



## Referee Guidelines and Laws of the Game

### Affiliation

The Morris County Senior Soccer Association, Inc. (MCSSA) is a registered in New Jersey as a non-profit corporation, dedicated to providing the highest level of soccer for adults within Morris County and throughout many northwestern New Jersey communities. Be advised that the MCSSA is not affiliated with US Soccer, the USSF, or New Jersey Soccer Association which govern many adult soccer activities in the Region. MCSSA carries its own insurance policy which covers league matches, referees, and identified additionally insured persons, clubs, and field providers. For more information on the league coverage please see [www.mcssa.org](http://www.mcssa.org) for more information.

The MCSSA respects the rights and dignity of all the referees and will not criticize them unless in private, constructive, and for their benefit. MCSSA offers equal opportunity to all quality referees and will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

### Key League Referee Contacts

MCSSA VP of Rules, Referees, & Discipline: Kyle Haddock, (973) 328-2420,  
Fax (973) 398-0090, Email: [gristmillenergy@msn.com](mailto:gristmillenergy@msn.com)

MCSSA Assignor: Wayne Oakley, (973) 694-3726, Fax: (Call first to fax),  
Email: [assignoroak@verizon.net](mailto:assignoroak@verizon.net)

### Referee Pre-season preparation

- Attend MCSSA Referee Kick-off meeting prior to the season,
- Update contact information with Assignor,
- Complete Open Date Calendar and provide a copy to the Assignor,
- Go to [www.mcssa.org](http://www.mcssa.org) and,
- Print Division directories for all Five (5) divisions,
- Print Referee Report,
- Print Field directions (if necessary),
- Read, understand, and implement the following policies and procedures

### Referee Assignments

All Referees to be considered for assignments in league matches are to be reviewed and approved by the MCSSA Board of Directors. Referee's are required to provide updated contact information to include name, address, hphone, wphone, cphone, and email address. All Referees' considered shall possess an active registration with the USSF, NISOA, and/or NJSIAA. Referees who are known to be listed as inactive or on suspension from any Referee organization will not be considered for assignment in MCSSA matches.

Open date calendars will be distributed prior to the season by the Referee Assignor. Referees are required to provide updated calendars to the Referee assignor to confirm assignments and identify open dates where additional matches can be assigned.

All referees are required to attend a pre-season meeting to review league policies, modifications to the laws of the game, game reporting, and address questions related to officiating league games. Initial assignments will be distributed at the initial meeting.



Referees with a direct or indirect relationship with a particular club are to notify the assignor of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest. Referees are to notify the assignor if they are assigned to more than 4 home games of a particular club during the regular season. It is our intent to provide all teams a competent and diverse group of referees throughout the season.

Two (2) referees will be assigned to all league games based on availability and ability. One referee will be identified during the assignment or at the field as the lead referee. We anticipate that all league games to maintain a 72 hour notice of referees assigned to matches to member clubs. A master schedule of Referee's assigned will be distributed to the MCSSA Board of Directors weekly.

All matches will be assigned based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee. Any returned games to the Assignor must be done so with 72 hours notice to provide adequate time for the Assignor to reassign the match and the league. **Each Referee is responsible for confirming game times and locations with the home club within a week of the match.** At a minimum the Referee must provide their name and both day and evening numbers where you can be contacted in the event of a change. In the event that a game commitment can not be kept the Referee assignor and home team must be notified ASAP. Penalties will be imposed on Referee's who do not communicate their tardiness or absence from a game assignment within 30 minutes of kick-off.

## Game Day

Division	Typical Match days
Women Open	Monday & Thursday
Women 30+	Wednesday & Sunday
Women 38+	To Be Determined
Men Open	Monday & Thursday
Men 30+	Tuesday & Friday
Men 40+ Masters	Tuesday & Friday

A listing of all fields and directions is available at [www.mcssa.org](http://www.mcssa.org).

Most games 6:30PM starts on weekdays unless noted on schedule or through assignor. A 30-minute grace period is provided to both teams. Make a note on the game report if a team does not have 7 players to start a match at the time of scheduled start. *Any matches delayed for late arriving players must be noted on the game report.*

## Referee Fees

System	Referee	Assistant(s)	Paid By
Dual Official (NFHS Style) [2 Referees]	\$50	\$50	\$50 by each club
Diagonal (Season) [1 Referee]	\$60	Club \$0	\$30 by each club
Diagonal (Semi-Finals and Finals) [ 3 Referees]	\$60	\$40	League via voucher at the end of the season

All game fees are to be collected at the field and prior to the match.

**No-Show teams;** if the field is playable, referee(s) are to receive full payment for the assignment if confirmed with the home club in the event that one or both teams do not arrive at the field. If one or both teams are not there, Referee's do not collect any payment. Print and fill out a



Referee Payment Request Report Form from [www.mcssa.org](http://www.mcssa.org) and forward to the assignor for verification. The referee assignor will then forward it to the league treasurer for payment at the end of the season. Be advised that teams will be fined for no-shows. Semi-final and Finals are paid by the league. In the event that there is weather related cancel where the Referee traveled to the field the each Referee will be paid a travel fee of \$20 (\$10 from each team).

## Game Reporting

The lead referee is required to submit the game report via fax, mail and/or email to the division commissioner within 24 hours of the match. All cautions and send offs must be noted on the game report for our discipline records. All send offs must be reported to the discipline arbiter for timely handling of penalties, fines, and/or suspensions. Consistent delays in reporting or missing reports will impact and reduce future assignments.

In the event that a field is not playable due to field conditions and/or weather, each official who is assigned and arrived on time may collect a \$10 travel fee to be shared by each team. Record the event, time of the day, time of the match, and score on the game rosters. If the first half has been completed the final score stands.

All player injuries are to be recorded on the roster. Incident that caused injury, players involved, time of the match, and extent of the injury should be noted on the game report.

Prior to exiting the field, confirm the final score with both coaches and/or managers, have them initial the game report and remind teams to pickup any debris on and around the field.

## Violence Reporting

In the unfortunate occasion where a send off is necessary game reports must additionally be faxed to the discipline arbiter. Mass confrontations, referee abuse and fan conflicts that take place prior, during, or after a match are required to be reported. If additional reporting is necessary please use the supplemental referee report available at [www.mcssa.org](http://www.mcssa.org).

In the event that a game is abandoned due to violence, record the event, time of the day, time of the match, and score on the game rosters. Make additional notes of the players, coaches, and fans involved and if necessary complete a supplemental referee report to detail the incident. If the first half has been completed the final score stands.

## Referee Evaluation

Referees will have the opportunity to receive feedback throughout the season. Club representatives are provided referee evaluation forms to complete in hard copy or in the future through the [www.mcssa.org](http://www.mcssa.org) site. In addition, the league will have in place a referee assessor who will be assigned to matches throughout the season to the MCSSA Board of Directors. All referee feedback is in an effort to raise the level of play within the league and assist the referees in their continual development.



## **Modifications & Clarifications to the Laws of the Game**

*The Laws of the game prevail unless identified as a specific modification below.*

### **Law 1 – Field of Play**

Referees are required to inspect the field, markings, corner flags, and goals. Nets are required and all goals are to be anchored to the ground. Do not tolerate major deficiencies and remind the home team that it is their responsibility to make the field playable. All field related notes are to be made on the home team's roster. If you believe the field or weather conditions are unsafe, do not start the match and inform the division commissioner right away of your decision. All field problems or concerns should be detailed in your game report. Report any major deficiencies to the league assignor and division commissioner.

Coaches, Managers, and substitutes are to remain in their half of the field. It is up to the referee to separate fans and bench areas if deemed necessary.

### **Law 2 – The Ball**

Home team is responsible for providing a game ball. If one can not be provided that meets your requirements a ball may be selected from the visiting team.

### **Law 3 – Players**

2 copies of a teams roster is to be provided for check in. One roster if for the opponent and the other is to be kept to report the game results and discipline to the division commissioner. No Rosters – No game.

Teams are permitted to have 30 players on their roster, but only 24 players may check in for the match. All players must be on the roster and have a DC approval. No hand written names are permitted on the roster. This is a serious issue that will not be tolerated. The MCSSA has not provided league identification cards for the past few seasons. During check-in, players must show a form of identification to play. All of the following are acceptable forms of identification;

- Prior year MCSSA ID
- Valid Drivers license
- College ID
- Passport
- Naturalization documents
- Green card
- County ID
- Military ID

A check mark must be placed on the roster for players checked in. Place a line through players not expected to arrive to clearly show they did not play in the match. Late arrivals, once checked in, may play any time throughout the match.

There is no limit to the number of substitutions and all substitutes are to enter at the middle of the field. A match may not start or continue with fewer than seven (7) players.

Unlimited substitutions can be made by either team ;

- Prior to throw in by the team in possession
- Prior to a goal kick by either team
- After a goal by either team
- After an injury, by either team when the Referee stops play
- At the half



## **Law 4 – Players Equipment**

All players must have matching colored jersey's with numbers identified on the roster. If numbers or markings to differential players are not provided, please make a note on the roster. Footwear appropriate for the pitch and shin guards are necessary.

Players are reminded that in accordance with Law 4, **players may not wear any kind of jewelry**, which is dangerous for themselves or another player. If it is dangerous, it must be removed. It can not be taped. Knee braces if padded with dense and yielding material are permitted if in the opinion of the referee inspecting it prior to the start of the match determines that it does not have any sharp edges and the material provides reasonable protection to opposing players.

## **Law 5 – Referee**

The dual official system (NFHS) will be utilized when 2 referees are assigned to a match. The diagonal system will be used when either a single Referee or 3 Referee's are assigned.

## **Law 6 – Assistant Referees**

When a single referee is assigned, club officials are to be utilized as assistants. When 3 referees are assigned the assistant referees will assist the referee to control the match in accordance with the laws of the game.

## **Law 7 – Duration of the match**

All matches are to be two equal periods of 45 minutes. In the event of a late start or limited day light in the late summer, we prefer referees to reduce the periods to two (2) equal halves. Be sure that captains are informed of the time reduced prior to the start of the match. This reduces conflict near the end of the close match. During elimination games, you will need to leave additional time for overtime and/or kicks from the penalty mark to decide a winner. An Abandoned matches will not be replayed without a vote by the Board of Directors.

Halftime is to be a minimum of 5 minutes.

## **Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play**

No modifications

## **Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play**

No modifications

## **Law 10 – The Method of Scoring**

Match draws will be recorded in the regular season standings.

## **Law 11 – Offside**

No modifications



## Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Any player cautioned during a match must exit the field and may be substituted for another player (NFHS). Players receiving a subsequent caution are sent off and may be substituted for another player (NFHS).

All records of cautions and send offs are to be recorded with the following codes. Penalty points, fines, and possible suspensions may result.

Cautions		Send Offs	
UB	Unsporting Behavior (must note reason)	SFP	Serious Foul Play
DT	Dissent	VC	Violent Conduct (Note to who)
PI	Persistent Infringement	S	Spits at any person
DR	Delays the Restart of Play	DGH	Denies a obvious goal scoring opportunity by handling the ball
FRD	Fails to respect distance for restart	DGF	Denies a goal scoring opportunity of an opponent moving towards goal
E	Enters or re-enters the field of play	AL	Offensive/Abusive Language
L	Deliberately leaves the field of play	2CT	Subsequent Caution

All send offs need to be reported to the discipline arbiter Kyle Haddock, Phone (973) 328-2420, Fax (973) 398-0090. Mail 52 Mountainside Drive, Randolph, NJ 07869 with 24 hours of the match. Referee's who fail to do so may not continually be assigned to matches for the remainder of the season.

## Law 13 – Free Kicks

No modifications

## Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

No modifications

## Law 15 – The Throw In

No modifications

## Law 16 – Goal Kick

No modifications

## Law 17 – Corner Kick

No modifications

## Procedures to determine a winner of a match

When a winner is necessary in elimination play, 2 overtimes of 5-10 minutes will be played if time and/or day light allows. Overtimes will be Golden Goal (first goal wins). In the event that the game remains tied, kicks from the penalty mark will determine the winner of the match. Elimination games are not going to be rescheduled and a winner must be determined if can be done so safely.