





Kyle and I would like to thank you all for all your hard work this Winter Season and would also like to welcome all of the referees who will be new to us this season.

First off, how to work Rec games this Spring. All the games will be setup for Self-Assignment. This means as long as you have the ranking to work the game you will be able to add yourself to the game by clicking the plus icon next to the referee position  . When you're just starting out your ranking is going to be fairly low because we want you to practice on easier games before working your way up to the more difficult ones. If you want to try and challenge yourself you can click the envelope icon   and it will send us a message showing that you would like to work on that game.

We'll be opening up the Rec Games on a rolling basis. There will always be two weeks of games open for self-assignment. We'll be opening up the next set of games each Sunday.

Things to Focus on this Spring

1. Our Priorities when Refereeing these games are as follows: Is the game *Safe, Fair, and Fun*.

If there is something that impacts whether the game is Safe, Fair, or Fun we need to step in.

What this means is if you have a player who is down injured, **stop the game**. Blow your whistle 3 times quickly, stop the game and get that player taken care of. If the ball was still in play, restart the game with an uncontested drop ball to the team that last touched the ball.

If the players are pushing that isn't Safe, Fair, or Fun so what can we do? Call Fouls. Don't be afraid to blow your whistle. Calling fouls helps keep games Safe, Fair and Fun.

If the Parents or Coaches are behaving irresponsibly and their conduct impacts those 3 things we as referees need to step in. "Coach you're behaving irresponsibly and I need you behave in a more professional manner" if that does not work give the coach a yellow card and continue to escalate if needed.

If the issue involves Parents tell the coaches they need to control their sidelines, if the behavior is not corrected within a few minutes you can give the coach a yellow card for his sideline acting inappropriately and escalate once again if needed.

We are not going to allow for this type of behavior to occur during our games. TCYSA has a code of conduct that these Parents and Coaches need to follow. They should not be approaching referees at any point during the games. If a coach asks a question respectfully you can answer them, but they are not entitled to an answer. If you feel that the game is not safe or that you do not feel safe you have full authority to terminate that game. *If this occurs please contact Kyle Greenwood or Devon Dieckman by phone, text, or email.*

2. Be Clear with your Decisions.

Call a foul? Make sure you blow your whistle so everyone can hear it. You're communicating to everyone at that field when you make a decision so make your signals big and clear.

3. Have Fun!

If you're out there smiling and having a good time the players feed off of that and it helps to create a positive environment for everyone. Soccer is supposed to be fun!

Finally if you have any questions about something that happens in your games please reach out to us! We probably have been there and seen that and can help provide you with the tools you need to manage that weird situation. If you want someone to come out and watch your game(s) Kyle and I will be doing our best to be out there on the fields during the weekends to watch you all as we have time. We'll be having to balance that with our own referee schedules and if we cannot make it out we can try and get another experienced referee out there to work with you too!

Thank you all for being a part of our Referee Community in Quadco. We look forward to seeing or meeting all of you this season.

Thank you,
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