

## **Coaches Meeting - Rules/Referees**

**Referee Coordinator is Bill Tholen (BillTholen@PembrokeSoccer.org)**

### **Intro**

- Objectives - Make game more enjoyable/less stressful for you, pass info on to players.
- Who are the refs - as young as 12 years old. 1 day of training, annual recertification.
- Referee Mentor program - refs have coaching staff to assist in their development.
- Zero Tolerance Policy - how to provide feedback to the referees. Refs required to report coach, player, and spectator behavior for every game.
- Coach is responsible for spectators. Set expectations with your parents. Examples of things that we shouldn't hear: "That's out!", "What was that?!", "Offsides!".

### **Prior to the game**

- Team benches are on the same side of field, parents are on the opposite.
- Do not setup closer than 5 yds to mid-field.
- Goals anchored (sandbags). Home coaches responsibility but refs usually assist.
- Minimum players in U12 is 6, in U14+ is 7. U10s and below - no stated min.
- U10s and above - two copies of your rosters with numbers filled in. Player cards recommended.
- U12s and above - signed player cards. Pictures and laminated by May 1st. Have player cards so they can be handed out to players. Be sure to get them back at the end of the game.

### **Player Equipment**

- Shin guards need to be completely covered by socks.
- Goalkeepers need to wear a different color than both teams.
- Jewelry is not allowed. Earrings covered by tape are not allowed. No casts or metal cleats. No metal hair clips. Metal knee braces should be padded.

### **Substitutions**

- U7/U8 - free substitution.
- U10+ - Substitutions may be made at the following times with permission of the referee.
  - a. Prior to a throw-in by either team providing the team making the throw-in substitutes and substitute players are already at midfield ready for substitution.
  - b. Prior to a goal kick by either team.
  - c. After a goal by either team.
  - d. After an injury by either team, as allowed by the referee.
  - e. At half time.
- Injured or cautioned players (yellow card) must be substituted (exception for goalkeeper).
- Substitutes and coaches may not enter the field unless beckoned by the referee.

## Rules

- Ball out of play - the whole ball must pass over the entire line either on the ground or while in the air.
- Lines are considered part of the area they define with regard to ball out of play and fouls. So if illegal contact is made on the line of the penalty box, it is considered to have occurred inside the penalty box.
- Free Kicks - Direct vs Indirect, defenders moving back the required distance.
- Permission to put ball in play usually not needed. Teach players to catch their opponents off guard.
- Handballs - Must be intentional. No foul for the ball hitting the hand. Doesn't matter if player gains an advantage from the outcome.
- Corner kicks - players cannot move the flag from its upright position. Need to learn proper ball placement so flag is not in the way.
- Corner kick trick plays.
- Throw-ins - simply a method to put the ball back in play.
- Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity ==> Red Card.
- Fair shoulder charges.
- Making contact with the player before the ball during a challenge.
- The Advantage Rule - allowing play to continue if calling the foul would penalize the team that was fouled. Only applies to fouls and misconduct. Referees discretion. Not for younger age groups.
- **U10 and U12 special rules** - An indirect free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team when, a goalkeeper handles the ball within his/her penalty area and throws, punts, or kicks the ball across midfield without making contact with the goalkeepers side of the field or being touched by any player on that side of the field. If a goalkeeper dribbles the ball outside the penalty area or does not play the ball with the hands, then the kick may cross the midfield. Goal kick - same as above regardless of whether the keeper or field player kicks it.
- Offside