



2022 Vermont Referee Points of Emphasis

Updated: January 1, 2022

Taunting

- “Trash talking” is part of the game and can be expected to differing degrees at all levels. Referees each have their own tolerance and ways of dealing with it.
- Taunting is a step beyond trash talking, it gets personal and provokes players to retaliate which, if not dealt with, can bring the match into disrepute.
- Therefore, referees will make a point of dealing with taunting in 2022 by being proactive about watching for it and dealing with it appropriately.

Foul Language

- Foul language will always be around and can only ever be minimized.
- At a YOUTH sporting event, all participants must be aware of their language and the consequences. Officials have been doing a poor job of sanctioning foul language when it needs addressed (When it is public and/or persistent.) Regardless of the age level, players are not allow to curse when it is directed at opposing players or can be heard from other on the sidelines.
- Therefore, referees will make a point of dealing with foul language in 2022 by being proactive about watching for it and dealing with it appropriately.

Restarts

- Implementing the correct restart after an infraction is important and can often change the outcome if done incorrectly. It also leads coaches and spectators to lose faith in the officials’ knowledge of the rules. It is also important to demonstrate the correct rules for the younger players.
- There were many instances of officials implementing the wrong restart in youth games. The most prevalent example: goalkeeper infractions (indirect kicks) incorrectly resulting in a penalty kick.
- Therefore, referees will make a point of knowing and implementing the correct restarts in 2022 by studying the laws in advance of the match.

Offside Offenses in the Small Sided Match

- Calling offside offenses in the small sided game, without Ars can be challenging, but is important to the integrity of the match and can impact the score.
- There were a lot of incorrect offside decisions in last years small sided matches.
- Therefore, referees will make a point of reflecting on the possibility of offside when a goal is scored in 2022 by, before pointing to the center circle to affirm a goal, pausing for a moment and reflect if there was a possibility of offside and call back the goal if appropriate.

Managing Substitutions

- Substitutions happen often in all levels of the game and a smooth substitution process is vital for a well-run match.
- This was an area that was not well run by officials last year. Too many times officials failed to acknowledge substitutions and the coach was forced to ignore the referee and send on players anyways. This can lead to frustration among all involved.
- Therefore, referees will make a point of handling substitutions better in 2022 by following the best practices gone over in the field portion of their certification class.

Small-Sided Games U8-U10-U12 Specific:

- VSA Age Specific Rules - print and carry a copy with you in your referee bag.
- Be familiar with the no heading guidelines and field markings (breakout lines) as appropriate.

Policies you need to be familiar with:

- Vermont Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy
- Vermont Soccer Association Lightning Policy
- 2021 & 2022 Vermont Referee Points of Emphasis
- Vermont Soccer Guidelines for U-11 Heading
- Small Sided Rules

These policies can be found with other information in the Referee Resources Section of vermontsoccer.org .