

Tip of The Week 9/18/2014 - Simple Fixes for Successful Game Day!

Each week the mentors out on the fields provide us game day reports. The mentor reports include feedback about the overall schedule, assignments, referee performance, and more, including suggestions for the Tip of the Week. This TOW "Simple Fixes" are things that can easily be corrected, and are expected by all referees as a part of your job. Let's make an extra effort this Saturday and going forward to improve on these important aspects of your job.

- Dress for Success! As a referee you are required to have a uniform for your job. Uniform means head to toe! Proper jersey(s), solid black referee shorts, referee socks, and primarily black shoes. Every referee must have a whistle, flags, data wallet/game recording cards, Yellow/red cards, a wrist watch with a timer, and your badge!! Professional appearance is an easy way for you to earn respect before the game even starts. Tuck in those jerseys, pull up those socks, and have all gear to do your job! Need referee uniforms or equipment? Contact Lela Marcin, OSI Representative 303-956-5358
- Be Prepared for all conditions on game day. In the past week we have seen winter to summer! Ever changing Colorado conditions can catch us off guard. Bring all uniform items, dress warm for cool mornings, but make sure you can shed layers when it heats up. Warm gear should be black, gloves, headbands, beanie hats are all acceptable for cold days - make sure they are in your bag for CO surprises. Always pack sunscreen and plenty of water - don't get dehydrated! Pack snacks to stay refueled throughout the day.
- ARRIVE A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO KICK OFF! If you are coming from playing, coaching, or running late due to traffic - you must COMMUNICATE! Rolling up casually just minutes before kickoff is not acceptable. Arrive early - you have work to do!
- Assigned as a "standby" or 4th Official? During those time slots you must check in with your on site mentor to see if you are needed. Make a plan with the mentor so they know where to find you, or can call your cell phone.
- Field complexes with a mentor - please "check out" with them at the end of your last game at the fields.
- Pre-game! Every crew should have a pre-game chat to ensure we are "on the same page". Pre-game is important for everyone's success!
- Referees working with club linesmen on recreational games must have a pre-game with them to explain their duties. Club linesmen are to assist you with in & out of play, manage subs. They are not to make offside or foul decisions unless you make the determination on game day that they are qualified & trained to do so. Use these resources if you are working recreational games with volunteers:

Hints & Tips for Rec Referees

<http://playthewhistle.com/game-day/2014-ptw-tips-for-referees-.pdf>

Helpful Volunteer Cards to Handout - referees & mentors print and carry to handout

http://media-3.gameofficials.net/PTW_Pocket_Reference_Volunteers_1.pdf

- Jewelry is not allowed to be worn by players (or referees) during games. At team check in be sure to request players to remove all jewelry items. Only exception to this rule is a medical ID. Don't want to hear from players "the referee last game let me wear it" - NO JEWELRY - be consistent! All referees must enforce this! It is for SAFETY which is our #1 priority!
- Take time for field inspection, inspect for safety, goals MUST be anchored! You must report issues in your game report so that we can make clubs aware of safety concerns.
- U11 8v8 game Rules of Competition - <http://playthewhistle.com/game-day/csa-small-sided-games-rules.pdf>
- As always - rules for all leagues are posted on the PTW Game Day page - <http://playthewhistle.com/game-day/>

And, finally - mentors are on the fields every week to help you. Refereeing is an on going learning experience. None of us will ever be perfect, we must learn from every game. Referees must be receptive to advise and feedback and understand that this is how we improve. Be gracious and thankful for the feedback from on field situations. We are a team!! Work together, support each other, learn from each other every time we step on the field - this is how we continually improve!

Simple fixes - let's do it this weekend!!

PTW Team