


# Loudoun Soccer Adult League

*Fall 2013 Pre-Season  
Referee Meeting*


1



## Today's Plan

- Welcome and Introduction
- Pre-Game Details and Procedures
- Post-Game Responsibilities
- Modified Laws of the Game
- Common Issues
- Understanding the Adult League Player
- Managing the "Boiling Point" Moments
- Q & A


2



## Welcome and Introduction

- **Dan Raben**
  - Director of Player Development
    - Oversees entire House (rec) program
  - Adult Leagues Director
  - 00g Red Head Coach
  - Grade 8 Referee
  - Referee Assignor
  - Previous Presenter to MI Grades 5-7

3




## =PR= Performance Sports Sale

- Saturday September 7-Sunday September 8
- Ashburn location
- 20% off soccer merchandise

# =PR=

Performance Sports  
Running • Soccer


4



**Pre-Game Arrival and Parking**

- > Arrive at least 10-15 minutes before kickoff
- > Park in designated spots (Mon/Thur are busiest nights)
- > Drive carefully through lot

5




**Pre-Game Field Set-up**

- > Assist LSP staff and LS coaches in field set-up
  - > Goals moved to positions
  - > Extra goals near fence
  - > Corner flags

Teams have been instructed to assist.


6



**Pre-Game Check-In**

- > Items needed for Pre-Game Check-in:
  - > Game Report
  - > IDs for all participating players

7



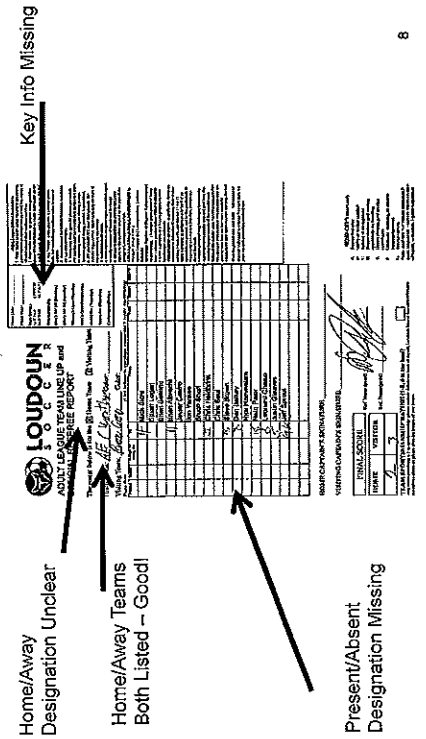
**Game Report - BAD**

Home/Away Designation Unclear

Home/Away Teams Both Listed - Good!

Present/Absent Designation Missing

Key Info Missing



8

**Game Report - GOOD**

Annotations on the form:

- Home/Away Designation Clear
- Home/Away Teams Both Listed with Color Good!
- Present/Absent Designation Clear
- Most Key Info Present - Division not listed

**ID Checks**

- > Photo IDs required:
  - > Objective: make sure players on game report are those on field
  - > Creates spirit of fairness (no ringers)
  - > Captains informed of this requirement
  - > If in doubt: allow to play, make note on game report
- > All players must bring a Photo ID
- > Photocopies are OK

**Uniforms**

- > Home team responsible for changing in case of color conflict
  - > Numbered pinnies provided
  - > Update Game Report with new #s
    - > Captain's responsibility
- > All players **MUST** have their own distinct # and jersey
  - > Matching color, preferably style
- > Home Team provides Game Ball

**Equipment**

- > Shin-guards mandatory
- > Cleats/turfs permitted
- > No jewelry
- > Hard casts – referee's discretion



### Pre-Emptive Cancellations

- Inclement Weather
  - Games only preemptively canceled under extreme or likely conditions
- Forfeits:
  - Captains instructed to contact me
  - Will contact Tammy

13



### Pre-Game Procedures

- Objective is to start on-time!
- Please do your part to assist.

14



### In-Game Details

- Game length: 50 minutes
- Bench Areas – teams on same touchline but opposite halves
- Spectators – on opposite touchline
  - Captains responsible for the conduct of team and fans
  - “Knucklehead” rule: remove any non-player from bench as needed
    - First to opposite touchline
    - Then from field

15



### Post-Game Responsibilities

- Game Report
  - Ensure accuracy in score and bookings
  - Include any notes
  - Team Captain must sign
  - Check next teams in (if applicable)
- Turn in game reports
  - Small black mailbox on side of garage

16

### Game Report Examples

Game details noted

Present players noted properly

Goal tally matches listed score

Team details noted

Referee name is printed

17

### Game Report Examples

Game details missing

Strange circumstance noted

Goal tally absent

Team details missing

Bookings coded but send off explanation is missing

Referee names are printed

18

### Game Report Examples

Identify the issues on this Game Report (front and back)

17


18

19

### Modified Laws of the Game

- Rosters and Age Limits
- Uniforms and Equipment
- Minimum Players
- Suspended/Abandoned Games
- Substitutions
- Slide-Tackling
- Off-side
- Goalkeeper Distribution
- Player Suspensions


20



**Roster and Age Limits**

- These are FYI's – roster violations will be reviewed by the league director.
- Violations may result in forfeited matches and further league discipline.


21



**Roster and Age Limits**

- All players **MUST**
  - Be listed in online roster
  - Submit waiver
- Roster size:
  - Min: 10; Max: 18; game day: 14
- Ages:
  - Open: 18 and over
  - 30+ or 40+: turning that age in 2013
- Roster "freeze" may be enforced


22



**Uniforms**

- Teams responsible for providing own jerseys
- Matching color required (preferably style too)
- 6" number on back
- Cannot trade jerseys mid-match
- Matching shorts/socks encouraged

23



**Minimum Number of Players**

- 5 players needed to begin a match – no grace period
- 15 minute grace period if less than 5 players present
  - Once 5 are present
    - Subtract grace time from match length, divide by 2 for half length
    - Note on game report
- Co Ed: 2 female field players required
  - Goalkeeper does not count
  - Teams play short if fewer than 2 female players are on field

24



### Suspended/Abandoned Matches

- Games suspended due to weather:
  - Players should leave field immediately and return to cars
  - 30 minute wait rule for thunder and/or lightning
  - Referees and/or league director will make decision
  - If one field stops for thunder/lightning – all fields stop!

25



### Suspended/Abandoned Matches

- Games abandoned:
  - Include note on game report
  - Circumstances reviewed
    - Reason, score at time of suspension, impact in standings, time in season, etc
  - In 1<sup>st</sup> half: likely to be replayed
  - In 2<sup>nd</sup> half: score is likely to stand


26



### Substitutions

- Enter only after Referee permits
  - No on-the-fly subs
- Stoppages
  - all goal kicks
  - the possessing team's throw-in (for teams in possession of the ball)
  - the possessing team's throw-in (for defending teams, if the team in possession is also substituting players)
  - all kickoffs
  - injuries (1-for-1 – if an injured player is subbed, the opposing team may also sub a player)


27



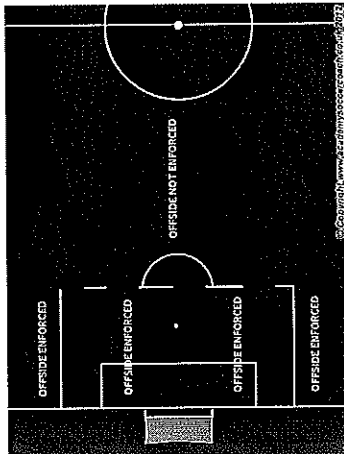
### Slide Tackling

- Not permitted except for goalkeepers
  - Must be in their penalty area
  - Cannot dive feet-first
- Sliding without an opponent present is permitted
- Variables to consider:
  - Are opponents present?
  - Is the player sliding or falling?

28




### Off Side



- Enforced in space between top of opposing team's penalty area and goal line
- Includes adjacent areas between penalty area, goal line and touch line

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29



### Goalkeeper Distribution

- Punts and drop-kicks over midfield prohibited
- Infraction: direct free kick at midfield
- Throws and kicks from the ground are permitted
- Includes goal kicks


30



### Player Suspensions

- All send-offs (red cards) result in the following:
  - Playing a man-down (if send-off is to player on the field) – no “soft” reds
  - Minimum one-game suspension for next physically played match
    - Captains receive email from me notifying them of player's suspension

31




### Common Situations

- No Game Report?
  - Spare forms in garage
  - Keep extra copies
  - Print on back
- Ball on field?
  - Avoid disrupting your flow if possible
  - Gauge safety and likelihood of confusion
- Injuries?
  - Exercise care and caution

32






**Understanding the Adult League Player**

- Discussion: who is the Adult League player? Describe his/her qualities (and ranges in those qualities).


33



**Understanding the Adult League Player**

- Playing Ability
  - First timers to former professionals
- Competitive
- Passionate - emotional
- Athletic
  - Not as fit as their prime
- Experienced
- Often Ignorant of actual Laws of the Game


34



**Understanding the Adult League Player**

- The Referee-Adult Player Relationship
  - What players believe vs. the Laws of the Game
    - “there was no intent!”
    - Very few are or were referees
  - Already adversarial – it’s our society
    - Bobby Knight
    - NFL Replacement Refs


35



**Understanding the Adult League Player**

- The key to officiating Adult League matches is through proper match management.
  - Appearance
  - Movement
  - Consistency
  - Your Message (content and delivery)
  - Preventing the “Boiling Point” moment


36



**Appearance**

- Look the part
  - Proper attire
  - No color conflicts with teams
  - 2-man: same color
- Be prepared
  - Pencil or pen
  - Clipboard
  - Watch (not cell phone)


37



**Movement**

- Keep up with play
  - Especially on critical plays
  - Eliminates player's ability to question if your angle and distance are good


38



**Consistency**

- Consistent interpretation is key
  - Gripes about interpretation will always exist
  - Don't give opportunity to complain about consistency
- 2-man: discuss in pre-game, work off each other's calls

39



**Your Message**

- Monitor your Content and Tone
  - Hard whistles for serious infractions
  - What vs. How you say
    - Tone of voice + content of message
    - Stern for serious infractions
    - Approachable for pre-game
    - Comforting during injuries

40



### Preventing the Boiling Point

- “Boiling Point” moment changes the match
  - Serious Foul Play
  - Violent Conduct
  - Offensive, insulting, abusive language/gestures
- Rarely isolated – it occurs from build-up

41



### Points of Emphasis

- Prevent the “Boiling Point” moment by addressing these situations:
  - Dissent
  - Unsporting Behavior and Persistent Infringement
  - Foul and Abusive Language
  - Violent Conduct

42



### Dissent – Gauge these Variables

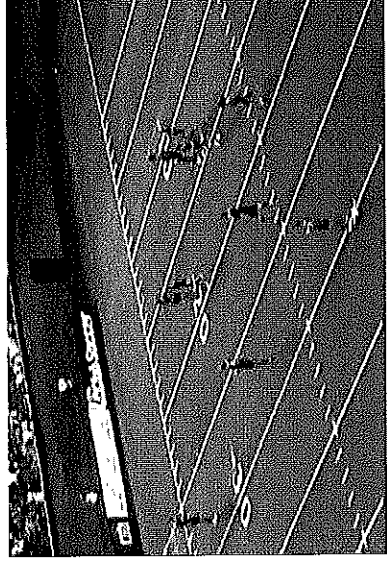
- Tone
- Frequency
  - Individually and collectively
- Circumstance
- Specificity
- Extreme → Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language

43




### Unsporting Behavior

Recognize the Severity – is this careless or reckless?



44




**Unsporting Behavior**

➤ **Recognize the Severity – is it careless or reckless?**

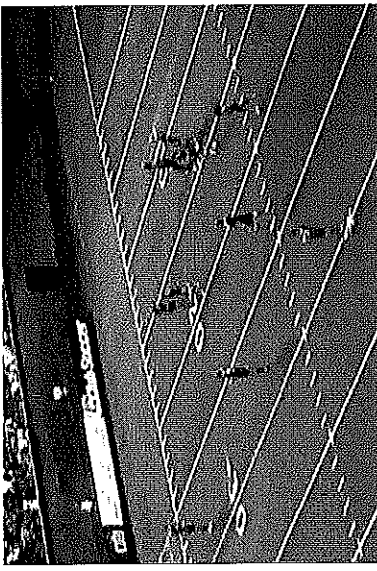
- Distance traveled, which helps determine the speed, and therefore the force of the challenge
- Whether an attempt was made to play the ball, which helps determine its aggressive nature
- The direction of the challenge
- The position of the feet at the time of the challenge
- The ability to play the ball.

From US Soccer 45




**Unsporting Behavior**

Recognize the Severity – is this careless or reckless?



46




**Unsporting Behavior**

➤ **Based on these variables – no caution needed.**

➤ **However, notice the message that is sent**

- Hard Whistle
- Movement to Spot of Foul

47




**Persistent Infringement**

From US Soccer

➤ **Recognize the Patterns**

- # of Fouls Committed
- Span of Time
- Type of Foul
- Is Fear/Intimidation Created?
- Disruptive to Flow
- Who: Specific player vs. entire team (or both teams)
- Against specific player (creative).


48



**Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Language**

- Result in send-off (red card)
- Used to protect safety, enjoyment and fairness
- 3 Criteria (USSF memo)
  - Specificity of word/gesture
  - Audibility/Visibility
  - Specificity of target
- Youth players often in attendance


49



**Violent Conduct**

- Includes both Physical and Verbal actions
  - “I’m gonna kick your @\$\$”
- Likely to result in multi-game suspension and potential team suspension


50



**Steps to Take**

- Hard whistle
- Stern warning
- Caution
- Send-Off
- **This is not necessarily sequential**
  - Must recognize the severity and the circumstance
  - Protect Safety, Enjoyment and Fairness

51



**Avoid Reigning In**

- Attempting to “reign in” the play makes matters worse
  - Players have been permitted to act or speak/dissent to the level you allowed
  - Tighter, more frequent calls creates inconsistency → more frustration
  - Prevention is the best solution

52

**My Role with Referees**



- > You are in charge in between the lines
- > Fouls, interpretations, inclement weather
- > I will support but not supersede
  - > Provide guidance and feedback
  - > Assist with Kicks from Mark
  - > Security detail ; )
  - > Enforcement of suspensions
  - > Address conduct issues
  - > Ensure payment for games

53

**Contact Information**



Dan Raben  
 703-777-9977 ext 109  
[Dan.raben@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:Dan.raben@loudounsoccer.com)

Park staff has my cell in event of emergencies

54

**Q and A**



- > Questions
- > Concerns
- > Issues

55