

# PRSC Community Referee Program

## Rules to Remember

### You need:

1. A time keeping device, preferably a watch with stopwatch capabilities.
2. To know how your watch works.
3. A whistle, blow it loud and clear.
4. A light/bright colored shirt. Avoid green and/or white since the players will be wearing those colors. Do not wear a referee shirt since you are not an official referee.
5. Footwear. Soccer shoes are preferred. Sneakers do work as well.
6. Explain to the players why you blew the whistle. They are young and have no clue about the rules of soccer. Sometimes the coaches don't either and many times the parents are completely clueless.
7. Common sense.

### Pre-game procedures

1. Make sure the goals are on the end lines of the field. Make sure there are sandbags holding the goals down (U8 only, if there are bags for the U6 use them). Goals have been blown over by the wind and players have been seriously and gravely injured. No sandbags, no game. You can put parents on the goals if you need to.
2. Walk the field and check for hazards, holes, garbage, etc.
3. Line the teams up on the penalty area line and give your pre-game talk. This should include the following checks:
  - a. All players on a team, other than the goalie need to wear the same colored shirt.
  - b. Check that they wear shin guards. Shin guards need to be covered by socks.
  - c. Check for appropriate footwear. Make sure shoes are tied. Appropriate footwear includes soccer cleats or sneakers. Baseball or football cleats are not allowed. You can tell by the cleats on the bottom. There should NOT be a cleat at very end under the toes.
  - d. Wearing of jewelry is not permitted. This includes necklaces, bracelets, hard hair clips, and earrings. Tapping earrings is not allowed. The only exception is for medical emergency bracelets or necklaces which are permitted so long as they are taped and not visible.
  - e. Tell the team to listen to the ref and the coaches, but certainly not to their parents.
  - f. Remind U8 goalies that they are not allowed to punt.
  - g. Explain to the coaches how you want to substitutions to happen. Most important is that they do not send players on the field without you giving them the go ahead. This shows that you are in charge of the game.
4. Ask for a game ball and make sure that there is enough air in it. Do not play with a flat ball or a ball with missing pieces.

5. Receive the game fees before you start the game.

The following sections go through the laws of the game that apply during the U6 and U8 games.

### **Number of players**

1. U6 – 4, no goalie
2. U8 – 5, one of them designated as the goalie

### **Size of ball**

1. U6 – size 3
2. U8 – size 4

### **Time of play**

1. U6 – 4 times 8 minutes
2. U8 – 4 times 10 minutes
3. Between period 1 and 2, and 3 and 4, give a 3 minute rest. Between 2 and 3 (half-time) there is a 5 minute rest.

### **Kick-off**

1. On a legal kickoff the ball moves, it is no longer necessary that it moves forward.
2. Players have to be on their own side of the field.
3. Players of the defending team have to be outside the arc.
4. The player kicking off can only touch the ball once.

When there is an infraction of any of these rules, retake the kick-off until it is right. Explain to the players what they did wrong. Later on you will learn that the restart after the double touch is a direct free kick for the other team.

### **Dropped ball**

If you have to restart the game because you blew the whistle when there was no foul, e.g. a player got hurt, the restart is a dropped ball.

Procedure (new for 2019-2020):

1. The drop ball is uncontested.
2. One player of the team that last touched the ball at location last touched will receive the dropped ball. If play is stopped in the penalty area, the ball is dropped for the goal keeper.
3. Drop the ball on the ground for the player to kick to restart play.
4. The player cannot touch the ball twice in a row.
5. All other players of both teams must be at least 4 yards away
6. If an attacker kicks the ball straight into the goal, the restart is a goal kick.
7. If a defender kicks the ball into the goal, the restart is a corner kick.

If an infraction occurs on step 3 and 4, retake the dropped ball.

## **Goal scored**

A goal is scored when the ball completely crosses the end-line between the two goal posts. Play is restarted with a kick-off.

## **Off-side**

For U6 and U8 games the off-side rule is not enforced.

## **Free kick**

All free kicks in the U6 and U8 age group are taken as direct free kicks. Again, the taker of the free kick can only touch the ball once. Another player has to touch the ball before s/he can take it again. Let them re-do it until they get it right. As a referee you determine the spot of the foul and the free kick. You should not assign the player to take it. This is the job of the coach.

Free kicks are given for the following infractions:

1. Kicking an opponent
2. Tripping
3. Jumping at an opponent
4. Charging an opponent
5. Striking an opponent
6. Pushing an opponent
7. Tackling an opponent
8. Holding
9. Spitting

## **Handling**

This one is usually referred to as “hands”. It is one of the harder calls to make. Handling occurs when a hand or arm touches the ball in a **deliberate** manner. Playing the ball with the shoulder is legal. Your job as a referee is to determine the deliberate part of the infraction.

## **Goalies and handling**

Goalies are allowed to play the ball with their hands when they are in the penalty area. Outside the area they are regular field players. The only times the goalie is not allowed to play the ball with his/her hands in his/her own penalty area is when the ball is **deliberately** played to him/her by a team mate or when a team mate throws the ball from a throw in to him/her. The restart in this case is a direct free kick at the spot where the goalie touches the ball. Do not give a penalty kick.

## **Dangerous play**

Another infraction you will see quite often in the U6 and U8 age groups is the dangerous play. Generally, we think of this as a high kick or a low header. It also includes playing the ball when you are not on your feet and other players are close by. Basically, the player with the ball falls and keeps kicking at the ball while s/he is sitting on the ground. The infraction is against the player on the ground for playing the ball in a dangerous position and the restart is a free kick for the opponent. Remind the player that they have to be on their feet when playing the ball.

### **Penalty kick**

A penalty kick is given when the foul occurs in the penalty area (U8 only, U6 takes an indirect free kick).

Procedure:

1. The goalie has to be on the touch line. S/he can jump up and down and sideways but cannot move forward until the ball is kicked.
2. A designated player will take the kick after the referee gives the go ahead.
3. The ball needs to move forward.
4. The taker of the kick can only touch the ball once. Another player has to touch the ball before s/he can touch it again.
5. All other players have to be outside the penalty area and behind the ball.

If rule 1 or 3 is broken retake the kick. If rule 4 is broken give a free kick to the defending team. There are a number of nuances involving rule 5 that you will deal with when you referee older age groups.

### **Throw-in**

A throw-in occurs when the ball completely crosses the touch-line.

A throw-in is given to the opponents of the player last touching the ball before it goes completely over the touch line.

Procedure for taking the throw:

1. Player needs to be near the point where the ball left the field.
2. All opponents need to be at least 2 yards from the line where the player taking the throw.
3. Player faces the field of play.
4. Both feet need to be on the ground, behind or touching the touch line.
5. Ball needs to be held in both hands.
6. Ball needs to be delivered over the head.
7. Ball is in play when it crosses into the field of play.
8. A thrower cannot be the first player touching the ball with his/her feet.

Any infraction of these rules results in a retake of the throw in the U6 and U8 age groups. Explain to the player what s/he did wrong.

### **Goal kick**

A goal kick is taken by the defensive team when the opponent last touches the ball before it goes over the end line.

Procedure for U8 (new for 2019-2020):

1. The ball can be placed anywhere in the goal area.
2. The ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves. It does not need to leave the penalty area.
3. The player taking the goal kick cannot touch the ball a second time until another player touches the ball.
4. Opponents must be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play.

Any infraction results in a retake of the goal kick.

For U6 the ball is in play as soon as it is moved by the person taking the goal kick. The out of the penalty area rule does not apply. The taker of the kick can only touch the ball once and another player has to touch it before s/he can touch it again.

### **Corner kick**

A corner kick is awarded when the defensive team last touches the ball before it goes over their end line. The ball is placed on the corner of the field nearest to the spot where the ball left the field. The ball is in play as soon as it moved by the player taking the corner kick. Again, it can only be touched once by the player taking the kick.

### **Most Important rules**

1. Help the players with learning the rules, at this age you are a rules coach as well as a referee.
2. Be polite. Don't yell at coaches, parents, and players.
3. Blow your whistle so that everyone can hear it.
4. Have the players do what you want them to do. If you want them to take a free kick, make sure that the kick is taken. Don't let them play on because no one was paying attention to you.
5. Keep the games on schedule. Coaches like to start the games late, take 10 minutes between periods etc. Remind them that other games are scheduled and that you have to keep moving along.

### **Heading**

Players playing in the U11 and younger leagues are not allowed to intentionally head the ball. This will result in an indirect free kick for the other team. When the infraction occurs in the goal area by a defender the indirect free kick will be placed on the goal area line closest to the place of the infraction. In U6 you should put the ball on the edge of the penalty area since there is no goal area.

### **Indirect Free Kicks U6 and U8**

All free kicks in U6 and U8 are direct free kicks. As a result an indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team in the penalty area would result in a penalty kick. This is too harsh a penalty. Instead we will award a direct free kick on the penalty area line closest to where the infraction occurred.

### **Build out line (starting August 2017)**

This rule is put into place to help younger players to build up play out of the back. As soon as the goalie has control of the ball (goal kick or save) the team that just attacked, now the defending team, has to retract behind the build out line. This is the middle line for U8 and a new line between the mid line and the penalty area in U10. A defender cannot challenge for the ball unless s/he first has pulled back to the build out line and the ball has been released by the goalie by either a goal kick or throw. Punting and drop kicking is not allowed. As soon as the ball is released by the goalie the defenders can start challenging for the ball even if the ball has not passed the build out line but the defenders were behind it when the ball was released or finish retracting behind it before re-engaging when the ball was released early.

Goalies are allowed to release the ball before all defenders are behind the build out line. At that point the defender has to go back behind the build out line before challenging for the ball.

Goalies are allowed to release the ball across the build out line.

**Infractions:** all infractions result in an indirect free kick (IFK) at the spot of the infraction. If a defender engages too early the offensive team will get the IFK. If the goalie punts the ball the defense will get the IFK at the spot of the infraction unless the goalie was in the goalie area at which point the ball will be placed on the line marking the goalie area closest to where the infraction occurred.

**Exception:** For U8 the moment of re-engagement of the defender is when the first offensive player other than the goalie touches the ball as long as the defender has retreated behind the build out line.

Since all free kicks in U8 are direct. In case of an infraction on this rule by the goalie the ball will be put on the line marking the penalty area closest to the point where the infraction occurred.

**Associated rule change:** Instead of using the middle line as the point at which off-sides start to occur the new starting line is not the build-out line on the attacking side of the field.

**Added responsibility of AR (in U9/10):** The AR will need to keep an eye on the proper retreat of the defensive player. Signal with the flag if an infraction occurred.

### **Final Rule**

Have fun out there. If you are having fun, the players will have fun as well. Keep in mind that it is just a game.