



## NOTES FOR REFEREES

1. Keep the rules in your bag at all times and refer to them just prior to the game you will officiate. Also, review the NLSA Guidelines just prior to the game.
2. When making calls, be confident and blow the whistle loudly enough so all kids can hear it. If you make confident calls, parents and coaches will be less likely to challenge your call.
3. You're the final say on the field. Don't engage in arguments or lengthy discussions with the coaches or parents regarding calls.
  - a. Don't let coaches, or parents make calls for you. This happens a lot, coaches will yell "corner kick" before you get to make the call. Advise coach at this point to not make the calls, that you make the call.
4. Explain things to players, especially during U6/U7/U8 games. This is a teaching league. For example, remind the younger players to remember to keep their feet on the ground during throw in's. Perfectly acceptable (and you should do this) for you to coach on the field, tell players where to stand, tell them to spread out etc.
5. Referee Uniform Issues
  - a. Bring sunscreen in your bag
  - b. Bring a ball cap for very sunny days
  - c. Bring a penny or get one out of the box for any goalies who don't have a shirt
  - d. Check in all the kids. Have them line up and check for: no toe cleats, no jewelry (no tape overs), no hoodies with hood exposed, etc.
  - e. Bring more than one shirt; you should have at least 2. There are no "yellow" teams in New Lenox so the spring season will be ok, but think about at least two colors for the fall.
  - f. Remember – Black shorts preferably with no stripes, pockets ( to keep whistle, etc. ) and black socks.
6. Field Issues
  - a. Check nets to see if there are any holes that need ties; bring a tie or two in your bag.
  - b. Check to see if goal is strapped down.
  - c. When you check the goal make sure you have the players and coaches back away from the net, so in case it falls over they are out of the way.
  - d. Make sure all parents are on field opposite the coaches (not behind the goals). If they are behind the goals, ask the coaches to ask them to move, not your responsibility to move them.
7. Ball
  - a. If you have a ball pump, keep in your bag.
  - b. Make sure ball has sufficient air (squeeze)

- c. Try to pick a light colored ball – do not use a blue, green or other full color ball. White or White with stripes preferred.
8. Weather
  - a. If weather is looming, ask parents and coaches to let you know if they see lightning. If they see ANY sign of lightning, wherever in the sky they are to alert you.
  - b. If you see another game called, call your game.
  - c. If you see lightning or hear thunder, per New Lenox Park District policy (see below) you are required to suspend play and get everyone off the field. You may not return to the field until 30 minutes after you last hear thunder or see lightning. Most often, you can't resume the game because there isn't 30 minutes left in the game to resume. Help tell other officials nearby that you saw lightning or heard thunder if they don't see it or hear it.
  - d. Advise everyone to take shelter immediately.
9. Check in Players prior to start of game
  - a. Ask respective coaches to line his or her players in a straight line facing you.
  - b. Ask each player to tap on his or her shinguards.
  - c. Ask each player to tip the front of their shoe up to check to make sure no one has a toe cleat (indicating a baseball shoe). If there is a toe cleat, the player can't play in those shoes.
  - d. Look at each player for any earrings, rings, bracelets, wristbands, barrettes, necklaces, or any other items you feel could cause injury to the player or other players. We do not allow taping over training stud earrings. Players must remove any such items prior to playing.
  - e. Remind the players of some basic rules such as: no pushing, no tripping, keep your back foot down on throw-ins, stop playing when you hear the whistle, don't kick the ball if the goalie has his or her hands on the ball, etc.
  - f. If it is cold out and they are wearing hooded sweatshirts, require them to tuck them into the jersey. The jersey must be over all coats too.
  - g. Encourage all players to have fun and play safely.
10. Game Card – print the game card from the NLSA website and fill it out prior to the game. Follow the instructions on the lower half of the card and turn it in for payment by mailing it to the following address:

NLSA  
P.O. Box 203  
New Lenox, IL 60451

# Severe Weather Policy: New Lenox Community Park District

Severe Weather Policy – A manager [coach] and/or official [soccer referee] has the authority to suspend play. It is mandatory that those groups work together in making a determination.

Suspending Activity – The “Flash to Bang Method” is the criteria for suspending play. Simply count the number of seconds from the time you see lightning to the time you hear thunder and divide that number by 5 to obtain how far away in miles the lightning is. By the time the Flash to Bang count reaches 30 seconds, all individuals should have left the site and reached a safe structure. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Take shelter immediately.

Safe Areas – All athletes and spectators should be clearly informed of available safe structure or shelters. A safe structure is any fully enclosed building frequently used by people. In absence of that, go to any vehicle with a hard metal roof, roll up the windows and do not touch the sides of the vehicle. If neither is available, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of your feet touching the ground. Wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize contact with the ground since lightning often travels through the ground.

Resuming Activity – Wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field or activity.

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