

Restart Tune-up Series

Return to Play Pre-game
For New and Rusty Referees

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Objective for this Presentation

1. Reviewing where we are for restarting play
2. Re-establishing communication and relationships
3. Getting fullest possible participation from every level
4. Clarification and Challenges
5. Closure provided you options, recommendations for participating and restarting play as an official

1

Post Covid-19

Have you been affected YES, but in how many ways?

Ask yourself that question, it may have in more ways than you imagined or expected.

Given the absence of activity:

- ❖ Officials have **not** been training (for games, or any type fitness training)
 - ❖ **Will this be a health crisis for you?**
- ❖ Officials have **not** opened a referee bag, law book, looked at condition of uniforms, shoes in over 6 months.
- ❖ Unaware of what changes because of Covid will mean to you and what you need to know for restart play beyond just fitness.

Did you know there are resources available to you?

US Soccer Play ON
Covid information for Return to play
<https://www.ussoccer.com/playon>



Florida Youth Soccer Association
https://www.fysa.com/assets/56/6/game_day_guidance_doc_final.pdf

Will requirements of wearing a mask affect you as we Restart Play?

How to properly wear a face mask



This may or may not be required for your upcoming games the rest of the year or following.

Please ask questions as you participate to your assignor, league or tournament contact.

- **DO I need to wear a mask?**
- **WHEN do I need to wear a mask?**
- **SHOULD I wear a mask at all times?**
- **MAY I wear a mask if I feel uncomfortable?**



Opening the lines of Communications:

Where are you in registration for 2020?

Have you started the recertification process?

Contact information for your Referee Administrators can be found on the FLSRC.org website

Current Referee Registration Card

This Link will take you to ussoccer registration so you can print your current registration card for 2020. US Soccer Learning Center <http://learning.ussoccer.com>

Update Risk Management

FYSA Gotsoccer Background Risk Management

- ▶ This Risk management Check is required yearly by FYSA. This year it expires July 31. Typically it expires June 30 of each year.
- ▶ If you are 18 or older, you are required to complete this for recertification each year. If you do not complete it, you will not be registered.
- ▶ If your Risk Management has expired, you are not eligible officiate for the remainder of 2020 till it is updated.
- ▶ Print this card keep it in your referee bag or wallet.

Safe Sport Course

- ▶ Federal Law. Is required by US Soccer for every referee 18 or Over nationwide as part of Referee registration.
- ▶ Certification is an annual requirement and current for 1 year from the date you last completed it.
- ▶ You should check your information to see if you are due to renew. FLSRC can verify if needed.
- ▶ If it has expired it must be updated to officiate games, the remainder of 2020.
- ▶ You should save a copy of the completion certificate on your computer in a file.



2

Packing for
preparation

What You Need to Have:

- ▶ **An approved U.S. Soccer Referee Uniform.**
- ▶ Your current year U.S. Soccer badge on the left shirt pocket of your jersey.
- ▶ **Solid black referee shorts or black shorts with the U.S. Soccer Referee Program logo on the leg.**
- ▶ **Black Socks** (preferred ussoccer logo socks) should always be pulled up to your knees.
- ▶ **Solid black shoes** -a brand logo preferably in white is OK, but no other colors or decorations.
- ▶ **Your 16-digit U.S. Soccer identification number for tournaments.**

Dress and Act Professionally:

If you expect to command respect

- ▶ (One element of game control) on the field, then you must look and act like a professional.
- ▶ Approach the game in a way that shows you are looking forward to being there and being a part of the game.
- ▶ Dress for success wear the proper US Soccer uniform with your referee jersey tucked in and your socks pulled up. Wear the uniform properly anytime you can still be seen by the players, coaches, and spectators.

Take Charge:

- ▶ Taking charge does not mean yelling and acting like a dictator. This only encourages people to yell back at you. Greet each coach with a firm handshake and a smile. Look each coach in the eyes.
- ▶ Use common courtesy- Thank you”, “Please”, “Sir”, “Ma’am”.
- ▶ Issue firm, simple instructions to the players so they know you can manage the game.
- ▶ Start the game on time.



STANDARDS OF DRESS AND APPEARANCE OFFICIAL U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION UNIFORM

UNIFORM: Always make sure your uniform is clean, neat, and professional in appearance.

CLASSIC UNIFORM

SHIRT

- Long or short sleeve
- Yellow with black pinstripes
- Men's or women's

BADGE

- U.S. Soccer Federation with current year (securely fastened to shirt over left chest).
- The badge should be for the highest grade for which the referee is currently qualified

SHORTS

- Black shorts
- Bottom edge of shorts not less than 3 or more than 7 inches above the top of the knee cap

SOCKS

- Black socks
- U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program 2-stripe socks

SHOES

- Black shoes
- Black laces (may have white manufacturer's design)



ALTERNATIVE UNIFORMS

The following shirts have been approved by the Federation as alternatives that can be worn in case of color conflict. There is no order of preference among the alternate jerseys. The other parts of the referee uniform (shorts, socks, shoes) do not change if the referee wears an alternate shirt.



There are other manufactures of uniforms that are similar in style and colors.

This is the preferred standard uniform of US Soccer.

OSI Pro Uniform is slightly more expensive. The Economy uniform is slightly less expensive.

They do offer a starter kit which includes many items you may need.

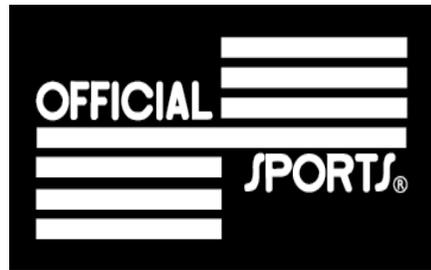


Official Sports International is the official supplier of referee uniforms to U.S. Soccer.

Only manufacturer's logos and U.S. Soccer approved badges and/or emblems may be visible on the referee uniform.

Referee Uniforms

Official Sports International
Official Referee Uniform Supplier
WWW.OFFICIALSPORTS.COM



USSF Economy Jersey (i.e. V-neck)



Economy short



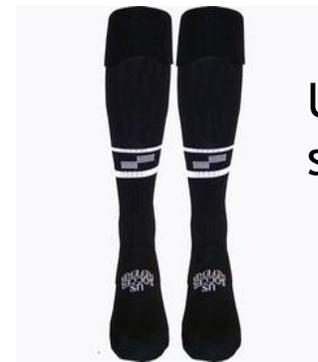
Pro Jersey zipper front



International Short



Uniforms come in these additional colors both in the Pro and Economy long and short sleeve



USSF Stripped SOX

Additional Referee Equipment



Pocket Report forms



Whistles recommend 2 with different tones



2 Stop watches recommended



Flags



Bag to carry Referee gear



Flipping Coin



Ball pump, gauge and spare inflation needles



Other items that are good to pack

- ▶ Cold weather gear when the time of year makes it necessary
- ▶ A large plastic trash bag (to put your ref bag inside in case of rain)
- ▶ Sunscreen, (look for roll on vs spray or wipe on)
- ▶ Snacks (energy bars are great!) if you are going to be doing more than one game
- ▶ Rubber bands or baggies to hold and separate player/coach cards for each team
- ▶ **Water**- referees are also athletes, and proper hydration is important for performance.
 - ❖ Bring your own water or energy drink with you do not rely on others to have it for you
 - ❖ DO Not share drinks from same container you drink from
 - ❖ Hydration does not start on game day. It starts a week or more before



3

Make a Good First
Impression

Make a Good First Impression

Know the Laws of the Game 2020-2021:

Success begins by being prepared.

- ▶ Read and know the Laws of the Game.
- ▶ Keep up to date on the correct interpretations.
- ▶ <https://www.theifab.com/laws>
- ▶ Mobile application Laws of the Game app 2.0 can be downloaded to your i-phone or android device
- ▶ <https://www.ussoccer.com/referee-program> Resource Center Laws of the Game
- ▶ <http://flsrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ifab-laws-of-the-game-changes-2020-2021.pdf>
- ▶ Know the accepted mechanics approved by FIFA and US Soccer

Know the Local Rules of Competition.

You can usually find these by checking the league's website or

- ▶ Ask your Referee Assignor.
- ▶ Make sure you know
 - ▶ What Age Group or Division
 - ▶ Field Size and markings
 - ▶ Length of the half and Length of the halftime interval
 - ▶ Kicks from the Mark to determine winner if game is tied at end of regulation time
 - ❖ (Yes or No, Tie is a Tie no overtime in league play)
 - ▶ Size of the Ball
 - ▶ Number of players
 - ❖ Individual player pass for check-in
 - ❖ game report roster thumbnail picture
 - ❖ can players be added with no pass/picture
 - ❖ Who do you contact if there is a conflict

Getting to the Field:

- ▶ You should arrive at the field at least 30 minutes prior to the game.
 - ❖ This is the minimum time preferred.
 - ❖ Depending on type of game or event more time may be required. Add at your discretion or as directed by Assignor or Competition authority
 - ❖ factors that can affect this are distance, time of day, traffic, weather

4

Game time
duties: Field
Inspection and
Player Check-in

Pre-Game Responsibilities

Field Inspection:

- ❖ Look for holes, depressions, sprinkler-heads that could cause players or Officials injuries.
- ❖ Check with facility to see if holes can be filled.
- ❖ All dangerous rocks, trash, or other objects that do not belong on the field should be removed.

Goals: No matter how good the goals look at a distance, always carefully inspect them.

- ❖ Goal netting pulled back so as not to interfere with the goalkeeper.
- ❖ Goal nets should be securely fastened to the goal posts and cross bar
- ❖ Goal posts must be securely anchored to the ground.
 - ❖ **Sandbags on the frame toward the rear are acceptable.**
- ❖ Posts do not have to be in the ground, but the goalframe must not be easily tipped over.

Safety first! **If the goals are not securely anchored do not start the game.** Any problems, even if corrected, must be reported to the league or competition authority on the game report.

▶ **Corner flags:** are in place and are not dangerous to players

❖ *LOTG Law 1 subsection 8. Flagposts*

A flagpost, at least 1.5 m (5 ft) high, with a non-pointed top and a flag must be placed at each corner.

Field Markings: field is properly lined according to the size and dimensions prescribed for the level of play

- ▶ If anything is needed, the home team is responsible for fixing field problems.
- ▶ Any issues with the field should be noted on the game report.

Check-in the Players:

- ▶ Check-in players and coaches as per the requirements and the Rules of Competition for that league and or competition.
- ▶ All players must be inspected before the start of the match and substitutes before they enter the field of play.
- ▶ If a player is wearing or using unauthorized/dangerous equipment or jewelry, the referee must order the player to remove the item, if the player is unable or unwilling to comply must not be allowed to play.
- ▶ **Safety First;** A player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous.
 - ❖ A Medical ID (necklace or bracelet)  must be taped to the player's chest or wrist with the information visible.

Check-in the Players, continued

Compulsory equipment

- ▶ The compulsory equipment of a player comprises the following separate items:
 - ❖ A shirt with sleeves
 - ❖ Shorts
 - ❖ Socks - tape or any material applied or worn externally must be the same color as that part of the sock it is applied to or covers. Shin guards - these must be made of a suitable material to provide reasonable protection and covered by the socks
- ▶ Footwear
- ▶ Goalkeepers may wear tracksuit bottoms.

Team Colors:

- ▶ The two teams must wear colors that distinguish them from each other and the match officials
- ▶ Each goalkeeper must wear colors that are distinguishable from the other players and the match officials.
- ▶ If the two goalkeepers' shirts are the same color and neither has another shirt, the referee allows the match to be played.
- ▶ **Undershirts must be:** a single color which is the same color as the main color of the shirt sleeve or a pattern/colors which exactly replicate(s) the shirt sleeve
- ▶ Undershorts/tights must be the same color as the main color of the shorts or the lowest part of the shorts - **players of the same team must wear the same color.**

Check-in the Players, continued

Other Equipment

- ▶ Non-dangerous protective equipment, for example headgear, facemasks and knee and arm protectors made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted as are goalkeepers' caps and sports spectacles.

Head covers

- ▶ Where head covers (excluding goalkeepers' caps) are worn, they must:
 - ❖ be black or the same main color as the shirt (provided that the players of the same team wear the same color)
 - ❖ be in keeping with the professional appearance of the player's equipment
 - ❖ not be attached to the shirt
 - ❖ not be dangerous to the player wearing it or any other player (e.g. opening/closing mechanism around neck)
 - ❖ not have any part(s) extending out from the surface (protruding elements)
- ▶ Electronic Communications and Electronic Tracking Equipment Referee to the LOTG or Convening Event Authority .

5

Game time
duties: Referee
Mindset

Pregame Conference

- ▶ The Pregame Conference is a priority for game management. It is a description of how the Referee Team Plans to Manage The Game.
- ▶ This is a priority and key Responsibility of the Referee Team.
- ▶ A proper Pregame can mean the difference of Referee Team **Success** or **Failure**.
- ▶ Questions of what is required in the pregame is also key.
- ▶ The pregame should start when the referee team has accepted the game assignment.
- ▶ **List of probable or likely questions:**
 - ❖ **Open line of communications:** Who is the Referee? Who is the AR1, AR2? Is there a 4th official assigned? What are the contact numbers and emails of each?
 - ❖ What is the experience level of the Team members?
 - ❖ Where is the game located? Do we meet at the field? Carpool if it is distance?
 - ❖ What time are we required to be at the game? Is this our first game of the day? Or are we at separate fields prior?
 - ❖ What level is the game, youth U14 and below or U16 and over, Adult Amateur?
 - ❖ What are game fees? Is there travel available? Fees paid onsite or otherwise?
 - ❖ Who are the teams? Does anyone on the crew know either of the teams? Do we know or can we find out who worked the last games of each team and get some information?
 - ❖ Are there schedules, Team or league standings to see how teams are doing or have played each other in the past.

Pregame Conference, continued

- ❖ What will this game mean to standings? For league? For tournament?
- ❖ What are Rules of Competition,
 - ❖ game length 30, 35, 40, 45-minute halves? International Walk on?
 - ❖ Is a tie a tie or does there need to be a winner?
 - ❖ Substitutions, reentry, limited?
 - ❖ Number of player and coaches allowed in technical area?
- ❖ Hydration breaks, required(yes/no), if yes how many when
- ❖ Medical team onsite (trainers where are they located?)(remote need to be called fire rescue EMT, ambulance direct number or 911 who makes the call?)
- ❖ Game Report what is required? Rosters, cautions and sendoffs, substitutions off and on time, goal times and player.
 - ❖ Turn in onsite, online, mail?
 - ❖ What timeframe to submit?

“Conference with Crew”

▶ You are the Referee:

- ▶ Review with the ARs, insure they have a **clear understanding of the Rules of Competition for the league, tournament or game in which you are working.**
- ▶ Explain to the AR's and (4th if assigned) what your expectations are in various situations, such as throw-ins, free kicks, goal kicks, etc. and make sure they understand what you are expecting from them.

Instructions/expectations for Assistant Referee #1 #2:

Pay close attention to the referee during the pre-game conference. If you do not understand something the referee is saying, ask for clarification.

- ✓ Your area of responsibility halfway line to far Goal post on your end line.
- ✓ I need you both to get involved in play early ball in and out of play throw-in, Goal kick, Corner kicks, fouls. Look at me see how I am managing the players and fouls. See how they want to play let the trifling stuff slide. Give me a closed fist if you think I need to tighten it up or give me an open hand if I need to loosen my hold on them.
- ✓ Do not be concerned or feel slighted of responsibility if I am following play in your area responsibility. Make eye contact with me if I am screened or not seeing something you feel needs to be flagged signal accordingly
- ✓ Follow the ball to the end line. If it is clearly going out of play across the end line or over the goal. Make your run to halfway between top of penalty area and goal area look for me and follow my signal of direction goal kick, corner kick.
- ✓ Ball in and out of play your area of responsibility, clear decision flag in proper hand for direction of throw. If you are not sure of direction or last touch raise the flag on my whistle look at me (eye, contact) give me a subtle signal or follow my signal for direction of throw-in.

“Conference with Crew” continued

- ✓ Ball in and out of play quickly down the touchline on my diagonal, signal flag up at my whistle look for direction from me. If neither of us has clear view who was last touch on ball in out of play look for my signal.
- ✓ Ball in and out of play on the end line in your area of responsibility signal flag up I will whistle to stop play you indicate direction Goal kick, corner kick or goal. On my diagonal my whistle make eye contact with me follow my direction signal. If goal sprint up the touchline.
- ✓ Ball crosses over the goal line if everything is correct flag up signal, then sprint up the touchline.
- ✓ Ball crosses the goal line Flag up, if an offence of misconduct by attacking team hold your position at the corner flag. I will come to you to discuss goal or free kick coming out.
- ✓ Fouls and misconduct behind my back in transition of play, if you are going to signal it must not be trifling, be 100% sure for me stop play and the color of the card and type of misconduct. Other wise say player numbers loud enough to get their attention and mine.
- ✓ There may be times during the game as play transitions that I am caught dealing with situations in play, you as the lead AR may have to make clear decisions at those moments in the game you may be closer to play. If you have been watching me, you will know what is trifling or fouls that need to be called, other than offside and ball in and out of play.
- ✓ Offside stay with second last defender, Review with them Law 11 and changes to Offside. Laws of the Game Law 11 pages 98-101.
- ✓ Goal scored Trail AR write first, I will write second, Lead AR write last. 4th official and all of us eyes on the field.

“Conference with Crew” continued

- ▶ **Additional Instructions/expectations for Assistant Referee #1 and 4th official:**
- ▶ **Managing the Technical Area/Substitutions:**
- ▶ **Please relay this reminder to Coaching staff for both teams;**
 - ❖ Substituting player
 - ❖ must be ready to enter play at the halfway line before the ball is next out of play
 - ❖ must have penny on or in hand
 - ❖ must have pass or sub-card in hand to give to the AR or 4th official if required
 - ❖ must know which player or player number is being subbed off
 - ❖ must have been checked for proper equipment shirt tucked in, socks up over shin guards
 - ❖ Player will remain at the touchline until the player being substituted is off at near touchline or far side touchline.
- ▶ **Indicate by flag signal when substitute is ready at next stoppage of play.**

“Conference with Crew” continued

- ▶ **Additional Instructions/expectations for 4th official:**
- ▶ **Use Forth Official Log to keep track the following:**
- ▶ **Hydration breaks if used time and duration**
- ▶ **Substitutions:**
 - ❖ Track all subs according to the Rules of Competition
 - ❖ Team, player on / player off time
 - ❖ Reentry identify players off and on make sure the player is off before player goes in
- ▶ **Goals:**
 - ❖ time, scorer and team
- ▶ **Fouls/misconduct:**
 - ❖ yellow card cautions time, player team
 - ❖ red card sendoff, time, player team

“Conference with Crew” continued

► Managing the Technical Area Dealing with Coaches Referee/AR/4th:

- ❖ Don't let the coaches intimidate you. Give them respect and ask for respect in return.
- ❖ Be respectful and courteous, in setting the ground rules—be proactive.
- ❖ Show them boundaries of the Technical Area, where the team and the coaches will be seated. Make sure they understand that they must try to remain in that area.
- ❖ (Technical Area is 1 meter either end of the Benches, 1 meter back from the touch line and 5 meters from the midline of the field)
- ❖ If there is more than one coach, ask which coach will be giving instruction to the players and who will be asking for subs.
- ❖ Remain calm. If someone is yelling at you, do not yell back at them. Speak respectfully and quietly, so the coach must quiet down to hear you.
- ❖ If the Coaches is behaving/acting in an **Irresponsible** manner he/she can be dismissed. Be confident in your knowledge of the Laws of the Game and Rules of Competition.

“Conference with Crew” continued

► Dealing with Problem Parents Referee/AR:

- ❖ Remain calm. Do not get into discussions or arguments with people on the sidelines.
- ❖ Referee, Enlist the support of the coach. Ask him/her to speak with the offending spectators and let them know that, he/she is interfering with the AR or Referee and this may cause the AR or Referee to miss or make a call that affects his/her team. If the behavior continues, the game will not.
- ❖ This will usually be enough to quiet most parents (other parents may understand the consequences and help with the problem spectator).
- ❖ If you have asked the coach to deal with problem parents and the situation continues, ask the coach to have the spectator leave the area.
- ❖ If the spectator refuses, tell the coach that, if the spectator is not removed, the game will end. Give the coach a reasonable amount of time (a few minutes) to deal with the situation.
- ❖ Remember, you cannot dismiss a spectator directly but must work through the coach or a tournament or league official.
- ❖ If the parent does not leave, you should feel free to end the game. Include any misbehavior on the part of the spectators in your game report to the league, tournament or game authority so that this type of behavior can be disciplined and stopped. Most leagues and state associations have methods for dealing with bad behavior but doing so requires a written report from the referee.

ARs Get the Captains,

Gentlemen or Ladies Introduce yourselves.

Reminder of Substitutions requirement to Captains please relay to your fellow players and subs.

Coin toss

Start the game on-time

Questions?

Contact information:

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