

# N.E.S.L. Referee Expectations

## I. Preparation

1. Arrive at the field AT LEAST 30 minutes early.
2. Be prepared with a watch, whistle, and a pen!
3. Look professional – uniform, tucked in shirt, etc.
4. Collect game reports from both coaches. If they do not have one, provide them one.
5. Verify pass cards and shin guards on all players. If a player is going to arrive late, make sure the coach sends the child to you to be checked in.
6. Start the game on time – check the kids in with plenty of time so that the game is not delayed.
7. Complete game reports – make sure they are signed by the coach and all referees assigned to the game...and be sure the scores are on indicated on the appropriate lines.

## II. Criticism

1. Expect a degree of criticism and try to ignore it. Remember that you will be making some unpopular calls and people are going to disagree with you. Do not let criticism affect your concentration on the game.
2. If criticism turns to verbal abuse (such as foul language, constant and obnoxious screaming)
  - A. From a Coach:
    1. Talk to the coach and verbally warn him/her that if he/she does not settle down, you will card him/her or eject him/her from the game.
    2. Card the coach, ask him/her to leave the field, and warn him/her that if he/she does not leave, you will call the game.
    3. Call the game.
  - B. From the Parent:
    1. Talk to the coach and ask him/her to control his parents.
    2. Go to the parent and verbally warn him/her that if he/she does not settle down, you will have to ask him/her to leave the field.
    3. Ask the parent to leave the field and warn him/her that if he/she does not, you will be forced to call the game.
    4. Call the game.
  - C. Always notify a league official of any ejections on the field so that a report can be made.

## III. Judgment Calls

1. Off-side calls – As a general rule of thumb, if the offense is gaining an advantage by being in an off-sides position, then you should call off-sides.
2. Penalty kicks – Be aware that the penalty kicks are game deciding factors. Call penalty kicks in extreme circumstances.
3. Yellow/Red Cards – Use this power wisely. Give out a card only after the individual has been warned and in extreme circumstances.

## IV. Conduct

1. You are EXPECTED to run with the ball.
2. Make clear calls – Blow your whistle loud enough and show clear hand signals. Try to make the calls as soon as you can and have confidence in yourself.
3. Do not be afraid to talk to the kids and explain what they did wrong. Often times, the game situations are where they learn the most. For example, “bad throw-in, you need to keep you feet down.” Especially try to talk to the Under 6 and Under 8 kids.
4. Center referees – Utilize your linesmen, they are there to help you. You should defer the call to them when you think they are in a better position to see the situation (especially in off-side situations).
5. Assistant referees – You should be lined up with the last defender (not the goalie) or the 50-yard line (whichever is closer to the goal line) at all times. You should always be watching the plays!

## V. Communication

1. If for any reason you can not make it to the game or you are running late, try to find a replacement and notify Dave, Jeff, or Courtnee as soon as possible.
2. If you are uncomfortable calling games for a certain age group or have any problems or questions, let us know.
3. Make sure your game reports are submitted in a timely manner and that they are complete so that you will be paid in a timely manner as well.

*We expect you to represent NESL in a professional manner. We ask that you do as good of a job as you can and call as fair a game as you can. We understand everyone makes mistakes, and we will stand behind you and make every effort to help you as much as possible.*