

# ASC Pre-Season Referee Meeting for In-Town Referees

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Robbins Library, Community Room

Chris Carlsmith, ASC Referee Director

6:00-7:15 p.m. In-Town Referees

7:30-8:30 p.m. Grassroots/BAYS Referees

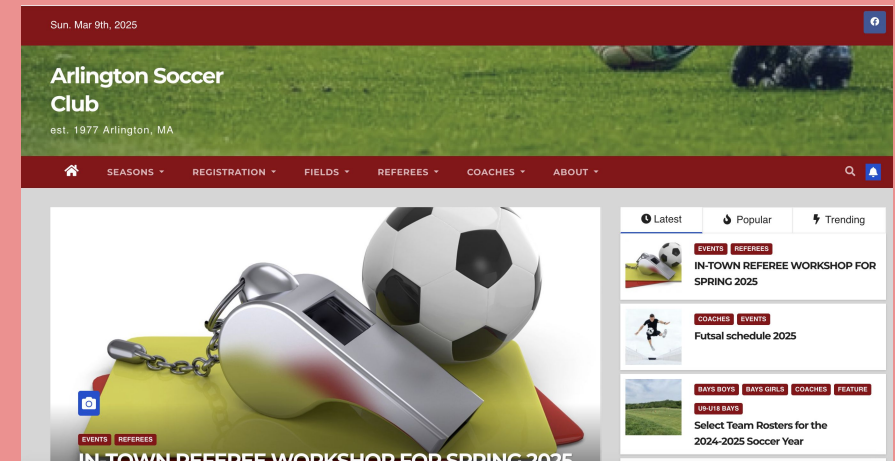


# Spring 2026 dates

- BAYS/In-Town Season begins Sat/Sun, April 11-12; HS season begins Sun, April 26; Season ends June 13-14.
- Key Dates for BAYS are here:  
<https://bays.org/content/spring-2026-key-dates-planning>
- New [IFAB rules](#) of 2025-26 apply in Spring 2026
  - 8-second Goalkeeper Rule is the most significant change
- 2-referee pilot for In-Town referees will continue for all Grade 3-4 In-Town games (In-Town only)
- In-Town Field Sessions (optional):
  - Sun, April 12 from 6:00-7:15 pm @ Thorndike Field
  - Sun, April 19 from 6:00-7:15 pm @ Thorndike Field (identical)
  - No registration required
  - Come dressed to play AND to referee

ASC Referee Website:

<https://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/referees/>



# Spring 2026 reminders

- Laws of the Game (LOTG)
  - We will follow 2025-26
- Pre-Game Team Handshakes and Sportsmanship announcement
  - Introduced Spring 2025
  - Statement has been shortened
- Genesis Referee Program (In-Town only)
  - Register at <https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1557947>
- Dual-Referee program (In-Town only)
  - all Grade 3-4 In-Town games

## **Sportsmanship Statement**

All participants deserve the right to play in an environment free from negative 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.

# Dual-Referee System for In-Town Grade 3-4

- Introduced Spring 2025, Expanded Fall 2025
- 2 referees assigned to each Grade 3-4 game (numbers permitting).
- Each referee officiates one half.
- Referees share pre-game duties equally.
- Referees are paid equally.
- Alternate referee stands at midfield on player sideline.
  - Monitor substitutions
  - Answer questions from coach
  - Observe/support center referee
  - No whistle, no calls

# Your Responsibilities as a Referee

- PRE-GAME
  - Check own equipment; field; coaches; players; ball
  - Coin Toss
  - Check player #s, GK jersey color
- DURING GAME
  - Call fouls
  - Manage substitutions
  - Record goals
- POST-GAME
  - Supervise handshakes/fist bumps
  - Submit Game Report online

*Take a photo of  
this slide!*

# Game Day Reminders

- 5 Pre-game steps:
  1. Check your own equipment
  2. Check the field
  3. Check the coaches
  4. Check the players
  5. Check the ball
- Minimum # of players to start
  - 7 (for 11v11)
  - 6 (for 9v9)
  - 5 (for 7v7)
- Arrive 30 min early
- Review rules for that level
- Start on time
- 15-minute grace period for late arrivals

# Pre-Game Sportsmanship Statement

## Procedure

After all pre-game activities are complete, both teams and the referee crew will line up at the Half Way Line of the Coaches Sideline.

Led by officials, all players and coaches will walk across the field and line up facing spectators, 5 yard from the sideline.

The Sportsmanship Statement will be read by a **representative of the Home team** to all coaches, players and spectators.

Following the reading of the script, players will perform a pre-game handshake.  
(Home team to walk down the line of Away Team).

After the pre-game handshake, all players and coaches will return to benches and starting players will assume positions on the field of play.

Center Referees will check a box in their game report that Sportsmanship Stmt was read or not.

Club will receive reports based on this

Referees are not reading the statement



# Referee Pre-Season Quiz

1. Referees must submit availability for the following weekend by
  - a. Saturday morning
  - b. Sunday night
  - c. Monday afternoon
  - d. Tuesday night
2. Game Reports are submitted
  - a. Via email to the ASC Referee Director
  - b. On a paper copy at the ASC office
  - c. Online at USOfficials.com (in-town) or at BAYS.org (Grassroots)
  - d. Online at ArlingtonSoccerClub.org
3. Weather-related cancellations
  - a. Are announced on the ASC website by 7:00 am / 10:30 a.m for weekends
  - b. Are announced at the field by the coaches
  - c. Must be declared at least 24 hours prior to kickoff
  - d. Will not happen in Fall 2025

# Game Assignments / Scheduling

- at <https://usofficial.com>,
  - **Sunday** – Referees input availability
  - **Monday** – Games are assigned
  - **Tuesday** – Referees accept/reject games
  - **Wednesday** – Open games are announced via email
  - **Wed-Fri** – Referees respond to Paul A. directly via email, and schedule is finalized.

Availability Status — [Help](#)

< **AUGUST 2024** >

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Select your availability

Date	Time	Notes
09/07/2024	From 01:00 PM To 04:30 PM	

Unavailable    Available    Reported  
 Pending    Accepted    Rejected

[Copy calendar link](#) - to sync your calendar with other devices

<https://usofficials.com/calendar/39876/4fdf5f32addcbd70e>

# Game Reports

- Everyone accepts game initially at US Officials.
- In-Town referees report games at <https://usofficials.com>.
- BAYS referees accept game also in BAYS, and report game in BAYS, <https://bays.org>.

**REFEREE MATCH REPORT**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION: 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 START TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ END: \_\_\_\_\_ DURATION 2x: 45 40 35 30 25 20  
 DIVISION/AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ BALL SIZE: 5 5 5 4 4 3

**HOME** **VISITORS**

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ KICKOFF CAPTAINS: \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_

GOALS PLAYER #	FIRST HALF	SECOND HALF	FINAL	FIRST HALF	SECOND HALF	FINAL	GOALS PLAYER #
TIME							TIME

**CAUTION CODES (YELLOW CARD)**      **MISCONDUCT**      **EJECTION CODES (RED CARD)**

#	TIME	CODE	REASON	#	TIME	CODE	REASON

REF: \_\_\_\_\_ A1 \_\_\_\_\_ A2 \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_ REFEREE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPETITION: \_\_\_\_\_ JPORTJ AR1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DIVISION/AGE GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_ officialsports.com AR2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 QUARTER/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ 4TH OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME** **AWAY**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM CAPTAIN #: \_\_\_\_\_ COLOR: \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM CAPTAIN #: \_\_\_\_\_

GOALS	1ST HALF	2ND HALF	REASON	GOALS	1ST HALF	2ND HALF	REASON
	Player #	Time			Player #	Time	Player #

MISCONDUCT	R/Y	#	MIN	REASON	MISCONDUCT	R/Y	#	MIN	REASON

# BAYS - Game Report

About the Game



Preliminary Game Information



Game Conditions



Game Details



Score Report



Referee Abuse Prevention



Verbal/Physical/Sexual Misconduct



Penalty Cards & Injuries



General Game Comments



Submit

## Game Details



**Did the game OFFICIALLY kick off? (All coaches wearing CREDENTIALS; Paper ROSTERS presented; Minimum # of PLAYERS present) \***

Yes ▾

**Did the Home Coach appear at the field with a team ready to play with a valid roster and wearing a current coach credential? \***

Yes ▾

**Did the home team provide you with an additional roster(s) listing guest players? \***

- Select - ▾

**Did the Away Coach appear at the field with a team ready to play with a valid roster and wearing a current coach credential? \***

Yes ▾

**Did the away team provide you with an additional roster(s) listing guest players? \***

- Select - ▾

**Did the game go to full time? \***

Yes ▾

**Actual Kick Off Time**

**End of Game Time**





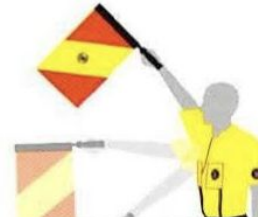










# Game Reports (2)

- All Grassroots referees should submit comments in game report for
  - RAP violation,
  - Red/YellowCard,
  - Injury,
  - or unusual circumstances.
- In-Town referees generally report only the score.
  - Unusual incidents can be reported to Referee Director, or feedback form
- Game reports should be submitted within 24 hours.
- Game reports cannot be submitted until the game is accepted.
- See “Game Reports: Best Practice” on ASC website

# Payment

- 2x per season for In-Town
  - Mid-season, End of season
  - Check sent to your house
  - \$25 per game
  
- No Game Report = No Pay!
- No Contact Information = No assignment!

# Referee & Assistant Referee: Signals

ASSISTANT REFEREE SIGNALS	 THROW IN				 GOAL KICK		 CORNER KICK	
	 OFFSIDE		 OFFSIDE LOCATION		 SUBSTITUTION		 FOUL	
REFEREE SIGNALS	 INDIRECT FREE KICK		 DIRECT FREE KICK		 ADVANTAGE 2-ARMS		 GOAL KICK	
	 MISCONDUCT		 CORNER KICK		 ADVANTAGE 1-ARM		 THROW IN	

# REFEREE HAND SIGNALS



**DIRECT  
FREE KICK**



**PUSHING**



**HAND BALL**



**ELBOWING**



**KICKING**



**INDIRECT  
FREE KICK**



**PLAY ON**



**PENALTY  
KICK**



**GOAL**



**DISALLOWED  
GOAL**



**TIME-OUT**



**CORNER  
KICK**

# Referee Pre-Season Quiz

1. The grace period for late-arriving coaches/referees is
  - a. 5 minutes
  - b. 15 minutes
  - c. 30 minutes
  - d. None
  
2. Earrings are permitted
  - a. If they are taped both front and back
  - b. If they have silicon/plastic studs rather than metal studs
  - c. If parents give permission
  - d. If worn for religious reasons
  - e. Under no circumstances
  
3. The rules for soccer in Arlington are set by
  - a. ASC
  - b. BAYS
  - c. IFAB
  - d. All of the above

# Game Cancellations

- ASC decides by 7:00 am /10:30 am for weekend games, so check ASC website and your own email.
- Referees can declare a field unplayable, in consultation w/ coaches
- Thunder/Lightning Policy
  - No play for 30 minutes

BAYS Table re Game Cancellations and Ref Payment

# Referee Gear

- What items does every ref need?




Plus wristwatch!

# Game Rules (LOTG)



Download the APP NOW – [HERE](https://www.theifab.com)  
[www.theifab.com](https://www.theifab.com)

  
*Keeping it Fun!*

**Arlington Soccer Club Rules Summary for Grades 3-4 In-Town Games**

**Size of team on field:** 7v7  
**Size ball:** No. 4  
**Time:** Two 30-minute halves and a 5-minute half time break.

**Important rules to remember:**

In addition to (or in modification of) the regular laws of the game, the following special rules will apply to ASC Grade 3-4 In-Town games.

1. Educating players about the rules is an important part of the referee's job at this age. Briefly explain the rules if players appear confused (15 seconds should be enough—do not interrupt the flow of the game).
2. Free Kicks: Direct and Indirect free kicks are awarded. Opponents should stand **10 yards** away from the ball.
3. Penalty Kicks: NO Penalty Kicks are awarded at this level. Instead of a PK, a direct kick will be awarded at the edge of the penalty area closest to where the foul occurred.
4. Goal Kicks:
  - Place the ball 5-6 yards from the goal line—lines are not always marked, so goalkeeper and referee use their judgement.
  - Defensive team must retreat to the midfield line. Cones on each side are helpful to mark the midfield line. The ball must touch the field or a player in the defensive half of the field. If the ball crosses midfield without touching the ground or a player, the opposing team will be awarded an indirect kick at midfield.

Pick up a handout, and  
bookmark on your phone



# Referee Quiz

1. Substitutions CANNOT occur on which of the following situations?
  - a. Goal Kick
  - b. Corner Kick
  - c. Injury
  - d. Goal
2. Hats are permitted for players if they
  - a. Are soft and pose no threat to other players
  - b. Match the color(s) of the player's jersey
  - c. Can fit under a hoodie
  - d. Contain no metal parts
3. If 2 players have the same number on their jersey, then
  - a. Only one of those players can be on the field at a time
  - b. Only the lower number is allowed to play
  - c. A strip of tape can be added to make the number 1 (e.g., "9" □ "91")
  - d. No action is needed—the referee just writes down the players' names.
4. After a goal is scored, the referee should
  - a. Blow the whistle loudly
  - b. Collect the ball from the net and return it to the center circle
  - c. Survey the field, point to center circle, and record

# Special Considerations for In-Town Referees

- No yellow-red cards.
- Education & Enforcement = 2 major roles
- Special rules for Grade 2, and for Grade 3-4 (see handout).
- Professionalism
  - Dress appropriately.
  - Display confidence with coaches, players, and spectators.
  - Use whistle and hand signals.
  - Move with the ball around the entire field.
  - Be in charge of substitutions, restarts, and the whole game.

Questions?



# Safeguarding

- Safeguarding is a collection of policies from US Soccer and related organizations to ensure that all participants (players, coaches, spectators, referees) are safe and protected from misconduct.
- This includes:
  - Safe Sport and background check (for those over 18)
  - Prohibitions of one-on-one contact with a minor, unless it is observable and interruptable
  - RAP and Game Reports to identify and stop misconduct
- Following slides are from a USSoccer webinar on Wed 3/26/25.



## REFEREES AS SAFEGUARDING LEADERS

### *Reporting Protects the Game*

#### REFEREES EXPERIENCE ABUSE

- Nearly **40%** of U.S. adults report experiencing sport-related mistreatment.
- Over **70%** of American referees cite **verbal abuse** as a primary reason for quitting.
- **90%** of referees believe abuse has **increased** over the last five years

#### ABUSE OFTEN GOES UNREPORTED

- Only **10.7%** of participants who experienced unwanted sexual behavior during their sports involvement submitted a formal complaint or report.

#### MINOR INFRACTIONS CAN LEAD TO MORE SERIOUS ABUSE

- Many abusers **start with small violations** to test boundaries and see if anyone notices.
- When misconduct goes unchecked, perpetrators become emboldened, leading to **more severe abuse** over time.



## Key Takeaway

Referees are **not just rule enforcers but also safeguarding leaders** in sport. By **recognizing and reporting misconduct**, they help create a culture where abuse is not tolerated— **Protecting officials and the integrity of the game.**

Sources: Dawson et al., University of Portsmouth; National Association of Sports Officials. (2023). *NASO survey indicates concerns with sportsmanship, shortage of officials.*; National Federation of State High School Associations. U.S. Center for SafeSport 2024 Athlete Climate Survey





## WHY IT CAN FEEL DIFFICULT TO REPORT

### Fear of Not Being Believed

Worry about how others might perceive your experience.

### Concern About Professional Consequences

Fear of losing assignments, damaging your reputation, or facing retaliation.

### Lack of Clarity on Misconduct & Reporting Procedures

Uncertainty about what constitutes misconduct or when to take action.

### Perception & Stigma

Concerned about being viewed as “too sensitive” or lacking “mental toughness”



## Key Takeaway

These challenges are **valid** but not **insurmountable**. Recognizing them is the first step to **overcoming** them.

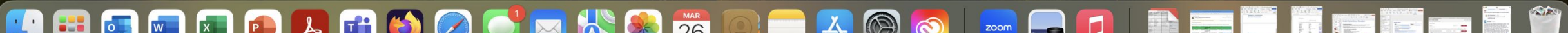




## SCENARIO #1

After a heated U9 match concludes, the losing team's coach steps onto the field and begins yelling at the 15-year-old referee for a 'missed call.'

When the referee tries to walk away, the coach grabs him by his shirt, tugs him back, and slaps the cards out of his hands. A parent spectator diffuses the situation.



# Video clip: What is the call?

- <https://www.uefa.com/uefanationsleague/video/0297-1d5951f14734-1abee9171ced-1000--watch-musiala-catch-italy-off-guard/>