



THE REFEREE UNIT

The Referees are an important part of the Grand Island Soccer Club experience.

The referee unit is made up of travel players that know the game and the rules. In addition to most likely having played year round for at least 3-4 years, all of the referees have attended an 18 hour USSF course certification coupled with annual testing and training. Many ref in B&WNY travel games (youth and adult) and tournaments. We also conduct an in house mentor program.

Despite their experience and understanding of the rules, it is often intimidating to ref a game on their own. Listed below are different ways coaches can help make the youth ref development a success:

- Give the ref the benefit of the doubt that they either know the game or were in a better position to make the call.
- Limit the number of coaches to (2). U8 allows for a third coach on the field. GISC rule.
- Have team ready to play at scheduled time
- Insist parents sit on opposite side of players. GISC rule.
- Use corner flags as provided.
- Refrain from wearing whistle during match.
- U8 – Do not position on field coach between ball and goal. Stay out of goal area.
- Approach refs with questions on touch line after match; not on field. Tone is important.
- Insure goalies have different color jersey. Avoid yellow/gold too. (Ref conflict)
- Ref exercises “match management” with age appropriate officiating.
- FIFA rules – Some nuances in U8: no off sides, no slide tackles, 2 throw in attempts, no DFK
- Please be patient.

Please feel free to call with any questions – concerns – observations – suggestions.

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