

Tips for Referees (u6)

- **Game Start:** Please start the game as close to the scheduled start time as possible. The game can start with fewer than three players on a team – add players as they arrive.
- **Game End:** The game must end before the scheduled start of the next game to keep all games on schedule.
- **Laws:** Players may need a brief explanation of a stoppage for the first few games if they are new to this format. Use shirt color to tell players which team will restart with the ball. (They may not know their number and can't see it!)
- **Kick-off:** At the initial kick-off, ask players to point at the goal they are attacking, and remind them it is a pass to a teammate.
- **Kick-Ins:** Identify which team will take the kick-in. (May need to arbitrate between two players on the same team who want to take the kick!)
- **Free-Kicks:** These are usually called for infractions such as tripping or pushing an opponent, or using hands to stop the ball. All free-kicks are indirect (a goal cannot be scored directly from the kick), so encourage a player to pass to their teammate. (Not all fouls need to be called if the team that would have been awarded the kick has advantage.)
- **Substitutions:** Coaches can make substitutions at any time. Periodically count players to ensure there are not more than the maximum permissible number.
- **General**
 - Err on the side of player safety. If it looks like a foul, call a foul and stop the game.
 - Remind parents to keep back from the sidelines to give players a safe space to play.
 - Coaches and parents should refrain from running onto the field during play (e.g., tie shoelaces/substitutions) unless summoned the referee (e.g., player injury).
 - No parents/coaches/players/spectators are permitted to stand by the goals.
 - Try to stay out of the middle of the field as this is typically where most action occurs.
 - There should be no more than two coaches on the sidelines with each team – please ask additional spectators to go to the parent side of the field.
 - Each team occupies their own space on either side of the half-way line on the same side of the field.
 - Blow your whistle loud enough so that the players can hear – use “Freeze” if the players don't understand the significance of the whistle.
 - Don't comment or keep track of the score.

Thank you for volunteering to help referee.

Both teams should have parents willing and able to referee. Swapping at half-time is acceptable.