



North Puget Sound League Best Practices and Guidelines for Referee Support by Participating Clubs

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide Associations and Clubs participating in the North Puget Sound League (NPSL) a set of expectations and best practices to facilitate the selection, scheduling and support for referees used to officiate matches facilitated through the NPSL.

Principles and Practices

It is the responsibility of participating Associations to be sure that their Clubs provide referee coverage for NPSL sanctioned league games. NPSL participating teams are expected to have referee crews that meet the following criteria.

- It is expected that all games will be covered with three referees.
- Center Referees should carry a current Level 8 Badge with USSF.
- Assistant Referees should preferably carry a current Level 8 Badge with USSF or have equivalent training as an assistant referee.
- Referees are assigned to games they are capable of officiating based on their experience and training.

Club and Association Expectations

Clubs and Associations are expected to comply with the following:

- Clubs will work to schedule games at least 2 week in advanced to insure adequate time for referee associations to assign crews.
- Clubs and Associations should ensure that they establish written policies and procedures to support their Referee Association with adequate staffing through “Referee in the Pool” programs or other equivalent activities that support increased referee training and participation. NPSL may request a participating club’s written policies and procedures for review and to provide guidance should a club have ongoing referee match coverage issues. “Referee in the Pool” is based upon anyone with appropriate referee credentials becoming associated with a specific team. A “Referee in the Pool” could be a parent, sibling, uncle, aunt, friend, etc. who is a referee that affiliates to a team. Information regarding “Referee in the Pool” programs in place for two NPSL member associations and clubs can be found at the following URLs:
 - <http://www.lwysa.org/doclib/RefQandA.pdf> and <http://www.lwysa.org/home.php?layout=1142>. LWYSA/Crossfire Select.
 - Contact Yousef Habash at yshabash@comcast.net for further details.
 - <http://www.eyesareferees.org/display?action=display&key=32> EYSA/Lake Hills.
 - Contact Lisa Getzendaner at lgetzend@seattlecca.org for further details.



Coach, Player and Spectator Expectations

ALL Coaches, players and spectators will be respectful and follow the Laws of the Game, show good sportsmanship and be respectful to the referees. Coaches are fully responsible for maintaining orderly conduct of themselves, their sideline and spectators for their team. Coaches are also responsible for the action of their players. Coaches should strive to teach their kids to play fairly and to show sportsmanship and respect for the game on and off the field.

Coaches and spectators need to consider the following:

- Referees are doing their best
- Referees are not biased
- Referees are going to see things you don't see and they are going to miss things you do see. They make calls based on their perspective of the field and the game
- Referees are, for the most part, volunteers who get paid a stipend. They are there to make the game safe, fun and fair. They do not want to see players get hurt.
- Coaches, parents and referees are role models for the youth players
- Negative comments towards the referees only incite players to be negative. This may result in more fouls and injuries
- Soccer is a physical/contact sport

Referee Expectations

Referees are expected to do the following:

- Referees will arrive timely for games in order to complete a check of the pitch for safety, check in players and confer with coaches prior to the start of the match.
- Referees will work to the best of their ability to provide a match that is competitive within the Laws of the Game and safe for competitive youth player.
- Referees will provide timely match feedback through the sponsoring referee association.
- Referees will provide NPSL rapid communication and reporting of yellow and red card violations.

About the North Puget Sound League

North Puget Sound League (NPSL) is a Washington Youth Soccer-sanctioned, competitive youth soccer league that is a partnership of Washington Youth Soccer's District I and District II and their eleven youth soccer associations comprising over 57,000 youth soccer players. NPSL's mission is to supply a competitive venue to its teams that makes geographic sense and is not limited by District or Association boundaries, is economical in both cost and time, and ensures "like or comparable" competition. League website:

<http://www.northpugetsoundleague.org>. For more information, contact info@northpugetsoundleague.org.