



INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES FOR MATCH PROCEDURES

(as of February 2026)

Thank you for accepting assignments to referee in the National League. This league features the highest level of US Youth Soccer in the region. The level of competition is comparable to late round games of State Cup competitions and NL League Cup. Teams are competing for qualification to NL hosted events and promotion/relegation from tier to tier.

Prior to The Game

- Referees should arrive no later than thirty minutes prior to scheduled kick off time.
- Teams are to show GotSport game cards and USYS member passes for each player and coach/ manager to the referee, prior to the game. Electronic member passes are permissible.
- GotSport game cards will list all players on a team roster. Non-participating players should be crossed off on the GotSport game card. Those players that are crossed off will not be dressed to play. Coaches or managers will meet prior to the match to consolidate rosters. Coaches should destroy the duplicate rosters. Written-in players are NOT allowed.
- Club pass players are allowed if rostered appropriately through the GotSport system.
- The home team wears light colors. The away teams wear dark colors. If there is a conflict with colors (referee determination), the offending team changes. Teams are expected to coordinate uniform colors prior to arriving for matches. The referee shall define what constitutes light and dark color jerseys and socks.
- 15-minute grace period for late arrival before the game is abandoned. If a match is abandoned for any reason, please contact your applicable referee assignor and league manager.
- If a referee does not show up for an assigned game, a club AR should be used. The referee fees should be paid accordingly to the assigned referee and AR. The fee for the second AR (club AR) is returned to the teams.

During The Game

Game Ball: Size 5 (provided by one of the competing teams. Be sure to return game ball to team)

Age Group	Length of Game	Substitutions
Under 13 & 14	35-minute halves	Unlimited over three (3) moments* per half + halftime
Under 15 & 16	40-minute halves	Unlimited over four (4) moments* per match + halftime
Under 17 & 19	45-minute halves	

**as defined by IFAB Laws of the Game*

It will be the responsibility of the official to monitor and track substitution moments to ensure the NL substitution rules are being followed accordingly.

After The Game

Take a picture of the GotSport game card after you have made your notes and any incidents that occurred. The GotSport game card can be given to the home team. **ALL PLAYER PASSES ARE RETURNED TO TEAMS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GAME** (including any player(s) that were sent off). **DO NOT KEEP PLAYER PASSES.**

Send-offs or serious Incidents are to be reported immediately following the game using the [supplemental report form linked here](#) and emailed to the corresponding League Manager. **Please do not manually input supplementals into GotSport. All incidents will be handled by the National League staff.**

NL Club-Based P1

Elliott Spruell espruell@usyouthsoccer.org
Cole Jones cjones@usyouthsoccer.org

NL Team-Based GLC & NL Club-Based P2

Gunwan Park gpark@usyouthsoccer.org

Game Fees for NL Club-Based Premier 1 Games

Paid to referees prior to kickoff (unless at a NL-hosted weekend).

Age Group	Referee	Assistant Referee	Breakdown of denominations
Under 13 & 14	\$80.00	\$60.00 each	5 x \$20 Per Team
Under 15 & 16	\$90.00	\$65.00 each	5 x \$20, 2 x \$5 Per Team
Under 17 & 19	\$100.00	\$75.00 each	5 x \$20, 2 x \$10, 1 x \$5 Per Team

Game Fees for NL Team-Based (GLC/MWC) & Club-Based Premier 2 Games

Paid to referees prior to kickoff (unless at a NL-hosted weekend).

Age Group	Referee	Assistant Referee	Breakdown of denominations
Under 13 & 14	\$70.00	\$50.00 each	3 x \$20, 1 x \$10, 3 x \$5 Per Team
Under 15 & 16	\$80.00	\$55.00 each	4 x \$20, 1 x \$10, 1 x \$5 Per Team
Under 17 & 19	\$90.00	\$60.00 each	4 x \$20, 2 x \$10, 1 x \$5 Per Team

If referees are on site and the assignor has not been notified of a postponement due to weather or field conditions, then the teams shall pay full referee fees for the game. In addition, if both teams are on site along with referees and weather conditions are such that the game cannot be played, then referee fees are paid.