



2021 Vermont Referee Points of Emphasis

Updated: January 21, 2021

Rosters & Player Passes

- Player/Team Official Roster must be an approved, signed copy from the Vt Soccer Association office.
- All players and team officials (in the technical area) **must have and show you** a pass at check in.
- Digital (online) versions of player's & coach's passes **are acceptable**.
- If there is no official roster or player passes – allow the game to be played but report it in your game report AND send an email to the assignor.
- **Best practice** is to print the roster from GotSoccer on game day, this will be the most current version.

Report Writing:

- For VSL games **ALL game officials** (referee and ARs) must submit a game report to get paid
- VSL ARs must submit the score and a comment in the report – “no issues” is acceptable.
- All VSL referees (including ARs) must report incidents that happened in their game.
- For serious injuries, dismissing a coach, or a red card send off, email, or call your assignor as well.
- Make sure you have the correct teams, date, site of the game and score.
- Verify the score at the end of the game with the home coach.
- You should have the correct player's names and jersey numbers.
- Get it right! Check with your ARs at the end of the game to ensure everyone is on the same page with respect to the cards given and injuries to report.
- Describe what happened – as defined by the Laws of the Game. Use the IFAB Laws of the game and Practical Guidelines as your reference for descriptions and language.
- **NO OPINIONS!** Factual, Clear, Concise – if dissent by word or offensive/insulting/abusive language then report the actual words used
- Report any injury in which a player did not return, **especially a head injury**.

Concussion Protocol for all games played in Vermont:

- Immediately stop the game.
- Run (do not walk) to where the injured player or players are.
- Immediately beckon the coach onto the field to assess the player - Tell the coach that your game report will list a potential head injury.
- Make the necessary substitutions.

- Restart the game with the correct restart.
- Report the incident in your game report.

Referee Responsibilities:

- **Knowledge**
 - o The Laws of the Game
 - o Laws of the Game Changes
 - o Local Rules of Competition (if any)
 - o Know your yearly recertification requirements, (Fitness test, Maintenance assessment, Advanced Training, etc.).
 - o Know your "restarts". DFK/IDFK/DropBall/Corner Kick/Goal Kick/Kick Off/Throw In
- **Professionalism**
 - o Wear the correct uniform and wear it correctly – like a professional.
 - o Be courteous, respectful, and professional to all individuals when in uniform.
 - o NEVER speak despairingly of your fellow referees to others
 - o Be responsible to your fellow officials, assignor, and teams.
 - On time and ready to fulfill your duties
 - Accept or decline assigned games promptly, and keep your availability updated.
- **Equanimity**
 - o Cool and composed -- take and maintain command.
 - o Confidence. Sell your call.
 - o Be FAIR and UNBIASED. Recognize and work to suppress your implicit/unconscious biases.
- **Fair Play, Safety and Control**
 - o Player safety comes first. Do not lose control. With any injury ALWAYS fault to the side of caution.
 - o Use a loud and effective whistle. Short and firm for routine restarts or signals; long and loud for serious matters. Send a message!
 - o Move with play; do not stand still.
 - o Manage substitutions. Substitute players need to be at mid-field prior to the stoppage of play. Vermont Soccer recommends that the referee discuss the substitution process in the pre-game with the coaches and captains. Whether to allow subs to leave field at the closest point will be left up to the official's discretion. In the younger age groups, discuss whether the coach wants to require players to enter and leave at midfield on bench side. Since there are usually larger groups of substitutes and more frequent substitutions this will allow you to count and control.
 - o Abuse, dissent or poor behavior from players, coaches, bench personnel MUST be addressed.
 - o Whistles, warnings, cards!!
 - Report abuses to appropriate person.
 - Remember to exercise the concepts that you learned in SafeSport and Introduction to Safe and Healthy playing environments courses.

- o Enlist the help of team officials or field reps (in tournaments) to address fan issues (dissent, verbal abuse, interference). Limit your interactions with spectators unless they are positive statements.

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 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 Section of vermontsoccer.org .