

# ASLA Recreational Referee Guidelines (2024-2025)

## Website:

- [www.avonsoccer.org](http://www.avonsoccer.org)

## Signing Up for Games:

- As soon as the ASLA schedule is finalized each season, a link to a Google document spreadsheet with the listing of all scheduled ASLA recreational soccer games for the season (date, time, field, teams) will be provided to the referees on the Rec Referees “team page” on the SportsEngine app (via the Chat feature and/or or the Messages feature) so that they can sign up for games accordingly.
- The referees on the Rec Referee “team” will be able to sign up for games on the shared Google spreadsheet on a first-come, first-serve basis, as soon as the games are listed and available. Please note that each week of games will be listed on a separate tab within the master Google spreadsheet.

## Switching Games:

- If you have signed up for a game and can no longer ref that game, please remove your name from the Google spreadsheet and communicate that message ASAP to the ASLA Recreational Referee Director AND all the other referees on the Rec Referee “team”.
- This message can be sent via the Chat feature (recommended) or the Messages feature on the Rec Referees “team page”. This will allow one of the other approved referees on the Rec Referee “team” to sign up for that specific game.
- A replacement referee must be an ASLA approved recreational referee (someone who is a member of the current ASLA rec referee pool). You cannot have a non-approved referee ref your game.

## Pre-Game:

- Arrive 15 minutes early.
- Must wear proper ASLA recreational referee t-shirt. If you are layering clothes, be sure that the referee t-shirt is worn on the outside and clearly visible.
- Wear appropriate shoes.
- Referee should check all players for proper shoes and shin guards.
  - No player is permitted to play without shin guards.
  - No shoes with metal cleats or baseball shoes with toe cleats in place may be worn.
  - Players with improper equipment may not play until corrected and checked in by the referee.
- Money:
  - \*Ask for your money before the game begins. If they do not have the money readily available, let them know that the game will begin as soon as you are given the money.
  - Purple (Home Team) pays.
  - U7 and U8 = \$10.
  - U12 = \$13.

## Ball:

- U7 – Size 3.
- U8 – Size 4.
- U12 – Size 4.

### **Number of Players:**

- Maximum number of players on the field at any one time:
  - U7 and U8 – 5 v 5.
  - U12 – 9 v 9.

### **During Play:**

- Players' safety and well-being is the referee's primary concern.
- Keep a reasonably accurate account of time. Everyone should have a stopwatch.
- Always listen for coaches yelling to sub players.
- U7 and U8 – There is NO punting by goalkeepers.
- U12 – Punting by goalkeepers is allowed.
- ALL AGES (U7, U8, U12) – NO HEADING THE BALL.
- You are in control of the game. Blow your whistle loudly and confidently. Use hand signals and take charge.
- Be confident, but do not become the game. The game is for the players.

### **Duration of the Game:**

- The length of the games are as follows:
  - U7 – Four (4) 10-minute quarters.
  - U8 – Four (4) 12-minute quarters.
  - U12 – Two (2) 25-minute halves.
- Blow your whistle 3 times to indicate the end of a quarter or half.
- There shall be a two (2) minute break after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.
- There shall be a five (5) minute halftime break after the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (or 1<sup>st</sup> half for U12).
- If you hear thunder or see lightning, the game must be immediately stopped for thirty (30) minutes. Each subsequent time you hear thunder or see lightning, the game has to be stopped for another thirty (30) minutes from that point in time.

### **Ball In and Out of Play:**

- The ball is out of play when it has completely crossed the goal line (goal), end line (out of bounds), or the touchline/sideline (out of bounds), whether on the ground or in the air.
- Blow your whistle loud and point in the direction of the team that has the ball.

### **Fouls and Misconduct:**

- All fouls will result in an INDIRECT free kick with the opponents at least six (6) yards away.
- NO heading of the ball is allowed at any time.
- NO slide tackles.
- There is NO offsides penalty for any of the rec ages (U7, U8, U12). Do NOT call offsides.
- Do not be afraid to call fouls on older kids (even seemingly simple handballs and incorrect throw-ins).
- Use your discretion for younger kids (ex. for an improper throw-in, whistle it dead, quickly show/teach them how to throw the ball in properly, and let them try again).
- Talk to the players and let them know what is going on.
- Protect the goal keepers.

### **Penalty Kicks:**

- All fouls occurring inside the penalty area will result in an INDIRECT free kick just outside the box.
- There are no "penalty kicks".

### **Throw-Ins:**

- If the player commits a foul on an initial throw-in attempt, allow the player a second throw-in attempt.
- A legal throw-in consists of the following:
  - The ball must be thrown from behind the touchline from the point where it left the field of play.
  - Player must stand facing the field of play.
  - Player must have part of each foot on the touchline or behind the touchline.
  - Both feet must remain on the ground.
  - Both hands must be on the ball, thrown from behind and over the head.
  - The throwing player must not touch the ball again until it has been touched by another player.

### **Goal Kick:**

- A goal kick is required to restart play when the ball passes completely over the end line and is last touched by the attacking team.
- A goal kick may be taken from any point inside the goal area.
- U7 and U8 – Opponents must start from behind the half line on goal kicks.
- U12:
  - On 9v9 fields, opponents must start from behind the penalty area (18-yard box) on goal kicks.
  - If ever playing on a 7v7 field, opponents must start from behind the “build-out line” on goal kicks.
- Goal kicks may be taken by anyone on the defending team.
- Player taking the goal kick must not touch the ball again until another player has touched the ball.

### **Corner Kick:**

- A corner kick is required to restart play when the ball passes completely over the end line and is last touched by the defending team.
- The corner kick is taken on the field within 2 feet of the corner closest to where the ball went out of play.
- Opponents must be at least (six) 6 yards away from the ball.
- Corner kicks may be taken by any player on the attacking team.
- Player taking the corner kick must not touch the ball again until another player has touched the ball.

### **Coaches:**

- There is to be NO intimidation from coaches. NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF THIS OCCURS.

### **ASLA CONTACTS**

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