

Loudoun Soccer Fall 2018 Challenge and Classic Playoff Referee Memo

Dear Referees,

Listed below are important updates regarding the end-of-season playoffs for the Challenge 2 (grades 5-6) and Classic (grades 7-8) divisions, scheduled for Saturday October 27, 2018.

Please read carefully.

GAME DAY PROCEDURES

A Site Coordinator from Loudoun Soccer (staff or volunteer) has been assigned to each location to help manage the games. Referees should check-in prior to the first game they're assigned to receive game cards to use to record scores and results.

Coaches and teams have been asked to help keep our games on schedule by being ready to kickoff at your scheduled game time; please do your part to ensure this occurs.

Following the conclusion of the match, both coaches should sign their game card, and the winning coach will return the game card to the Site Coordinator, who will update the website with the score. In the absence of a Site Coordinator, the center referee should send a picture of the completed game card to 703-431-8054 and 202-494-7149.

Please complete this process immediately after each game (following handshakes) so that scores can be updated in a timely fashion, and the next game can start on time.

Remember: all center referees must still submit an After Game report in Game Officials, including the score (enter 0-0 if this information isn't available). Please also double-check the names of the ARs assigned in the system vs. those who worked the match (add a comment if there is a difference or an absence). The game card collected is used for score reporting purposes, while the After Game report is required so you're compensated.

RULES/POLICIES

All rules and policies from the regular season are to be observed during these matches. For a reminder, please review the following pages:

[Challenge 2 – Grade 5 \(9v9\)](#)

[Challenge 2 – Grade 6 \(9v9\)](#)

[Classic – Grades 7-8 \(11v11\)](#)

All playoff games (semifinals and finals) must declare a winner. Any game ending in a draw will proceed directly to FIFA Kicks from the Mark (best of five shooters, with players on the field at the end of regulation eligible to participate as kick-takers or goalkeepers).

Kicks from the Mark procedures can be found [HERE](#).

WEATHER

We are monitoring the weather, and hopeful that all games can be played as scheduled. The forecast is calling for rain and cold temperatures.

Please check your email prior to leaving for your game assignments for any last-minute updates or changes.

UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCES

This is an end-of-season playoff. Teams that win their match either advance to the next round, or win their bracket's "championship."

Although it is a Recreational event, the games will be competitive, and everyone (players, coaches, and spectators) will be extra excited and emotional.

Coaches and families were sent the following reminder:

"There is ZERO TOLERANCE for referee abuse. There is to be no arguing with, yelling at, or criticism toward referees before, during, or after matches, regardless of the referees' performances. Parents and spectators who fail to follow this policy may be removed from the game and will be prohibited from watching their child compete.

Parents should review the [Parent Code of Conduct](#) they agreed to when registering their child for the Fall 2018 regarding expected behavior."

Referees should be extra sharp – punctual, attentive, calm, and professional. Help create a positive experience and set a positive example for the players.

Please note the following when addressing unruly spectators:

1. Communicate calmly and respectfully to the coach, asking them to address their parents, and warn the coach he/she may be cautioned if the behavior continues;
2. If the behavior continues, you may issue a caution to the coach, or if it is one specific spectator, remove that specific spectator from the field and note the details for your post-match report.
3. If the behavior continues, the coach may be sent off for a second caution if they received a caution earlier in the match.

Note that referees may eject spectators directly without cautioning the coach.

For extreme circumstances, notify the Site Coordinator. To best address misbehaving coaches, referees are encouraged to use an appropriately-measured response depending on the severity of the situation. These include:

1. Hard whistles;
2. Verbal warnings;
3. Cautions (Yellow Card);
4. Send-Offs (Red Card)

Help prevent volatile scenarios by calmly addressing violators before they escalate. Notify the site coordinator immediately following the game if any disciplinary issues occur and/or any red cards are issued.

Good luck to you this Saturday, and thank you for serving as referees!

Loudoun Soccer