

WESTPORT SOCCER REC GAMES - BASIC GAME RULES & REFEREE CHECKLIST

REFEREE Pre-Game Checklist: (arrive at least 15 minutes before K.O.)

- Ensure the goals are secure with 2 sandbags each (2nd gr no sandbags needed)
- Place corner flags as needed, check field and goal nets for safety issues.
- Introduce yourself to the coaches; review substitution rules; confirm home team.
- Introduce yourself to your ref crew; review flag & hand signals; answer any questions.
- **REFEREES MUST ENSURE ALL PLAYERS ARE FULLY EQUIPED. LINE UP PLAYERS SIDE BY SIDE & HAVE THEM SHOW YOU THEY ARE WEARING SHIN GUARDS INSIDE SOCKS, PROPER JERSEYS, FOOTWEAR & NO JEWELRY.****
*(US Youth Soccer follows FIFA Law #4 which states no jewelry, no exceptions. Coaches should know this.
Players who do not remove jewelry need to sit on the bench. Earrings can be taken out and put back in after the game.
- Make sure you have a hand-held whistle, red/yellow flag set, score pad (red-yellow cards for 5/6th and up only)
- Wear a **WRIST WATCH** TIMER. NO smartphones as timers! Do NOT wear whistle around your neck.
- Referee Jersey/T-shirt MUST be worn as the outside layer so everyone can see who is commanding the game.
No jackets over jersey. Dress in proper professional uniform and you'll gain more respect.

2nd GRADE - 5v5 players Game length: 4 x 15 minutes – (up to 2min breaks & 5 min halftime)

- **NO Jewelry** – (no earrings, necklace, rings, etc. NO EXCEPTIONS)
- NO goalies
- NO offside
- NO heading
- NO coaches on the field, must stay behind sideline
- NO penalty kicks
- NO slide tackles
- YES throw-ins, corner kicks, goal kicks
- YES substitutions anytime (just like hockey). Discuss with coaches what they prefer.

3/4th GRADE – 7 v 7 players Game length: 2 x 30 minutes

- All laws of the game apply except for **liberal offside calls** – i.e., blatant or goal scored
- NO slide tackles (any repeat offender should be benched)
- Verbal warnings if persistent fouls, then benched. No cards.
- **NO jewelry**
- NO coaches on the field, must stay behind sideline
- **OFFSIDE when using BUILD OUT LINE**
- A player will **not** be deemed in an offside position until they cross the BUILD OUT LINE to place themselves between that line and the goal line. In other words, the offside rules move from the HALFWAY LINE to the BUILD OUT LINE. ARs and lines-people will no longer need to run to the HALFWAY LINE. They stop at the BUILD OUT LINE. ARs should not use this as an excuse to stand still or fall asleep! Stay alert and keep moving with the second to last defender
- For Build Out Line info, Google search for 7v7 build out line rules or Player Development Initiatives, US Soccer.

5/6th GRADE – 9 v 9 players Game length: 2 x 35 minutes

- All laws of the game apply
- YES offside calls should be made
- YES yellow or red card can be given if incident warrants
- NO slide tackles (any repeat offender should be benched)
- **NO jewelry**
- NO coaches on the field, must stay behind sideline

7/8th GRADE – 11 v 11 players Game length: 2 x 35-40 minutes

- All laws of the game apply

KNOW THE LAWS OF THE GAME: <https://www.ussoccer.com/referee-program/laws-of-the-game>

Questions? WSA Referee Advisor, Robby Casey: robertcasey250@gmail.com, USSF Referee Mentor Chris Good, cgooddc@optonline.net
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