - Include any notes
 - Team Captain must sign
 - Check next teams in (if applicable)
- Turn in game reports
 - Small black mailbox on side of garage

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Game Report Examples

Game details noted (points to the top header section)

Present players noted properly (points to the player list table)

Goal tally matches listed score (points to the goal tally section)

Team details noted (points to the team information section)

Referee name is printed (points to the referee name field)

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Game Report Examples

Game details missing (points to the top header section)

Strange circumstance noted (points to the game notes section)

Goal tally absent (points to the goal tally section)

Team details missing (points to the team information section)

Bookings coded but send off explanation is missing (points to the player list table)

Referee names are printed (points to the referee name field)

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Game Report Examples

Identify the issues on this Game Report (front and back)

Game details noted (points to the top header section)

Present players noted properly (points to the player list table)

Goal tally matches listed score (points to the goal tally section)

Team details noted (points to the team information section)


Referee name is printed (points to the referee name field)

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Modified Laws of the Game

- Rosters and Age Limits
- Uniforms and Equipment
- Minimum Players
- Suspended/Abandoned Games
- Substitutions
- Slide-Tackling
- Off-side
- Goalkeeper Distribution
- Player Suspensions


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Roster and Age Limits

- These are FYI's – roster violations will be reviewed by the league director.
- Violations may result in forfeited matches and further league discipline.


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Roster and Age Limits

- All players **MUST**
 - Be listed in online roster
 - Submit waiver
- Roster size:
 - Min: 10; Max: 18; game day: 14
- Ages:
 - Open: 18 and over
 - 30+ or 40+: turning that age in 2013
- Roster "freeze" may be enforced


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Uniforms

- Teams responsible for providing own jerseys
- Matching color required (preferably style too)
- 6" number on back
- Cannot trade jerseys mid-match
- Matching shorts/socks encouraged

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Minimum Number of Players

- 5 players needed to begin a match – no grace period
- 15 minute grace period if less than 5 players present
 - Once 5 are present
 - Subtract grace time from match length, divide by 2 for half length
 - Note on game report
- Co Ed: 2 female field players required
 - Goalkeeper does not count
 - Teams play short if fewer than 2 female players are on field

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Suspended/Abandoned Matches

- Games suspended due to weather:
 - Players should leave field immediately and return to cars
 - 30 minute wait rule for thunder and/or lightning
 - Referees and/or league director will make decision
 - If one field stops for thunder/lightning – all fields stop!

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Suspended/Abandoned Matches

- Games abandoned:
 - Include note on game report
 - Circumstances reviewed
 - Reason, score at time of suspension, impact in standings, time in season, etc
 - In 1st half: likely to be replayed
 - In 2nd half: score is likely to stand


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Substitutions

- Enter only after Referee permits
 - No on-the-fly subs
- Stoppages
 - all goal kicks
 - the possessing team's throw-in (for teams in possession of the ball)
 - the possessing team's throw-in (for defending teams, if the team in possession is also substituting players)
 - all kickoffs
 - injuries (1-for-1 – if an injured player is subbed, the opposing team may also sub a player)


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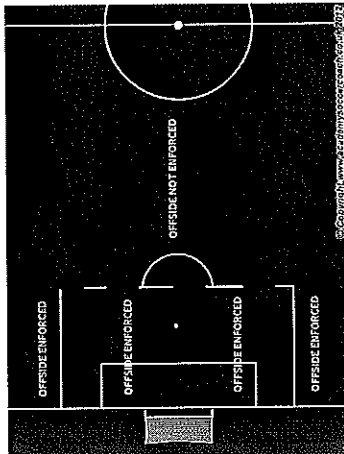
Slide Tackling

- Not permitted except for goalkeepers
 - Must be in their penalty area
 - Cannot dive feet-first
- Sliding without an opponent present is permitted
- Variables to consider:
 - Are opponents present?
 - Is the player sliding or falling?

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Off Side



- Enforced in space between top of opposing team's penalty area and goal line
- Includes adjacent areas between penalty area, goal line and touch line


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Goalkeeper Distribution

- Punts and drop-kicks over midfield prohibited
- Infraction: direct free kick at midfield
- Throws and kicks from the ground are permitted
- Includes goal kicks


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Player Suspensions

- All send-offs (red cards) result in the following:
 - Playing a man-down (if send-off is to player on the field) – no "soft" reds
 - Minimum one-game suspension for next physically played match
 - Captains receive email from me notifying them of player's suspension


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Common Situations

- No Game Report?
 - Spare forms in garage
 - Keep extra copies
 - Print on back
- Ball on field?
 - Avoid disrupting your flow if possible
 - Gauge safety and likelihood of confusion
- Injuries?
 - Exercise care and caution


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Understanding the Adult League Player

- Discussion: who is the Adult League player? Describe his/her qualities (and ranges in those qualities).


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Understanding the Adult League Player

- Playing Ability
 - First timers to former professionals
- Competitive
- Passionate - emotional
- Athletic
 - Not as fit as their prime
- Experienced
- Often Ignorant of actual Laws of the Game


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Understanding the Adult League Player

- The Referee-Adult Player Relationship
 - What players believe vs. the Laws of the Game
 - “there was no intent!”
 - Very few are or were referees
 - Already adversarial – it’s our society
 - Bobby Knight
 - NFL Replacement Refs

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Understanding the Adult League Player

- The key to officiating Adult League matches is through proper match management.
 - Appearance
 - Movement
 - Consistency
 - Your Message (content and delivery)
 - Preventing the “Boiling Point” moment

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Appearance



- Look the part
 - Proper attire
 - No color conflicts with teams
 - 2-man: same color
- Be prepared
 - Pencil or pen
 - Clipboard
 - Watch (not cell phone)

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Movement



- Keep up with play
 - Especially on critical plays
 - Eliminates player's ability to question if your angle and distance are good

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Consistency



- Consistent interpretation is key
 - Gripes about interpretation will always exist
 - Don't give opportunity to complain about consistency
- 2-man: discuss in pre-game, work off each other's calls

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Your Message



- Monitor your Content and Tone
 - Hard whistles for serious infractions
 - What vs. How you say
 - Tone of voice + content of message
 - Stern for serious infractions
 - Approachable for pre-game
 - Comforting during injuries

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Preventing the Boiling Point

- “Boiling Point” moment changes the match
- Serious Foul Play
- Violent Conduct
- Offensive, insulting, abusive language/gestures
- Rarely isolated – it occurs from build-up

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Points of Emphasis

- Prevent the “Boiling Point” moment by addressing these situations:
 - Dissent
 - Unsporting Behavior and Persistent Infringement
 - Foul and Abusive Language
 - Violent Conduct

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Dissent – Gauge these Variables

- Tone
- Frequency
 - Individually and collectively
- Circumstance
- Specificity
- Extreme → Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language

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Unsporting Behavior

Recognize the Severity – is this careless or reckless?



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Unsporting Behavior



➤ **Recognize the Severity – is it careless or reckless?**

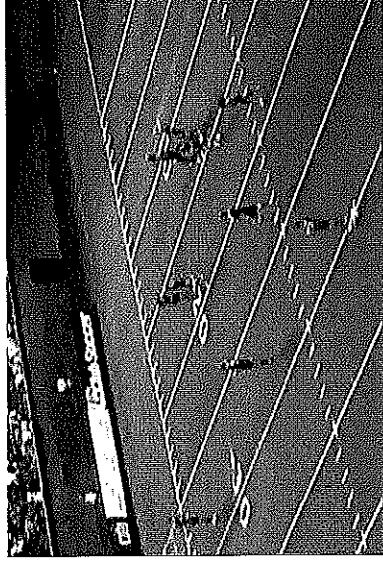
- Distance traveled, which helps determine the speed, and therefore the force of the challenge
- Whether an attempt was made to play the ball, which helps determine its aggressive nature
- The direction of the challenge
- The position of the feet at the time of the challenge
- The ability to play the ball.

From US Soccer 45

Unsporting Behavior




Recognize the Severity – is this careless or reckless?



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Unsporting Behavior



➤ **Based on these variables – no caution needed.**

- **However, notice the message that is sent**
 - Hard Whistle
 - Movement to Spot of Foul

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Persistent Infringement



From US Soccer

- **Recognize the Patterns**
 - # of Fouls Committed
 - Span of Time
 - Type of Foul
- **Is Fear/Intimidation Created?**
- **Disruptive to Flow**
- **Who: Specific player vs. entire team (or both teams)**
- **Against specific player (creative).**


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Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language

- Result in send-off (red card)
- Used to protect safety, enjoyment and fairness
- 3 Criteria (USSF memo)
 - Specificity of word/gesture
 - Audibility/Visibility
 - Specificity of target
- Youth players often in attendance


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Violent Conduct

- Includes both Physical and Verbal actions
 - “I’m gonna kick your @\$\$”
- Likely to result in multi-game suspension and potential team suspension


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Steps to Take

- Hard whistle
- Stern warning
- Caution
- Send-Off
- **This is not necessarily sequential**
 - Must recognize the severity and the circumstance
 - Protect Safety, Enjoyment and Fairness

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Avoid Reigning In

- Attempting to “reign in” the play makes matters worse
 - Players have been permitted to act or speak/dissent to the level you allowed
 - Tighter, more frequent calls creates inconsistency → more frustration
 - Prevention is the best solution

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My Role with Referees



- > You are in charge in between the lines
- > Fouls, interpretations, inclement weather
- > I will support but not supersede
 - > Provide guidance and feedback
 - > Assist with Kicks from Mark
 - > Security detail ;)
 - > Enforcement of suspensions
 - > Address conduct issues
 - > Ensure payment for games

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Contact Information



Dan Raben
 703-777-9977 ext 109
Dan.raben@loudounsoccer.com

Park staff has my cell in event of emergencies

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Q and A



- > Questions
- > Concerns
- > Issues

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