

## Youth Referee Curriculum – Performance Expectations According to Age, Level and Experience

This curriculum is a collaboration between the Madison Area Youth Soccer Association (MAYSA) and the Madison Area Soccer Referees Unit (MASRU). It is intended to aid referees in focusing on the “building blocks” of their growth and development. It is also meant to set reasonable expectations for not only referees but the players, spectators/parents and coaches they work with at matches. As a reminder, “mistakes”, perceived or actual, will occur. Just as players make mistakes during play and coaches may err in strategy or methodology, referees will make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to referee.

Experience, Age & Grade	Expectations
<p><u>“Entry Level”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-3 years</li> <li>• 12 to 14 years old</li> <li>• Grade 9 or 8</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Grade 9 referees may work Recreational-level games only; preferably at U9 and U10 levels. Offside rule is not applied at U10 and under.</i></p> <p>The goal for the Entry Level official is to protect them from abuse, guide their develop, nurture confidence and retain them into Intermediate Level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary knowledge of the game.</li> <li>• Recognize obvious fouls and misconduct and announces them accordingly.</li> <li>• Displays clear appropriate hand signals.</li> <li>• Arrive to game in timely manner.</li> <li>• Perform pre game equipment check.</li> <li>• Generally ignore coaches and/or spectators. <i>Not expected to “explain calls” nor receive unsolicited instruction/feedback from coaches and/or spectators.</i></li> <li>• <i>Not expected to manage personalities nor perform preventive officiating.</i></li> <li>• Complete a post game report in a timely manner and note any irregularities or challenges (may do so with assistance of adult or parent). MAYSA, WYSA or MASRU will address reported issues after-the-fact.</li> <li>• Collaborate with a MASRU-provided Mentor when appropriate.</li> <li>• Oversee “clean” and proper player substitutions.</li> <li>• Basic fitness in order to keep up with pace of play. Does not necessarily need to operate in a diagonal format.</li> <li>• Wear proper uniform.</li> <li>• Proper time keeping with additions for injury or other match interruptions.</li> </ul>
<p><u>“Intermediate Level”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 years</li> <li>• 14 to 20 years old</li> <li>• Grade 8</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: this level of experience is typical of Classic level matches and many WYSA State League matches.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, all of the above are expected.</li> <li>• Strong knowledge of the Laws of the Game.</li> <li>• Recognition of Offside (Law XI).</li> <li>• Ability to recognize and apply “Spirit of The Game” concepts vs Letter of the Law. Recognizes advantage in play.</li> <li>• Makes use of cards for game control and demonstrates good “card mechanics”.</li> <li>• Utilizes personality and common sense in managing players and/or coaches. In general, not expected to deal with challenging spectators; rather, request that the team’s coach manage such issues.</li> <li>• Strong fitness level and ability to run a flexible diagonal.</li> <li>• Ability to perform duties of Assistant Referee (AR) and work in concert with ARs.</li> <li>• Exhibits self-confidence and demonstrates strong presence with use of whistle, appearance and body language.</li> <li>• May choose to ignore dissent rather than deal with it but expected to complete post game report and note issues.</li> </ul>
<p><u>“Experienced”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years or more</li> <li>• 18 years and older</li> <li>• Grade 8 or 7</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: this level of experience is a reasonable expectation for U15 and olderage-group WYSA State League or Midwest Regional League matches.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general, all of the above are expected.</li> <li>• Recognizes subtle and tactical fouls.</li> <li>• High level of fitness.</li> <li>• Makes use of personality and can perform preventive officiating.</li> <li>• Can “read the play”, anticipate rather than react.</li> <li>• Ability to work with a Fourth Official.</li> <li>• Has knowledge of recent memoranda and teachings.</li> <li>• Ability to multi-task on the field.</li> </ul>