

The background features a white central area with abstract green geometric shapes on the left and right sides. The shapes are composed of various shades of green, from light to dark, creating a modern, layered effect.

Nashoba Valley Youth Soccer League

Spring 2026 Preseason Referee Meeting

Constitutional Mission

“NVYSL is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including, but not limited to, developing and promoting a vital and exciting youth soccer program for members of participating Clubs, regardless of race, gender, creed, color, nationality or disability.

This will be accomplished through programs of organized competitive soccer play and programs designed to educate and develop players, coaches and referees.”



Topics

- ▶ Certification/Recertification
- ▶ Important Changes for Spring 2026
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- ▶ Arbiter and Accepting Assignments
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- ▶ NVYSL Weather Policy
- ▶ NVYSL League Miscellaneous
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- ▶ Changes to the Pre-Game Handshake
- ▶ Language Incidents
- ▶ US Soccer 531-9
- ▶ Questions?



Certification/Recertification

- ▶ Please check your certification status, and if necessary, complete what is needed. Pay special attention to the US Learning Center modules!
- ▶ You can not referee any games for NVYSL if you're not certified.
- ▶ Any issues with MSRC or USSF, please do not hesitate to ask for help.
- ▶ Your local assignor is your first point of contact for any referee related issues.
- ▶ If you have not received your new badge, and have the previous year's badge, wear that. You can still referee without a badge provided you are certified/recertified



Certification/Recertification

My Certification Progress				
Currently Certified As Referee, Assignor				
2026 Certification Overview				
	General	Referee	New Referee Mentor	Assignor
	100%	100%	0%	100%
2026 General Certification Requirements				
	US Soccer Learning Center: Background Check ⓘ		Complete: 02/27/2025 (Expires 02/20/2027)	
	US Soccer Learning Center: Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments ⓘ		Complete: 01/14/2026 (Expires 01/14/2027)	
	US Soccer Learning Center: SafeSport Trained ⓘ		Complete: 01/14/2026 (Expires 01/14/2027)	
	Upload Photo ⓘ		Complete	
2026 Referee Recertification Requirements				
	Attend Elective Referee Recert Level II courses (18+ plus 3-6 years certification) ⓘ		<i>Elective Courses (Must attend at least 2)</i> RECERT - Assist vs Insist: AR Teamwork (II/III): Not required RECERT - Handling (II/III): Not required RECERT - Match Control & Game Management (II/III): Passed 2/12/2026 RECERT- Tactical Fouls (II/III): Not required RECERT-Most Missed Test Questions (I/II): Not required RECERT-Most Missed Test Questions(I/II): Not required RECERT: Law14 The Penalty Kick (I/II): Not required RECERT: Law14 The Penalty Kick (II/III): Not required RECERT: Report Writing/Supplemental (II/III): Not required RECERT: Writing Reports/Supplemental Reports(I/II): Passed 2/17/2026	
	Attend Required Referee Recert Level II courses (18+plus 3-6 years certification) ⓘ		<i>Required Courses (Must attend at least 1)</i> RECERT- 2026 Law Changes & Pts of Emphasis (I/II): Passed 1/26/2026 RECERT- 2026 Law Changes & Pts of Emphasis(II/III): Not required	
	Pass Certification Test ⓘ		Passed: 1/14/2026	
	Pay Registration Fee ⓘ		Received: 2/27/2026	
Your 2026 Referee certification is valid through December 31, 2026				



Important Changes for Spring 2026

- ▶ Reminder - New pre-game procedure/handshake
- ▶ If you request a check from ArbiterPay, the league is not continuing to reimburse the check fee
- ▶ Grade 3&4 Throw-Ins
- ▶ Stoppage for Player Rehydration
- ▶ Uniforms and Equipment
- ▶ Weather Policy
- ▶ NEW Goalie 8 Second Rule



Important Changes for Spring 2026

- ▶ 3.4.01 (k) Throw-In Law
 - ▶ The Throw-in Law (Law 15) shall be enforced only for 7v7 matches in the Division 1 Flight for the Grade 3/4 Division. The Throw-In Law shall be adapted for all other matches in the Grade 3/4 Divisions to allow 1 rethrow by the same player per throw-in. For example, a team commits a throw-in violation and the same player is given a rethrow. If there is a violation on the rethrow, the throw-in turns over to the opposing team. (rethrow is a local rules of competition exception)
- ▶ 3.1.06 Stoppage for Player Rehydration
 - ▶ The referee must stop play to allow the players to rehydrate under the following conditions:
 - ▶ Following MYSAs policies on stoppage for rehydration
 - ▶ In conditions of high heat and humidity when the heat index is 80 F or above
 - ▶ If either team has 1 or fewer substitutes and a hydration break is requested by the coach prior to the start of the match
 - ▶ If a referee deems a rehydration break is necessary
 - ▶ Rehydration breaks are initiated by the referee near the middle of the half and occur during the match running time. A rehydration break will occur for no longer than 2 minutes per half during a stoppage in play.
 - ▶ These are short breaks with running clock; not mini timeouts. Get water, stay near the field.



Special Items of Note - Spring 2026

- ▶ 3.1.03 Uniforms and Equipment
 - ▶ Splints with soft, non-rigid flexible structure or covered non-rigid internal structural items (similar to finger savers on keeper gloves) are allowed. They may not have loose straps.
 - ▶ Players with plaster or fiberglass casts or hard splints, even if padded, cannot play - even with the permission of a parent or medical approval. Players with orthopedic braces that have exposed or uncapped metal parts are also not allowed to play.
 - ▶ IFAB Law 4 mandates: “All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, studs, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.” Wristbands must be removed if possible and may be required to be taped at the referee’s discretion.
- ▶ 2.5.01(b) Weather Policy
 - ▶ Unplayable Field Conditions match time may be changed up to 2 hours before the scheduled start time of the match when there are unplayable field conditions. The Host Club shall notify the responsible Referee Assignor, the NVYSL Grade Director and the visiting coach of any such changes.
 - ▶ Coaches please refer to the field closure listing on the NVYSL website.



Special Items of Note - Spring 2026

NEW Goalkeeper 8-Second LOTG Update

- ▶ Rule Change - Goalkeepers now have 8 seconds maximum to release the ball after gaining control with their hands/arms (increased from previous 6-second limit)
- ▶ Effective starting Spring 2026

When Does Control Start?

- ▶ The 8-second count begins when the referee determines the goalkeeper has clear control of the ball
- ▶ Control includes: holding the ball between hands, bouncing it on the ground, throwing it in the air, or trapping it against any surface
- ▶ The goalkeeper does NOT need to be standing up for the countdown to start

Visual Countdown

- ▶ The referee will visually signal the last 5-seconds with a raised hand to help the goalkeeper
- ▶ The first 3-seconds are silent/invisible to players, coaches and spectators

Penalty for Violation

- ▶ If the goalkeeper holds the ball longer than 8-seconds, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team (NOT an indirect free kick like before)

Disciplinary Actions

- ▶ First Offense: No yellow card, just the corner kick awarded
- ▶ Repeated Violations: Goalkeeper may receive a caution (yellow card) for persistent time-wasting



Arbiter

- ▶ Make sure your address and contact information is correct
- ▶ Sign Up for ArbiterPay if you have not already
- ▶ ArbiterPay is mandatory for Grade 5&6 and above
- ▶ Correct information makes it easier for other referees/assignors to be able to contact you
- ▶ PLEASE provide a valid phone number, you may need to be reached while at the field by another referee
- ▶ ArbiterPay will be issued every 2 weeks for games that have had scores reported and have been verified by the assignor



Arbiter - Travel Distance

- ▶ Make sure your distance is set
- ▶ Typically, it is set to 50 by default. Some assignors reset it to 0 when they set up your account
- ▶ If you only want to referee in your town, set it to 0
- ▶ Once you are set to ready, you will show available to assignors outside of your town if your distance is greater than 0



Arbiter - Blocks

- ▶ Make sure blocks are set. Your availability is sometimes unknown, please make sure you do your best to set your blocks so you don't get assigned games you aren't able to referee
- ▶ If you have a last minute issue, please let your assignor know ASAP and accommodations will be made, but it needs to be a good reason



Arbiter - Accepting Assignments

- ▶ **Check your email** daily for assignments
- ▶ Accept assignments as soon as possible, within 48 hours is expected
- ▶ **If you show available, you are expected to referee assigned games.** Exceptional circumstances are excused
- ▶ Keep in mind, there may be mid-week games due to some TBA and makeup games, so set blocks accordingly
- ▶ Note: If a referee is notified that their game is not being played ONE HOUR or more before kickoff time, via either phone call, text, email, or a posting of the fields being closed on the Field Status sheet on the homepage of www.nvysl.org, the referee will not be paid for the match. If a referee is given less than one hour notification the referee(s) will be paid



Arbiter - Accepting Assignments

Field Status

2026 Spring NVYSL Field Status : Field Closures

Club	4/11	4/12	Time of Update	If Some Open/Closed - Note any
Ayer-Shirley	Open	Open		
Berlin	Open	Open		
Bolton	Open	Open		
Boylston	Open	Open		
Chair City	Open	Open		
Clinton	Open	Open		
Fitchburg	Open	Open		
Groton-Dunstable	Open	Open		
Harvard	Open	Open		
Hudson	Open	Open		
Leominster	Open	Open		
Littleton	Open	Open		
Lunenburg	Open	Open		
Maynard	Open	Open		
Nashoba United	Open	Open		
North Quabbin	Open	Open		
Oakmont	Open	Open		
Pepperell	Open	Open		
Progin Park	Open	Open		

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Credentials

- ▶ During games, coaches **MUST** physically have their credentials, and **MUST** wear them
- ▶ If a coach does not have their credentials physically with them, they are considered spectators, and must go to the spectator's side of the field. A license or picture on their phone is **NOT** a substitute for physically having credentials
- ▶ Exception to wearing credentials is if the lanyard is broken, but they physically have their credential
- ▶ Any credential issues must be reported in the Arbiter game report



Credentials

2025-2026

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association

**Shaun
Chambers**



Rosters

- ▶ Coaches and players names **MUST** be on the roster to play/be on the team sideline
- ▶ Note: There is only one exception to a coach not being on the roster. If no adult coach is available, another credentialed adult may coach. They must have their physical credentials with them and must wear them! This exception, if used, must be noted in the Arbiter game report.
- ▶ Only 3 coaches can be on the sideline per team
- ▶ Nothing handwritten may be on the approved roster, except uniform numbers
- ▶ **NO** electronic rosters. **NO** exceptions. Coaches may not offer a picture of the roster to the referee, nor may they offer to text or email the roster to the referee. Paper rosters are required.
- ▶ Pictures are required on the rosters for all D1 grade 5&6 and above divisions in the spring season.



Rosters - Substitute Rosters

- ▶ If no roster is available, the coach may provide a substitute roster
- ▶ The substitute roster may be handwritten or an older roster with handwritten updates, and must be marked clearly “SUBSTITUTE ROSTER”
- ▶ Use of substitute rosters **MUST** be noted in the Arbiter game report!
- ▶ A picture of the substitute roster must be emailed to refdirector@nvysl.org within 48 hours of the game
- ▶ Substitute rosters must contain the following:
 - ▶ Club name
 - ▶ Team name
 - ▶ Grade
 - ▶ Gender
 - ▶ ALL coach and player names AND player jersey numbers
 - ▶ Any injured players on the sideline must be listed even if they are not playing



Rosters - Substitute Rosters



NVYSL Roster
AFFILIATED WITH FIFA - USSF - USYSA



Approved 09/01/25

Hudson G78 Crimson

Division: 2.1

COACH

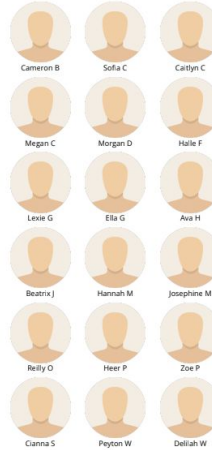


Shaun Chambers
shaun@hysa.org
617-999-0683
Hudson

ASST



ASST.2



PLAYERS

JERSEY	LAST	FIRST	GRADE	YOB
5		Cameron	8	
48		Sofia	7	
45		Caitlyn	6	
14		Megan	7	
9		Morgan	8	
13		Halle	8	
6		Lexie	7	
2		Ella	8	
30		Ava	7	
26		Beatrix	7	
29		Hannah	7	
21		Josephine	7	
42		Reilly	7	
35		Heer	7	
7		Zoe	8	
32		Cianna	7	
1		Peyton	7	
22		Deilah	6	

The above coaches have agreed to follow the Coach Code of Conduct and know the penalties for non-compliance. All players and coaches meet NVYSL eligibility requirements and are properly affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer.

Naether Parkum
CLUB REGISTRAR SIGNATURE

I have reviewed this roster, including any applicable waivers, for compliance with NVYSL requirements.

Rosany M. Louaneers
LEAGUE OFFICIAL SIGNATURE

Technical Area

- ▶ Coaches and players must be a minimum of 8 yards from the half line, except for player(s) waiting to be substituted
- ▶ Coaches and players must be a minimum of 2 yards from the touchline
- ▶ Suggest referees/coaches use cones to delineate substitution area and technical area
- ▶ Referees should issue cards for coaches that enter the field of play without referee permission per Law 12



Coach, Spectator Behavior & Handling Injured Players

- ▶ If any coach, spectator or player show gross misbehavior please let the NVYSL Referee Director know ASAP, record the situation in the Arbiter game report
- ▶ Expectations for injured player. If play is stopped for an injured player, the injured player must leave the field and can be substituted. See Law 5 section on injured players
- ▶ The injured player can not come back on the field until the next stoppage of play if the player was substituted
- ▶ Grade 3&4 D2-D5 recommend stopping play anytime a player is down
- ▶ Coaches are NOT to enter the field of play unless given permission by the referee. Card coaches that violate this per Law 12



Referee Guide to Handling Spectator Behavior

If a referee sees or hears any spectator issues, including criticizing referees or negative comments toward any players (Personal, Provocative and Public), referees are not to address the spectator, but are to:

- ▶ Stop the match
- ▶ Go to the substitution area and call a coach from each team over
- ▶ Provide as much information as you have, including what was said, and who you believe said it to the coaches
- ▶ If you know who the spectator is that was causing the problems, point them out/describe them to the coaches and ask the coach to provide you the name of this spectator for you to include in your Arbiter game report
- ▶ Request that both coaches go over to the spectator's side and remind the spectators that this is a zero tolerance league and that any further issues may result in the spectator being removed from the field or the match being abandoned
- ▶ If the coach refuses to handle the spectator issue, immediately abandon the match
- ▶ Any issues must be reported in your Arbiter game report



Law 12 - Team Officials - Verbal Warnings

When an offense is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction

Warning: The following offences should usually result in a verbal warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off

- ▶ Entering the field of play in a respectful/non-confrontational manner
- ▶ Failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring instructions/requests from an assistant referee or the fourth official
- ▶ Minor/low level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision
- ▶ Occasionally leaving the confines of the technical area without committing another offense



Law 12 - Team Officials - Verbal Warnings

Caution offences include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area
- ▶ Delaying the restart of play by their team
- ▶ Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- ▶ Dissent by word or action including:
 - ▶ Throwing/kicking drink bottles or other objects
 - ▶ Actions which show a clear lack of respect for the match officials e.g. sarcastic clapping
 - ▶ Excessively/persistently gesturing for a card
 - ▶ Acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner
 - ▶ Persistent unacceptable behavior (including repeated warning offences)
 - ▶ Showing a lack of respect for the game

Typically, if a comment or gesture is Personal, Provocative and Public, a card should be considered



Law 12 - Team Officials - Verbal Warnings

Send-off offences include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player
- ▶ Deliberately leaving the technical area to:
 - ▶ Show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official
 - ▶ Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner
- ▶ Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- ▶ Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play
- ▶ Entering the field of play to:
 - ▶ Confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)
 - ▶ Interfere with play, an opposing player or a match official
- ▶ Physical or aggressive behavior (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.)
- ▶ Receiving a second caution in the same match
- ▶ Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions
- ▶ Violent conduct



Referee Field Card and Gametime Rosters

- ▶ Home coach is to provide and fill in the Referee Field Card including
 - ▶ Game ID
 - ▶ Gender
 - ▶ Grade
 - ▶ Division
 - ▶ Date/Time
 - ▶ Field
 - ▶ Team Names
 - ▶ Colors
 - ▶ Coach Name
- ▶ If it is not filled out, including Game ID, referee should hand back to coach to complete
- ▶ Referees should indicate on all rosters for every coach and player on the roster, that they are present for the match, including if they are present but not playing due to an injury
- ▶ If a match is suspended before completion due to inclement or dangerous weather, that match shall be rescheduled as a make-up match and replayed in it's entirety unless at least half the match was played and BOTH teams coaches agree BEFORE they and the referee leaves the field, to accept the result of the partially played match as final, and this decision must be reported to the referee and noted in the Arbiter game report



Referee Game Reporting in Arbiter

Center Referee MUST report:

- ▶ Score
- ▶ Referee should NOT change either of the “status” drop down items. That is for the assignor only to change
- ▶ Comments - Include any issues with credentials, coach, player, parent behavior. Also include if Player Pass was used, include the team and player names for all players that used Player Pass
 - ▶ Referees do not need to enforce player pass rules, just report in game report.
- ▶ ALL card reporting must be done in first in the report and must include YC or RC, card code, half, time, team, jersey number, player/coach name
- ▶ Report if ANY team, coach, players do not participate in the pre-game handshake procedure as well as any issues with the procedure
- ▶ Game report MUST be done within 48 hours of the match
- ▶ Referee must notify refdirector@nvysl.org and the town assignor with ANY behavioral issues or red cards the same day of the occurrence
- ▶ VERY IMPORTANT! - Any reporting of derogatory actions or discriminatory language MUST include the exact language that was heard. Any time there is an incident, reporting must be accurate and complete!
- ▶ Referees DO NOT need to enforce 6 goal differential, just report it and any actions you noticed the coaches taking



Referee Game Reporting in Arbiter

ARBITER
Austin Franklin (Assigner)
NVYSL (102949)

DASHBOARD SCHEDULE PAYROLL ELIGIBILITY PEOPLE RESOURCES REPORTS SETTINGS

Games | Events | Archived Games

Game Report (Game: 8148) Delete Save Exit

Game	Date	Time	Sport	Level	Site	Status	Notes	Bill Amount	Verify
8148	6/6/2025 Sun	1:00 PM	Soccer	910 D1	Maynard Fowler	Normal		0.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Team	Score
Maynard B910 B	3
Hudson B910 Crimson	1

Submitted On: 6/6/2025 Sun 10:27 PM
Submitted By: Austin Franklin

Position	Official	Status	Locked	Paid By Bill To	Game Fee	Pay Travel	Travel	Perdiem	A/D	Verify	Assign	Unassign
Referee	Austin Franklin	On Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.00	0.00	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unassign
AR 1	Alessandra Burnett	On Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.00	0.00	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unassign
AR 2	Gregory Kostorek	On Time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	0.00	0.00	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unassign

Comments

YC PO Hudson #13 John [Fugleyan](#) 1H 0 minutes

YC DT Hudson #97 Oscar Mayer 2H 17 minutes

2nd YC RC DT Hudson #97 Greg [Hosengardner](#) 2H 17 minutes

[PlayerPass](#) Hudson B78 Crimson [Milard Hefsalump](#) & [Dudley DoWrons](#)

Status

Resolved / Approved

Printing

Adobe Acrobat Format (.pdf) Print Preview

Delete Save Exit



NVYSL Player Equipment Policy

- ▶ Each player shall wear fully covered shin guards or they will not be allowed to play
- ▶ Keepers are allowed to wear keeper gloves with finger savers
- ▶ Splints with soft, non-rigid, external flexible structure or covered non-rigid internal structural items (similar to finger savers on keeper gloves) are allowed. They may not have any loose straps (TAPE!)
- ▶ Players with plaster or fiberglass casts or hard splints, even if padded, cannot play - even with the permission of a parent or medical personnel. Players with orthopedic braces that have exposed or uncapped metal parts are also not allowed to play
- ▶ IFAB mandates “All items of jewelry (necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, studs, leather bands, rubber bands, etc.) are forbidden and must be removed. Using tape to cover jewelry is not permitted.” Wrist bands must be removed if possible and may be required to be taped at the referee’s discretion
- ▶ Players with medical, religious, or cultural wearable items must have the item properly secured and protected (such as by taping down, covering, wrapping, or secured through other methods.) Medical information displayed on an item must remain observable



NVYSL Rehydration Break Policy

- ▶ The referee must stop play to allow players to rehydrate under the following conditions:
 - ▶ Following MYSA policies on stoppage for rehydration, in conditions of high heat and humidity when the heat index is 80 F or above
 - ▶ If either team has 1 or fewer substitutes and a hydration break is requested by the coach prior to the start of the match
- ▶ Rehydration breaks are initiated by the referee and occur during match running time
- ▶ A rehydration break will occur for no longer than 2 minutes per half during a stoppage in play
- ▶ Referees will execute a hydration break near the middle of the half
- ▶ **A rehydration break may also be initiated by the referee at their discretion**



NVYSL Weather Policy

- ▶ If a severe storm approaches the playing area the game may be suspended while shelter is sought
- ▶ In the event the game is suspended, ALL participants MUST clear the field immediately and move into their cars or other permanent shelter
- ▶ If there is visible lightning or audible thunder, the game MUST be suspended and all participants are expected to seek shelter
- ▶ Games cannot be resumed until 30 minutes passes without further visible lightning or audible thunder
- ▶ In the event of a National Weather Service warning (i.e. tornado warning) games must be suspended immediately and everyone must seek shelter
- ▶ Any on-field weather related decisions are at the sole discretion of the referee. Coaches should not provide input to the referee's weather decision. If they are, politely let them know you're all set
- ▶ If 15 minutes or more pass during the delay and there is further lightning or thunder, consider abandoning the match, there are typically future matches



Pre-Game Handshake

Procedure

- ▶ After players are checked in, 5 minutes prior to kickoff, both teams and the referee crew line up at the half line on the player side of the field
- ▶ Led by officials, all players and coaches will walk across the field and stop approximately 15 yards from the spectators
- ▶ Following a reading of the script, players will form a pre-game handshake line (home team to walk down away team line). After the handshake, all players and coaches will return to the benches with the starting players taking the field
- ▶ There is to be no post-game handshake
- ▶ Script: All participants deserve the right to play in an environment free from hostile and distracting behavior. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated, the game may be stopped and sanctions applied for violations of policy or codes of conduct. Please enjoy the game and do your part to create a positive soccer experience for all.



General League/Miscellaneous Info

- ▶ Make sure to check goals, especially for sandbags if the town uses them to weigh down goals. It's the HOME coach's responsibility to handle any issues with the goals/field/corner flags
- ▶ Only one copy of each team's roster (including Player Pass rosters) is needed, referee keeps them with Referee Field Card for two weeks past the end of the season
- ▶ Please wear proper referee attire, such as long black socks and long black shorts. You may wear rain gear if needed
- ▶ NO heading for grade 3&4 and grade 5&6. Restart is IFK
- ▶ Referees do NOT need to enforce the 6 goal differential, just report score
- ▶ Offside is called for grade 3&4 D1 and above
- ▶ If you feel that you have been assigned a game that may be more difficult than you are comfortable with, contact your assignor
- ▶ If you are 18 or older, print out your credentials from the massref website (Print ID Card) and have it with you at the field
- ▶ Scores MUST be reported no later than 48 hours after the game or that game will not be paid in that pay cycle until the score is reported
- ▶ NVYSL only pays via ArbiterPay
- ▶ You must sign up for ArbiterPay in order to be paid for grade 5&6 games and above
- ▶ Towns pay all grade 3&4 games, contact your town assignor for information on payment for grade 3&4 games
- ▶ ArbiterPay pay sheets will be run every two weeks on Thursday following each second week of games



What Happens if Referees Don't Report Scores

- ▶ NVYSL has a policy requiring Center Referees to report into Arbiter their game's scores and any other game report information within 48 hours after the match
- ▶ This fee is ONLY imposed on the Center Referee, but, ARs will not be paid until the Center Referee submits the report, so ARs may be delayed in getting paid. If the unreported game does not get remedied within two weeks, the ARs will be paid in the next pay cycle
- ▶ The fee will be \$3 if the score is not reported by 6:00 PM two days following the game, and \$1/day thereafter



Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

Mass Youth Soccer has zero-tolerance for discrimination of any kind. The guidelines protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the following protected statuses: race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, disability, veteran status.

Examples of derogatory language include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Sexually explicit statements, sexual flirtations, advances, propositions, subtle pressure for sexual activity, comments, questions, jokes or anecdotes
- ▶ Jokes, which include reference to race, religion, national origin, or gender identity
- ▶ The displays or uses of objects or pictures which adversely reflect on a person's race, religion, national origin or gender identity
- ▶ Use of pejorative or demeaning language regarding a person's race, religion, national origin or gender identity



Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

If a player or coach reports being subject to derogatory language or disciplinary actions, which is heard or seen by the referee crew, the incident will be addressed according to the IFAB Laws of the Game.

If a member of the referee team did not hear or witness directly, the Center Referee will implement the following steps:

- ▶ Stop the game, if necessary
- ▶ Send both teams to the respective technical areas
- ▶ Gather the referee team
- ▶ Bring both coaches together
- ▶ Explain the situation to the best of your ability and understanding
- ▶ Direct the coaches to resolve the issue immediately. If the coaches are uncooperative, or a resolution cannot be initiated or reached in a reasonable amount of time (not to exceed 5 minutes) the referee will abandon the game immediately



US Soccer Policy 531-9 Referee Abuse Prevention

General

Misconduct against Referees may occur before, during, and/or after the match, specifically when the Referee arrives at and/or departs the venue. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a match affiliated with US Soccer or its Organizational Members.

For the purposes of this policy, a Referee is protected by US Soccer policy from the time they arrive at the venue (which shall include the parking area), until their departure from the venue. For the purposes of this policy, “Protected Party” means a member of the Referee’s family or household, or a guest of the Referee at the match or match venue. All US Soccer policies are in addition to the local, state and Federal laws.



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Actions that do not meet assault or abuse definitions, but cause a Referee or Protected Party harm, may be subject to US Soccer's gross mistreatment framework. Gross mistreatment means any deliberate, non contact behavior that is expected to cause harm to a Referee. Gross mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, the following actions or behavior committed against a Referee or Protected Parties:

- ▶ (A) Severe or repeated harassment, including hate speech or discriminatory remarks based on race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disabilities, or any other legally protected characteristic.
- ▶ (B) Extreme verbal attacks that would cause emotional harm to a reasonable person.
- ▶ (C) Approaching a Referee when they arrive or depart the venue with aggression (e.g. intimidation).
- ▶ (D) Any form of cyberbullying, including spreading false information about the Referee, sharing the Referee's personal information (aka doxing), or publicly posting content that ridicules or mocks the Referee or uses hate speech.
- ▶ (E) Questioning the Referee's character, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, or impartiality.
- ▶ (F) Yelling insults, taunting, making, or expressing derogatory/belittling remarks towards a Referee.
- ▶ (G) Pervasive action that belittles or undermines the Referee's authority or intended to cast doubt on the Referee.



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Jurisdiction and Hearings

- (A) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults, abuses, or grossly mistreats a Referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible Member Organization which is affiliated with the Federation.
- (B) When an allegation of assault or abuse is verified by the Member Organization the accused person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault or abuse
- (C) The Member Organization must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification by the Member of the gross mistreatment, assault, or abuse or, if applicable.. If the member does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the Federation's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.
- (D) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind an automatic suspension for assault or abuse.



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PENALTY OVERVIEW

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spitting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(* Disclaimer: These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **"minor multiplier" resulting in triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**

Please follow your current reporting structure - updated reporting procedure will be a part of Phase 3.



Questions

- ▶ Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have
- ▶ Any exceptional circumstances happen at the field, and you need assistance/advice you can call your assignor or the NVYSL Referee Director
- ▶ Keep all rosters and Referee Field Cards for two weeks past the end of the season
- ▶ Your local assignor is your first point of contact

