



Middlesex Youth Soccer League

2009 Revision

Referee Handbook



Massachusetts State Referee Committee

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Important – MYSL Contacts and Rules:

Go to www.middlesexsoccer.org - download the following:

Under 'Players' – the list of 'Town Coordinators'

Under 'Coaches' – the lists of MYSL Board of Directors and Age Directors

Under 'Downloads' - the MYSL Rules (Playing Rules – 3 sections)

You will find maps to all league fields, links to the Clubs' web sites and the league schedule.

Questions, comments?

Email: refereecoordinator@myslref.org

(This address covers the MYSL Referee Coordinator, the MYSL Referee Committee, the MYSL Referee Assignor and the MYSL President)

Office Hours for the Referee Coordinator:

Off Season: Saturday only 7p-9p

In Season: Mon-Wed: 7p-10p Sat-Sun: 7p-10p

Important Referee Web Sites:

<http://www.myslref.org>

Middlesex League Referee Web Site

(referee schedules, referee game reporting, league rules, league procedures, league referee news etc.)

<http://www.middlesexsoccer.org>

Middlesex Youth Soccer League Web Site

(League information, standings, and news)

<http://www.massref.net>

Massachusetts State Referee Committee Web Site

<http://www.mayouthsoccer.org>

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Web Site

<http://www.ussoccer.com>

United States Soccer Federation Web Site

Dates To Remember

MYSL Spring Season Start	April 4, 2009
Memorial Day Weekend	May 23, 24, 25 2009
2009 State Cup (Round Robin)	May 30, 31 2009
MYSL Spring Season Ends	June 7, 2009
League Playoffs / 2009 Commissioner's Cup	June 13, 14, 2009
Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC)	June 26, 27, 28, 2009
Region 1 Tournament (West Virginia)	June 30, - July 5, 2009
Veterans Cup	July 7 - 12, 2009
US Youth National Championships	July 20 - 26, 2009
Labor Day Weekend	Sept, 5, 6, 7 2009
MYSL Fall Season Start	September 12, 2009
MYSL Fall Season Ends	November 7, 2009 (tentative)

Rules and Procedures For MYSL Referees

Laws of the Game

FIFA Laws of the Game shall govern all games except as noted in the Middlesex Youth Soccer League's modifications that should be downloaded from www.middlesexsoccer.org,

Following are some important items:

Substitutions

An unlimited number of players may be substituted. Any substituted player may re-enter the match during subsequent substitutions

Substitutes should leave and enter the field at the half line.

Substitutions may occur under the following conditions:

- prior to any throw-in provided that the team in possession of the ball substitutes, and that the substitutes are located properly at the halfway line.

- prior to a goal kick for either team

- after a goal by either team

- at half-time

An injured player must be replaced if play is stopped, and the injured player should be removed from the field when it is safe to do so.

The opposing team should be given the opportunity to substitute a number of players equal to that which left the field for the injured team.

A player who has received a yellow card may be substituted. The player may re-enter the match on a subsequent substitution.

Time of Match

All matches played in the MYSL are played according to the following schedule:

- U10 – 2 equal halves of 25 minutes

- U12 – 2 equal halves of 30 minutes

- U14 – 2 equal halves of 35 minutes

- U16 – 2 equal halves of 40 minutes

- U18 – 2 equal halves of 45 minutes

- U19 – 2 equal halves of 45 minutes

Half-time shall be five (5) minutes

All matches should be played fully

Time should be added for injury, time-wasting, and other losses of time not connected with play. Any time added is at the discretion of the Referee.

There will be NO overtime periods played in the regular season.

Playoff Matches

All playoff matches shall be played to full regulation time as prescribed above.

If there is no winner at the end of regulation time the referee shall play an overtime according to the following schedule:

U14 and below – 2 equal halves of 10 minutes

U16 and above – 2 equal halves of 15 minutes

No half-time period is allowed between the halves

A coin toss should be performed prior to the start of the overtime period in accordance with FIFA Law 8.

If there is no winner at the end of the overtime then the winner shall be determined using FIFA Kicks from the Penalty Mark procedures

The Ball

For all U10 and U12 matches a size four (4) ball will be used.

For all U14 and above matches a size five (5) ball will be used.

Referee Procedures

The MYSL requires that referees follow the procedures listed below in accordance with MYSL Rules:

Pre-Game Procedures

Referees should arrive 30 minutes in advance of game time.

A field inspection should be performed as the first task of the referee:

Check the nets, (are they anchored properly?), Check for foreign objects on the field, Check for proper markings, Check for exposed sprinkler heads, Check for dangerous ruts

Have the home coach correct any problems with the field.

Introduce yourself to the coaches.

Rosters:

Obtain two (2) copies of the rosters from each coach. Keep 1 copy for your records, Sign the other 2, giving each coach the other team's roster signed by you.

No Roster presented?

If either team fails to submit copies of the certified roster before the match, the referee will accept 2 copies of a "Game Roster" from the coach. Game rosters may be handwritten and must contain the following information:

1. The Team Name, number and MYSL division
2. The names and phone numbers for the coaches
3. The name, birth date and uniform number for each player

If the referee accepts a non-certified game roster from a coach, the game will be played and the results counted in the standings pending a review of the game roster by the appropriate commissioner. The referee must note in their game report that a non-certified game roster was used and must also send a copy of the game roster to the appropriate commissioner. The commissioner, in conjunction with the Age Director will review the validity of the game roster and validate the game results or issue a forfeit as appropriate if an ineligible player was used.

Passcards:

Obtain the coach and player passcards (except U10 and any Division 5 – passcards for coaches only) from each coach (the game **CANNOT** be played without the passcards).

The referee shall check the pass cards of each player during the inspection and shall assure the following:

The player is on the roster

The player presenting the card is that player

The birth date of the player on the pass card is proper for the age group

During the Spring Season, a player without a valid passcard shall **not** be permitted to play until a valid passcard can be given to the referee, unless prior approval to play has been given by the appropriate Commissioner to the referee.

Remember: No Passcard = No Play

A **certified roster** shall be that roster approved by the appropriate Commissioner, and either stamped with the Commissioner's signature or clearly marked "**Approved**" and the method of marking communicated to the league Coaches and Referees prior to the beginning of the season.

Adds/Drops to the original certified roster will be in the form of a supplemental roster attached to the original certified roster.

- a. No handwritten player or coach information except uniform numbers is permitted on the certified roster.
- b. Player's names, uniform numbers and birthdates must appear on the game roster.
- c. Coaches are encouraged to blank out player contact information (addresses & phone numbers) from game rosters.

Player Inspection

Every player must have the following equipment

a jersey or shirt with a visible number, shorts, stockings, shin guards (Shin guards should provide adequate protection and must be covered entirely by the socks), footwear (soft soccer cleats or sneakers)

Players shall not wear the following at any time during a match:

jewelry of any type, all hard casts (even if padded), any other equipment the referee determines is dangerous

Team No Shows

If a team does not have the minimum number of players at the field and ready to play at game time, you must wait for them for an additional 15 minutes after game time.

If, after 15 minutes have elapsed, the team still has not arrived, you are allowed to leave the field.

If this happens, immediately file a game report online:

enter a dash line – in the score box for each team.
Referees do not award forfeits. Forfeits are determined by the MYSL Age Directors.

Unplayable Fields

If, in your opinion, a field is unplayable or endangers the safety of the players you may declare the field unplayable and abandon the match.

Reasons for this include, but are not limited to:

Water covering a large portion of the field or substantially in front of the goal mouth.

No markings/nets at all

Dangerous obstructions on the field that cannot be cleared

If you do declare a field unplayable, do not tell the coaches what the result of this will be. Tell them to contact the league after you have filed your report. Return home and inform the Boys or Girls Commissioner or the Referee Coordinator immediately!

If there will be matches following the one you have abandoned, you **MUST** inform the town coordinator where the match was to be played.

Please refer to www.middlesexsoccer.org for town coordinator information.

Misconduct Procedures

During a match if you should give a yellow card, remember to do the following:

Record the number of the player - Record the reason for the Yellow Card. According to FIFA Laws Of The Game Yellow Cards are given for the following reasons:

 Unsporting Behavior

 Dissent

 Persistent infringement of the Laws

Delaying restart of play
Failure to respect the 10 yard distance on corner kicks or for free kicks
Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

The coach may substitute the carded player

During a match if you should give a red card, remember to do the following:

Record the number of the player, Record the reason.

Reasons for a Red Card are:

Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting. Denying the opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. (This does not apply to the goalkeeper in his own penalty area), Denying an opponent, moving towards the goal, an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick, using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures, receiving a second caution in the same match.

Inform the player that he/she must leave the playing field and complex immediately. With younger players (U14's and below) it is sufficient that the player returns to the touchline/bench area or to his/her parents. U16's and above MUST leave the area to prevent additional problems.

DO NOT restart the match until the sent off player has left the area to your satisfaction
At half-time, or at the end of the match, check the roster for the player's name and find his pass card.

DO NOT RETURN THIS CARD TO THE COACH, RETAIN IT TO IMMEDIATELY SEND TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSIONER.

Coach Dismissal

Inform the coach that he must leave the playing field and complex.

DO NOT display the red card.

Wait for the coach to leave the area. If the coach refuses to leave the area and no one is available to assist you, abandon the match immediately.

YOU MUST RETAIN THE COACH'S PASS CARD.AND SEND IT IMMEDIATELY TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSIONER.

\$\$\$\$ - Getting Paid !!!! - \$\$\$\$

Now that we have your attention.....

Game Reporting

ALL MIDDLESEX YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE REPORTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED VIA THE WWW.MYSLREF.ORG WEBSITE.

(This is how you get paid !!)

Get a MYSL Referee Number.

In the 'Referee Data Center Login box click on the 'I need a ref number!' link.
(If you have been paid by Middlesex YSL in the last couple years you already have a login and password – do not request another one.)

Getting a MYSL Game to Referee:

Preseason: Click on 'Submit Availability' submit the information.
In the Spring Season contact the MYSL Assignor.
In the Fall Season contact the local Club Assignors.

Your assignments are sent to you through the MYSLREF.ORG website.

Reporting the MYSL Game for payment:

Game reporting for payment:

In the Referee Data Center Login box, enter your Referee Number and Password.
Spring Season (Games assigned by the MYSL Assignor):
U12 and up Click on: 'Show My Schedule– Report Game' – 'Click Report Game'

U10 and all Fall Games: Enter the game number, when the game details appear, enter the score, enter any comments, if there are cards or injuries to report click the link at the bottom of the report.

THIS INCLUDES SCORES, YELLOW AND/OR RED CARDS, COACH DISMISSALS, SERIOUS INJURIES OR ANY UNUSUAL INCIDENTS THAT AFFECT THE GAME OR FINAL OUTCOME.

In the event of a Red Card or Coach Ejection be sure to send any player or coach pass cards to the Boys or Girls Commissioner within the 48 hour reporting period.

In all cases, referee reports MUST be filed within 48 hours of any incident.

Failure to report a game within 7 days of date of the game shall result in the forfeiture of one half (1/2) of the game fee.

MYSL referees are paid based on the age group of the game that is officiated. The pay schedule for MYSL referees is:

U10 matches	\$20.00/game
U12 matches	\$30.00/game
U14 matches	\$35.00/game
U16 matches	\$60.00/game (AR \$30.00)
U18 matches	\$60.00/game (AR \$30.00)
U19 matches	\$60.00/game (AR \$30.00)

Coach, Player and Fan Conduct (Zero Tolerance)

MYSL Rule 21 states:

“Coaches and assistant coaches must set a proper example for their team by conducting themselves properly, supporting the referees and assisting in maintaining order before, during and after the game. They are responsible for their fans who shall not be permitted to disrupt the game or direct verbal or physical abuse to players and/or referees. Failure to comply with this Rule may result in a suspension for the individual, loss of home games for the team, or other penalties as determined by the Board of Directors.”

DO NOT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH ‘FANS’. If there is a problem, tell the coaches about the problem, ask them to deal with the problem.

NO Referee in the league should tolerate abuse from players, coaches or fans. Referees are directed to deal harshly with any incident of abuse during or after their game. This includes the removal of such person or persons from the playing field. All incidents of abuse should IMMEDIATELY be reported to the Referee Coordinator who shall then report any such incidents to the President, Commissioners, and the Sportsmanship Committee.

The league DOES NOT tolerate the verbal or physical abuse of referees, players, team staff, or spectators and will deal accordingly with those who violate Rule 21.

This is not a license to ignore polite requests from team officials, to be rude or otherwise act in a less than professional manner.

Referee Upgrades

Referees within the league who wish to upgrade from Grade 8 to Grade 7 should inform the MYSL Referee Coordinator who will then inform the MSRC Area Referee Administrator.

An upgrade qualifies the referee to officiate at a higher level of match.

Assistance can then be provided to the referee for course dates, assessments and physical fitness test locations.

The requirements for upgrade to Grade 7 are:

- Must be 17 years of age
- Must have a minimum of 100 games
- 75 in the middle
- 25 as linesman

High School games DO NOT count

Have been a Grade 8 for at least a year

Have passed the Entry Level Test with a minimum score of 85%.

Pass an assessment as the middle referee on U17 or U19 Boys game using the Diagonal System of Control (DSC). The game must be a competitive match.

Pass the physical fitness test

If you would like to petition for an upgrade when you re-register as a referee, fill out the UPGRADE REQUEST section (section "C") on the registration form.

All upgrade decisions are at the sole discretion of the Massachusetts State Referee Committee. The MYSL holds no authority to upgrade a referee.