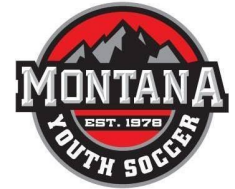


2023 MYSA SPRING LEAGUE RULES – REFEREE GUIDE

This guide is to be followed by all referees for the 2023 MYSA Spring League Season. All referees must follow this guide unless they receive written approval from the SYRA or MYSA Executive Director. You must have completed all requirements and be a 2023 USSF Certified Referee to be allowed to referee and get paid for MYSA games. See the [MYSA Policy Manual](#) for questions not covered below.

All Games Played Under [2022/2023 IFAB LOTG](#) with the below revisions.



Premier Division (13U – 19U)

Rules 241 and 242 of US Youth Soccer’s [National Championships Policy](#) will govern all Premier League game play. Deviation from the below format is prohibited, and may cause a match to be replayed. All matches designated as “Premier” count toward the State Cup seedings. Ask your assignor if the facility schedule allows for stoppage time to be added. Matches may end in a tie. In the event of a match suspension for weather or other event, record the exact time the match of the suspension, score and restart.

- 13U – 14U: 35-Minute Halves – Unlimited Substitutions – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11
- 15U – 16U: 40-Minute Halves – Max 7 Substitutions Per Half – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11
- 17U – 19U: 45-Minute Halves – Max 7 Substitutions Per Half – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11

15U – 19U Substitution Rule: A maximum of 7 substitutions for each team shall be allowed in each game during each half of play. After leaving the game during a half of play, the substituted player may not re-enter the game during the same half of play. If no 4th official is present, the AR1 can help keep a record of those who leave the field in that half.

Premier Concussion Policy: If the referee suspects a player has suffered a head injury, they may be substituted for evaluation without the substitutions counting against the teams' total number of allowed substitutions during each half. If the player with the suspected head injury has received written clearance from a trainer or health care professional, the player may re-enter at any stoppage of play. The evaluated player must replace the original substitute and will not count as a substitution. The temporary substituted player may re-enter the game as a regular substitution. A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have a substitution available. If no substitute is available, they must play short. Should the temporary substitute receive a red card, that player will be removed from the game and the team will play a player down. If the player suspected of a concussion being evaluated is cleared to play, after the substitute red card, they would be eligible to return to play as provided by the substitution rules based on the age group.

Select Division (13U – 19U)

Halves may be shortened if agreed upon by both team’s coaches prior to the start of the match. Reduce to equate is optional in Select Divisions matches.

- 13U – 14U: 35-Minute Halves – Unlimited Substitutions – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11
- 15U – 19U: 40-Minute Halves – Unlimited Substitutions – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11

Classic Division (13U-19U)

Halves may be shortened if agreed upon by both team's coaches prior to the start of the match. Reduce to equate is in effect for any Classic Division match. If Team A only has 9 players to start, Team B must reduce to 9 players. Additional players, up to 11, may be added to each team at any stoppage.

- 13U – 14U: 35-Minute Halves – Unlimited Substitutions – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11
- 15U – 19U: 40-Minute Halves – Unlimited Substitutions – 18 Max Uniformed – 22 Max Rostered – 11v11

Academy Division (11U – 12U)

Halves may be shortened if agreed upon by both team's coaches prior to the start of the match.

- 11U – 12U: 30-Minute Halves – Unlimited Substitutions – 18 Max Uniformed – 18 Max Rostered – 9v9

11U – 12U MYSA Heading Rule: If a player heads the ball intentionally, the referee is to stop the game and restart with an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the spot of the header. Advantage may be applied here. For example, if a defending player intentionally heads the ball and it still goes into their own goal, a goal is awarded. In the event of an unintentionally headed ball, have a drop ball for the team last in possession of the ball after checking with the player. Again, advantage may be applied.

Players **do not** have to leave the field to be evaluated by their coach in either event, unless a concussion is suspected by the referee. (This rule may vary at other events/tournaments, including the ages it pertains to.)

Guidance for all Divisions

Red Card Procedure: A sent-off player **MUST** leave the field and technical area. They can only leave, however, with a member of the bench personnel holding a bench pass, who is on the roster. If only one adult with a bench pass is present, the game shall be temporarily suspended while that adult escorts off the player. The coach must return after a few minutes or the game will be abandoned. The sent-off player may stay on the spectator side of the field, but must remain quiet and cover or remove their jersey. Time can be added if the local schedule allows. It is up to the referee to determine how much time will be added, if any. **Any red cards must be reported within 48-hours of the match.**

Team Check-In: Both teams must be checked in before every match, **no exceptions.** (AR's please help with this before the match if the Center is not present.) The teams must provide the referee an MYSA Official Roster and Player Passes. Referees should verify every player is on the roster, is correctly numbered, and has a player pass. Please report any discrepancies. Retain a copy of the roster for completing your game report after the match.

A player or bench personnel who is not on a roster or is missing a pass, is not allowed to play or be in the technical areas. No Exceptions!

MYSA Uniform Policy: The designated home team shall wear their light uniform and away shall wear their dark uniforms in all matches. Where colors of uniform jersey and socks are similar, the home team must change to colors that are distinct from the opponent.

No jewelry of any kind! This is not a suggestion, [please read Law 4.1](#), it applies to all levels of soccer. No tape either. Please help all referees by enforcing this law universally. ("The last referee let me wear them...")

Late or Missing Rosters/Passes: Teams will have up to **15 minutes** after the scheduled start time to show enough players to play or present the proper roster/player passes before a game is to be abandoned. Please enter a 0-0 score when completing your game report for both teams. Note the reason for the abandonment and the league will determine if a forfeit is required. All divisions except for Premier may shorten the halves to account for any delay.

Referee Pay: The game referee must submit a game report to MYSA before payment for the entire crew is issued. MYSA is paying all officials for league games through Demosphere direct deposit. No paper checks will be mailed or issued. Please visit your profile in Demosphere to set up your banking deposit information. [Demosphere Guide to ACH Payments](#)

Concussions: If a referee suspects a player may have sustained a head injury, the referee shall stop play immediately and allow the player time to leave the field. That player shall be removed from participation if the player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion.

Remember, Montana State Law does not require the diagnosis of a concussion to hold a player out. All that is needed is the suspicion of a head injury for that player. **If in doubt, sit them out.**

Players with suspected head injuries may only return to play with the written clearance of a trainer or healthcare professional.

Game Reports: **All game reports must be submitted within 48 hours of the match.** Please verify the referees on the game report are the ones that worked the game. If different, you must inform your assignor and put the correct names in the noted area.

MYSA needs to know about serious issues like player, coach and fan misconduct, injuries, and field problems. Game reports will be submitted this year from within Demosphere. (Subject to change.) [Guide to Demosphere Game Reports](#)

Recording sit-outs: If a team has you sign a sit out form for a player serving a sit-out, please record it in the game report.

Common Sense ([Advice to New Referees](#))

Please remember your goal in these games is to be **Fair, Safe and Fun.**

We want all players, coaches, fans and referees to have a good time and enjoy the sport.

Weather can be cold, so please allow players and referees to wear hats, gloves, pants, etc. Try to keep everyone as uniform as possible, but protected from the weather. You still need to know who is on what team. Hoodies are allowed under uniforms as long as the hood is tucked in.

If lightning is observed and heard within 30 seconds, suspend the match and seek shelter. You may resume after a 30-minute delay from the last observed strike and 30 second count passes before thunder is heard. Record when the match was suspended but keep your watch running, don't forget to stop and start it for half-time. If the schedule allows, the game may be resumed.

Please refresh yourself on the 2022/2023 Laws of the Game and these MYSA rules before games. Use your fellow referees and work together throughout the game. Be a team! Don't forget to pull up socks, tuck in shirts and [look professional!](#)

There is a **Zero Tolerance** policy for referee abuse. If it's coming from a team official on the roster, use the Ask, Tell (Yellow), Dismiss (Red) method and show cards. For spectators, stop the match and ask the coach(s) to address the problem. If they fail to address the problem, abandon the match and submit a match report. (Don't eject fans yourself.)

[Learn how to manage abuse](#), deal with it early, and report it if you see it in any match you may be on or observing.

If you have questions throughout the season, please let us know.