

Coach Reminders:

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When you schedule a game in the spreadsheet you will get from Stephen you need to list 4 things: Your team name (with gender B-boys, G-girls), your opponent, age group, kick off time
Example:

Date		Field Name
Saturday	Time	ELMS
5-3	9-12	Reserved for ELSA Rec Soccer
	1-3	U10B Butler vs Waterford 1pm W/U, 1:30 Start
	3-5	Lautenberger U10 G Bronze vs Griswold 3:30 start 3:00 w/u
	5-7	

- You will only enter **HOME** games into the spreadsheet. I will then enter them into the referee system (which is why I need all of the information I need). Once they are in the system, I will color-code them to a blue background, and once they have referees, they will have a pink background, like the example.
- Once you have refs on your game (colored pink) do everything in your power to keep that game as scheduled. After Wednesday, if you move a game that is already covered (pink) we will have to pay the referees regardless of the reason.
- **Do Not** cancel a game because you think the weather may be bad. If the fields are closed due to weather both Stephen and I will know and he will alert you and I will alert the referees. If you are at the fields for a game and weather moves in, it is up to the referee to cancel the game.
- If for some reason a game has to move, I need to know ASAP - so text me asap (my number is above - save it in your phone). Don't just move it on the spread sheet and assume I know it has been moved.
- I send game schedule to referees for the following week out each Sunday. If you have a game on the schedule marked as "tentative" because you are holding a space for a game, it will not get put into the referee system, so make sure you confirm your games and delete the word tentative on the sheet prior to a week before your game, and if it is confirmed the week of the game text me ASAP so I can get you refs.
- Please do not schedule games on Weekdays - our referees are mostly HS players and have their own practices and games.
- You **must** have a referee if you are scheduling a scrimmage with a team other than East Lyme. And if you want one for an East Lyme scrimmage just put it in the game sheet.

Laws of the Game: These are a few reminders, but certainly does not cover everything!

1. This comes up every year, NO JEWELRY... please see the law below - let your parents know!!!! If girls have gotten their ears pierced recently, they will still need to take them out for a game. They will not close up in an hour, I promise (I have 3 girls who all played!)

4.1 Safety

A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.

All items of jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewellery is not permitted.

The players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play.

If a player is wearing or using unauthorised/dangerous equipment or jewellery, the referee must order the player to:

- remove the item
- leave the field of play at the next stoppage if the player is unable or unwilling to comply

A player who refuses to comply or wears the item again must be cautioned.

Please also, make sure that your players are wearing soccer cleats. Football and baseball cleats have an extra “toe cleat” for pushing off when they are running, it is illegal in soccer.

2. Delaying the game. Please help to train your players to back up when the other team is awarded a free kick. If they go up and stand in front of the ball, they can get a yellow. The team getting the kick does not have to ask for 10 yards.

Cautionable offences

A player is cautioned if guilty of:

- delaying the restart of play
- dissent by word or action
- entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- failing to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- persistent offences (no specific number or pattern of offences constitutes 'persistent')
- unsporting behaviour

3. There is an amendment to the goal keeper being able to hold the ball for 8 seconds: the referee should begin counting when they think the goalie has control, when there are 5 seconds left they should hold their hand up to do a 5 second count down on their fingers - this may take some time to get used to for all, referees included. If they do this count down and the goalie is still holding the ball, then a corner kick is awarded to the other teams.

3. Corner kick

A corner kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, controls the ball with their hand(s)/arm(s) for more than eight seconds before releasing it.

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with their hand(s)/arm(s) when:

- the ball is between their hands/arms or between their hand(s)/arm(s) and any surface (e.g. ground, own body)
- holding the ball in their outstretched open hand(s)
- bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air

The referee will decide when the goalkeeper has control of the ball and the eight seconds begin and will visually count down the last five seconds with a raised hand.

A goalkeeper cannot be challenged by an opponent when in control of the ball with their hand(s)/arm(s).

Please know that descent is not allowed: This is any verbal comment that is made and heard by a member of the officiating team, it can also consist of actions. So, do not say anything derogatory to or about the referees - it does not matter if you agree with their call or not! Do not throw your arms up or kick the ground everytime the whistle blows against your team. You can be cautioned (yellow card) or thrown out (red card). Tell parents not to yell at referees, they can't be cautioned - but you can! If a coach can not control the behavior of their parents, they can be cautioned or sent off. SECJSA and CSRP have really been cracking down on this. And this year they have introduced the "Green Badge" any referee who has a badge with a green background in under 18 and thus protected even further. This is a direct quote from the head of the CT Referee Program to all referees: "If you are under 18 you will receive a GREEN referee badge. As you know US Soccer and CSRP have taken steps to prevent referee abuse, and sanctions or misbehavior have been increased. This green badge simply lets everyone know that the referee is a minor, and sanctions for misbehavior will be tripled." So please be aware.

Remember, even if you don't like the calls, without them you don't have a game. Please also keep in mind that these are **our** children reffing these games, and hopefully one day **your** children reffing. Speak to them and protect them like your own. There is a difference in being helpful and critical.