



# ASC Pre-Season Referee Meeting

Wed, April 8, 2026

Robbins Library Community Room

Chris. Carlsmith  
ASC Referee Director

# Agenda



- Introductions & Welcome
- Key Dates
- Updates for Spring 2026
- Certification & Re-certification
- Important Reminders

# Key Dates



- BAYS/In-Town Season begins Sat/Sun, April 11-12;
  - HS season begins Sun, April 26;
  - Referee Appreciation Weekend: May 16-17
  - Season ends June 13-14.
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- In-Town Field Session: Sun, 4/12 from 6:00-7:15 @ Thorndike
  - In-Town Field Session: Sun, 4/19 from 6:00-7:15 @ Thorndike
  - Positioning Field Session: Sun, 4/26 from 6:00-7:15 @ Thorndike
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- Key Dates for BAYS are here:  
<https://bays.org/content/spring-2026-key-dates-planning>

# Re-certification



- MassRef has added 12 new courses for April 7-19.
- Check “My Status” in MassRef to see if you are certified for Spring 2026.  
Paul A. has notified some referees who have lapsed.
- Re-certification requires
  - - LOTG Update and Points of Emphasis
  - 2 elective courses in MassRef
  - 80% passing score on online exam
  - Payment of registration fee

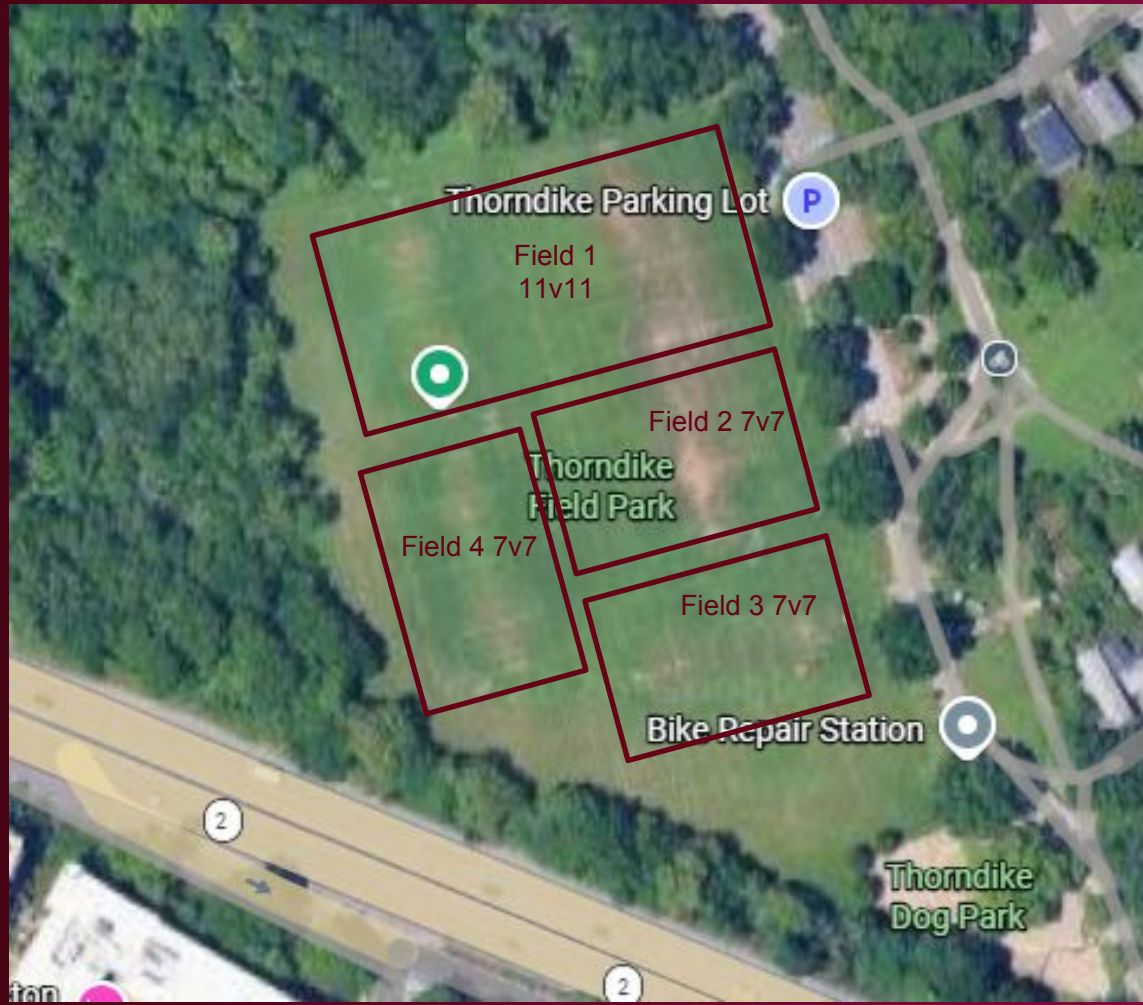
# Referees

- **Unchanged in 2026**

- Pre-game sportsmanship statement and handshake
- Referee Abuse Policy (RAP)
- Guest Player Passes
- Printed rosters required
- Feedback forms about referees at BAYS website and ASC website

- **New in Spring 2026**

- ODP Camps May 4 & 11 @ Progin Park, from 4-8 pm for referee training/mentorship
  - Register with MassRef
- Thorndike field orientation
- 8-second rule for goalkeepers
- Guidance on dissent
- Guidance on Game Reports
- Pay rates



Thorndike Parking Lot

Field 1  
11v11

Field 2 7v7

Thorndike  
Field Park

Field 4 7v7

Field 3 7v7

Bike Repair Station

Thorndike  
Dog Park

2

2



# Key New Concepts

- Goalkeepers have 8-seconds to release the ball once they have clear control
- Referees will signal the final 5-seconds as a public countdown, serving as a warning to prevent time-wasting
- If the goalkeeper exceeds the time limit, the restart is a corner kick for the opposing team



# When the Countdown Begins

The countdown begins when the goalkeeper has clear control of the ball and is able to restart play

e.g. they can stand up and are not crowded by opponents

Routine or simple save

Countdown starts immediately

Difficult or diving save

Countdown is delayed to confirm clear control of the ball

## Referee Advice

### Prevention

Communicate and Warn

### Proactive

Early Message

### Presence

Be in Eyesight

### Practical

Consider whether Tactical

# Countdown Process

- Once the goalkeeper has clear control, the visual countdown begins after the initial 3-seconds
  - Referees should use this time to get into position
- For the final 5-seconds, referees will perform a visual countdown with their arm raised above their head
  - To be seen visually, after showing the five fingers lower the arm, then change to 4 fingers, repeat until the 5 seconds is complete or the ball is in play





# Range of Responses

- Not all verbal or physical responses to referees are considered dissent
- Important to identify language & actions correctly then manage appropriately

**EMOTIONAL  
OUTBURST / RESPONSE**

**DISSENT**

**OFFENSIVE, INSULTING,  
ABUSIVE LANGUAGE OR  
ACTIONS**

# EMOTIONAL OUTBURST / RESPONSE

## Identifying Behaviors

*Visual & verbal cues examples*

- Frustration
- Immediate
- Not sustained, extended, or lengthy
- Result of a referee decision or teammate's action, or atmosphere in the stadium
- Not severely aggressive
- Not directed at an official
- Not personal, public, or provocative

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# DISSENT

## Personal - Public - Provocative

*Visual & verbal cues examples*

- Distance:** Running from distance to confront a match official
- Aggressiveness:** Approaching / confronting a match official in an aggressive manner
- Visual:** Waving arms, making disrespectful actions/gestures
- Mobbing:** Three or more players confronting a match official
- Duration:** Sustained + lengthy (not "one and done")
- Calculated:** Not a reaction, had time to think

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# OFFENSIVE, INSULTING, ABUSIVE LANGUAGE + ACTIONS

## Identifying Behaviors

*Visual & verbal cues examples*

- Racial, religious, ethnic or gender-based comments or actions
- Unacceptable language in any situation
- Words "attack" the official
- Unwanted Physical contact

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## Handling Dissent with Confidence

When behavior escalates to dissent, it is time to step in. This video shows how to use presence, body language, and the warning to regain control and protect the match.

### Key Callouts

- Start calm. Acknowledge first unless behavior continues or escalates.
- Use the warning when behavior becomes disruptive. Not every loud moment is dissent.
- When dissent persists, you are empowered to act and issue a yellow card with confidence.



## Language for Red Card and Misconduct Reports

### Dissent (Manage / Caution)

*One-off, emotional reactions to a decision — not personal, not threatening.*

**Action:** Manage with presence, warning, or caution if public/prolonged.

Examples:

“That’s a terrible call!”

“Come on, ref, you missed that!”

“Are you kidding me?”

“That was clean!”

“Call it both ways!”

### Persistent / Repeated Comments → Abuse

*Ordinary phrases that become abusive through **repetition, volume, or targeting.***

**Trigger:** When the same person (coach, player, spectator) repeats it *over and over*, loudly, publicly, or after being warned.

**Action:** Dismiss + submit a **Misconduct Report**.

Examples:

“You’re blind, ref!” (once = dissent, constant = abuse)

“You’re awful / terrible / the worst.”

“Do you even know the rules?”

“You’ve lost control of the game.”

“Open your eyes!”

### Immediate Abuse (Always Misconduct)

*Personal, insulting, or discriminatory comments — even once.*

Examples:

“You’re a cheat / corrupt / paid off.”

“You’re pathetic / a disgrace / a joke.”

Any racist, sexist, homophobic, or discriminatory slur.

**Action:** Immediate dismissal + **Misconduct Report**.

### Threats (Verbal Assault)

*Statements implying physical harm or intimidation.*

**Action:** Immediate dismissal + **Misconduct Report**.

Examples:

“I’ll see you in the parking lot.”

“You won’t leave this field standing.”

“I’ll knock you out if you make another call.”

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## Bottom Line:

**Dissent** = about the decision.

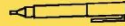
**Abuse** = about the referee personally.

**Threats** = assault.

**Repetition** turns “ordinary” complaints into abuse.



## THE BASIC STEPS TO WRITING



# GAME REPORTS

Download the  
Laws of the Game  
[www.theifab.com](http://www.theifab.com)



### 1

## USE LAW SPECIFIC LANGUAGE

Use the “-ing” offenses from Law 12 (e.g. pushing, tripping, kicking, punching, etc. Card details need to be for “cardable offenses” e.g. Striking an opponent.)

## OBJECTIVE LANGUAGE

Fact based, free of emotion,  
interpretation and opinion.  
Facts, not feelings

### 2



Accurately describe exactly:

- what happened
- by whom, to whom
- where on the field
- what time
- why: was there anything that led to the incident?

### 3

## USE THE 5 W'S

Who, What, Where, When and Why?

## WHAT TO INCLUDE

Red & Yellow cards (YC are league specific), Match termination or abandonment, Mass Confrontation, Serious Injuries, Field or safety concerns, Coach/Mgr/Spectator misconduct

### 4



### 5

## CLOCK IS TICKING

Reports should be filed within 48 hours  
MAXIMUM, ideally within 24 hours.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Contact your Club Assignor

New page on BAYS website in  
Referee Resources

<https://bays.org/content/game-report-writing-infographic>



# Referee Pay for Spring 2026

BAYS referee game rates:

	Spring 2025	Fall 2025	Spring 2026
Center Referee Grade 12 (11v11)	\$85		\$100
Center Referee Grade 10 (11v11)	\$75		\$90
Center Referee Grade 9-12 (7v7)		\$75	\$80
Center Referee Grade 8 (11v11)		\$75	\$80
Center Referee Grades 5, 6 (9v9)		\$50	\$60
Center Referee Grades 3, 4 (7v7)		\$40	\$50
Assistant Referee Grade 12	\$50		\$60
Assistant Referee Grade 10	\$50		\$55
Assistant Referee Grade 8		\$40	\$50
Assistant Referee Grade 5, 6 (9v9)		\$35	\$40



# Useful Links

## BAYS

Assignors Meeting Recap <https://bays.org/content/assignors-meeting-recap>

BAYS Laws of the Game Summary

<https://bays.org/content/laws-game-change-summary-2025-26>

BAYS MR 15: Support for Referees

<https://bays.org/book/bays-match-rule-15-support-match-officials>

BAYS Referee Abuse Prevention Policy

<https://bays.org/content/referee-abuse-prevention-policy>

## Mass Youth Soccer

Reporting Misconduct <https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Reporting-Response-and-Resolution-Matrices-2.2025.pdf>

Language Incidents or Discriminatory Acts Response Guidelines

<https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Language-Incidents-or-Discriminatory-Acts-Response-Guidelines-Jan-2025.pdf>

Referee Abuse Policy Penalty Summary

<https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Referee-Abuse-Policy-531-9-Penalty-Summary.pdf>

## US Soccer

Referee Abuse Prevention <https://www.ussoccer.com/rap>

## IFAB

Law Changes <https://www.theifab.com/law-changes/latest/>

Download the APP <https://www.theifab.com/logapp>





Questions?

New BAYS referees invited  
to remain....

# 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.

Referees are not reading the statement

Center Referees will check a box in their game report that Sportsmanship Stmt was read or not.  
Club will receive reports based on this

# Guest Player Policy

BAYS Guest Player Policy is in effect beginning with the Spring 2025 season.

Coach provides the referee at the field with **two paper copies** of their official game roster and **two paper copies** of any official roster(s) listing any Guest Player(s). Every player has a unique jersey number. Every roster has the current Game ID#.

Referee checks in all players present. Referee crosses off names of absent players.

Referee gives opposing coach a copy of each roster.

Referee keeps a copy of each roster until the end of the season.

Referee notes in online Game Report that Guest Players were utilized.



# 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

# THANKS!

QUESTIONS?

