

REFEREE HANDBOOK



**Farmingdale Soccer Club
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~ Employment Criteria ~

To be a referee with the Farmingdale Soccer Club, the individual must be at least 11 years old. Also, referees employed by the club each season will be based on the priority list set forth below:

1. Any returning referee that had worked the previous soccer season
2. Any current member / player in the club
3. Any sibling / family member of a current member / player in the club
4. Anyone else not mentioned above.

The club may make special arrangements with any former referee that have gone away to college and is back in town during a break to referee any games if available.

Referees will be paid twice each season for the games they officiated (at the midpoint and after the completion of the season).

Cause for termination as a club referee

1. Any referee found not to be performing their duties to the best of their ability.
2. Failure to appear at a scheduled game without proper notification.
3. Refusal to referee any games during the prior season.

If a referee chooses not to work any season, their position as a referee for the club is not guaranteed upon their return; with the exception of referees away at college. For this reason, the club will need to seek replacement referees for the season. These replacement referees will be given the first opportunity to return the following season, followed by the referee(s) that choose not to work the prior season, if there is availability for additional referees.

~ Referee Training ~

All referees must attend the club's Referees Course given prior to the start of the each Fall season (Time and Location to be determined). It is strongly suggested that any returning referee also attend the course to keep up to date with any changes in rules for the upcoming season.

All referees must also pass a multiple choice quiz to be eligible to be assigned games. The quiz will be based upon the rules the club uses during the intramural games, not necessarily the rules used in a travel or higher level soccer game.

All new referees will shadow one of our experienced referees (to be determined by the referee coordinator) for two weeks. One week will be at the U5-U6 age and second week will be at the U7-U8 age or Route 135 League game. The new referees will not be paid for the first week they shadow.

The referees may be observed and critiqued at various times throughout the season. We want to monitor the referees and evaluate their mechanics and if the referee coordinator feels the referee demonstrates the proper ability to do older games.

~ Referee Assignments ~

A schedule will be created each week at the weekly referee meeting by the referee coordinator, or another board member, if the referee coordinator is unavailable due to scheduling conflicts.

The referee coordinator will assign the referees to officiate all intramural and 135 League games during the fall and spring seasons. Games will be assigned for that upcoming weekend during the weekly referee meeting. This will give all referees sufficient notice so that every opportunity will be made to insure that each game will be covered. The failure to appear at a scheduled game, without notification, will not be tolerated and will jeopardize a referee's future duties with the Club.

Referees will be assigned based on their availability, seniority and experience. If a referee is not assigned a game any week due to scheduling conflicts or other explanations, every attempt will be made to give these referees the first opportunity to work the following weekend.

We prefer to assign the referees as follows:

- *Middle School Referees* will be assigned U5-U6 games and U7-U8 games if they have at least 1 year experience refereeing.
- *High School Referees* can be assigned any games but prefer to assign them to U7-U8 and Route 135 League games.
- *College Referees* can be assigned any game but prefer to schedule them to the Route 135 League games.

Appearance at the weekly referee meeting is not mandatory. Appearance at the meetings does not guarantee being given an assignment, but any referee attending the meetings will be given first priority of assignments.

Any referee not able to attend the meeting, but notifies the referee supervisor of their availability, every attempt will be made to assign these referees to games based on their availability. This does not guarantee these referees will be assigned games.

No referee may referee a game for which they play for one of the teams. Their first priority is to play in the game for their team.

If you cannot work an assigned game due to a last minute emergency, please contact the referee coordinator who assigned you the game(s) so that they can get the game(s) covered. Please DO NOT call another referee.

~ Weather ~

Every attempt to play matches without putting the safety of players, coaches and officials in jeopardy will be made this includes rain, but no lightning, cold temperatures and wind chills above freezing. If you are in doubt whether games are to be played, check the website for updates.

Do not assume the games are cancelled unless it is posted on the website, or you are contacted by the referee coordinator or other board member.

~ Rules and Duties of the Referees ~

Report to the field at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.

Arrive in full uniform, which also includes having a watch (cell phone may be used but is not preferred), whistle, flags, pencil or pen, paper, coins, and water.

SAFETY FIRST! All goals must be anchored. Never play in thunder and lightening. Control foul play. Treat all injuries as serious. Any injuries or incidents should be reported to the Referee Coordinator at the earliest possible time.

Check the fields! The referee must check goals, nets, corner flags or cones, and proper lines. Also, look for any holes, rocks and glass that could endanger the players. Fields should be checked even if another game has been played before your assigned match.

The referee should check in all players to ensure that they are wearing the proper equipment. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry, which includes earring bracelets and necklaces. The U5-U6 age groups are allowed to cover earrings with tape or band aids. All other age groups should remove all jewelry. Soft casts will be permitted as long as they are properly padded. Any other casts or braces will be subject to the approval of the Referee Coordinator or board member at the field. No metal hair clips are permitted.

Be sure to ask if there are any questions and to tell the teams about anything unusual such as which field lines that they are playing.

All games should start on time! Make sure to check the players in prior to the time that the game is scheduled to begin. If the previous game has not finished check the teams and have the coin toss on the side of the field. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry, including earrings, bracelets and necklaces! The U5-U6 age groups

are permitted to cover the earrings with tape or band-aids. All other age groups should have the jewelry removed.

Soft casts will be permitted as long as they are properly padded. Any other casts or braces will be subject to approval of the referee coordinator or board member at the field. No Metal hair clips. Nothing dangerous, at all, ever!

All games should start on time. Referees should check teams early enough to get started on time. If the previous game has not finished, check teams and have coin toss to the side of the field.

The teams do not need any pre-game instructions! Ask if they have questions. Tell about anything unusual (like which lines you are using) and tell them enjoy the game. Never threaten "if you do this, I'll do that"....

All referees officiating games may act as a coach on the field helping the coaches instruct the players the proper rules of soccer. U5-U6 will require the most instruction; U7-U8 will require the least. The Route 135 League should not be given any instruction/coaching from the referees.

During the U5-U6 games, if you notice a player who seems a little shy and they are reluctant to get on the field, do not hesitate to ask the parent to come on the field and help them. The parent should not play the ball, but should be there to support their child. If we have a spare referee, you can ask them to assist with the shy child.

All referees should give strong signals. Let everyone know what you call! Loud whistle, strong arm signals, clear voice.

Bring play under control early, players will be testing to see what you let them get away with early and escalate from there. Be aware of the age group you are refereeing and skill level of the players. If it is a foul, blow the whistle. Stop any and all fouls!

Prior to blowing the whistle to start the game, be sure that the goalies are ready, each team has the proper number of players on the field, and that you have your stopwatch set to the proper time. (see chart for specifics)

The ball must move forward on the first touch of the game.

Throughout the Game

Be authoritative and take complete control. When making calls, don't question yourself and be sure to blow the whistle loud so there is no confusion.

Use strong arm signals so that even people on the other side of the field know the call. Make sure you speak clearly and never let a coach, parent or player sway your call.

Bring the play under control early. In the beginning of the game, players will be testing you to see what you will let them get away with. Make it clear that all fouls will be called and that no illegal play will be tolerated.

Be aware of the age group you are refereeing and their skill level. As a referee, you may act as a coach on the field, help-ing the children learn how to do a proper throw in or explain-ing the concept of offside. U5-U6 will require the most in-struction where as U7-U8 games will require less. There should be no instruction or coaching from the referees during Route 135 League games.

During a U5-U6 game, if you notice a player who seems a little shy and is reluctant to step on the field, do not hesitate to ask a parent to come on the field and help them. The parent should not play the ball, but should be there to support his or her child. If we have a spare referee, you can ask them to as-sist a shy child.

Injuries

In the case of any injury, stop play immediately. The player's health and safety is more important than the game.

Call the coach onto the field to check out the condition of his or her player. It is also okay to allow the player's parent onto the field to take care of his or her son or daughter.

Always err on the side of caution. Remember PTP or Protect the Player.

When you are ready to resume play, start with a drop ball if the ball was in play when you blew the whistle. If the ball was already out of bounds then restart the play with a throw or kick as usual.

Penalties

A direct free kick is awarded when a player commits a deliberate foul outside of their own penalty box. A direct kick will be rewarded to the opposing team if a player kicks, pushes, charges or trips a player on the other team, or if he or she touches the ball with his or her hand. A goal may be scored directly from a free kick.

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposite team if the goalie picks up the ball from a pass back, a player is called offside, or a dangerous play is made.

When the play restarts, the ball must be played by two players, from either team before it can be scored.

A penalty kick is awarded to the opposite team if a deliberate foul is committed inside the penalty area.

If you call a penalty kick, count 10 strides out and only allow them to proceed with the kick on your whistle

Tips from Referee to Referee

The minute you step on the field you are in charge.

The players will feed off of your energy, especially the younger ones, so be positive at all times.

Take every opportunity to teach the younger kids. They look up to you and believe it or not, are more likely to listen and learn from you than their adult coach.

Remember that for a ball to be out of bounds or called a goal the entire ball must cross the line.

Blow the whistle loud and with authority. Questioning your-self and/or changing your calls will only cause chaos. All officials make mistakes and it is impossible to see everything that is happening, especially as the lone referee.

Don't play sides. Call the game as fairly as possible.

Arrive early and prepared to all games.

Let the Referee Coordinator know if anything out of the ordinary takes place. The Club will always have your back.

Don't let coaches, players or parents intimidate you. YOU are the one that is in charge.

Most importantly, do everything you can to make sure all players are having fun. This, after all, is the reason we are all at the games.

	U5 - U6	U7 - U8	135 League
# of players (includes goalie)	4 ¹	7 ¹	9 - 11
Subs	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
Periods	4 x 7 minutes	2 x 20 minutes	2 x 25 minutes
Rest Periods	3 minutes	3 minutes	5 minutes
On Field Coaching	Yes	No	No
Offside	No	Yes ²	Yes
Throw Ins	Yes ³	Yes ⁴	Yes
Goalie Steps	Unlimited out to the 6 yard line	Unlimited out to the 18 yard box	Unlimited out to the 18 yard box
Direct Kicks	No	Outside 18 yard box	Outside 18 yard box
Indirect Kicks	No	Yes	Yes
Penalty Kicks	No	No	Yes
Corner Kicks	Yes	Yes	Yes
Goal Kicks	6 yard line	6 yard line	6 yard line
Keep Score	No ⁵	No ⁵	Yes

¹ To be determined by the coaches prior to the start of the game. Teams may lend players to a team short on players.

² The first couple of weeks of each season, Offside will not be called, unless there is goal hanging. The referee should issue a warning to the offending players during the first two weeks of each season and then shown the proper technique.

³ Players performing Throw Ins for the U5-U6 age group do not need to keep both feet on the ground to be performed properly.

⁴ Players performing Throw Ins for the U7-U8 age group do not need to keep both feet on the ground to be performed properly for the first two weeks of each season. The referee should issue a warning to the offending players during the first two weeks of each season and then shown the proper technique.

⁵ We do not keep score for the intramural games. But if it seems one team seems to be outmatched, and a team is scoring at will, advise the coach to either tone down the offense or ask them to play a player down. We want the games to be fair and good sportsmanship should be shown.

~ Zero Tolerance Policy ~

We have a zero tolerance policy towards our intramural referees. We all must remember that they are still children helping officiate a child's game.

No referee should ever be put into a situation where they are made to feel uncomfortable either before, during or after a soccer game. As a club, we will not accept it from a coach, a parent or any player on the field. If any individual is found to have interfered with an official they will be brought before the board or a disciplinary committee.

Offenses to the Zero Tolerance Policy may include, but limited to, the following

1. Places a referee in fear of physical harm.
2. Creates or contributes to a disorderly atmosphere at a match which in the referee's opinion precludes the safe completion of the match.
3. Creates an atmosphere of intimidation and fear for any referee by any means, including but not limited to persistent verbal abuse, repeated dissent, and/or entering the field of play without the referee's permission for the sole purpose of engaging the referee.
4. Fails to control a team, parent or spectator, thereby placing a referee in fear of physical harm.
5. If any coach, parent or player is issued a red card.
6. If any coach, parent or player is issued a yellow card, the incident may be up for review in regards to the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Simply put.....let the kids play the game and let the refs run the game, good, bad or indifferent.