



**Greater Pittsburgh Soccer League**  
*of PA West Adult Soccer*

**Referee Policies and Procedures Handbook**



**Published March 2025**

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## 1. Introduction

This guide provides clear procedures, policies and expectations for officiating adult amateur matches effectively and professionally here in Western Pennsylvania. Greater Pittsburgh Soccer League (GPSL) now encompasses all US Soccer sanctioned adult amateur age groups from within the PA West State Soccer Association's region.

Whether you're a seasoned referee or new to the role, this handbook will serve as a valuable resource to ensure consistency and fairness in all matches. Thank you for your important work during our matches and especially for your commitment to keeping all our participants safe.

## 2. 2025 GPSL Soccer Updates

Match Fees will increase to \$70 for Assistant Referees and be \$80 for the Referee and are to be paid in cash at the field. Additionally, the referee will collect \$10 when he or she completes the match report within 48 hours on the TeamPass platform.

All assignments will be made through the TeamPass platform. The primary advantages of this platform allow the officiating crew to have access to the live game day roster (incorporating suspensions) which access will be independent of the teams providing them to you. The referee will also complete the post match report and be compensated an additional \$10 per match.

Check out the league website for more information about us at [GPSLsoccer.com](https://GPSLsoccer.com).

## 3. Referee Abuse Prevention Policy

The US Soccer Federation and the Greater Pittsburgh Soccer League will not tolerate Referee Abuse.

We utilize the new (March 2025) [US Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention policy \(Policy 531-9\)](#). We have communicated it to the teams and we will stand behind our referees.

**It is not required to have issued a red card in a match to report abuse.** While it is preferred to discipline the offender during the match, we recognize there are situations where it may not happen. These may include: events occurring after the match, events occurring outside of the field of play, or events where the center referee was not made aware of the abuse during the match and was only made aware after post-game reflection, after another match official communicated it to the referee.

To report referee abuse, please communicate it clearly and precisely in your post match report and/or report it here: <https://www.pawest-soccer.org/referee-report/>

For more information, visit: [USSoccer.com/RAP](https://USSoccer.com/RAP).

## 4. Assignor Info and Contacts

The referee assignor contracted to any GPSL team or age group shall maintain with the US Soccer Federation a current registration as a soccer referee assignor. Assignors must ensure that appropriate certified referee crews are assigned to games and that referees properly perform their responsibilities in officiating and reporting.

Below is the contact information of the registered assignors who are contracted with GPSL and registered with US Soccer.

### Coed and Over-19 :

Taylor Bombalski - [tbombalski@gmail.com](mailto:tbombalski@gmail.com) Mobile: 724-316-6946

### Over-30, Over-40 and Over-50

For these leagues each team chooses to use one of contracted assignors.

Taylor Bombalski : [tbombalski@gmail.com](mailto:tbombalski@gmail.com) Mobile: 724-316-6946

Marc Reppermund : [marcreppermund@gmail.com](mailto:marcreppermund@gmail.com) Mobile: 412-327-6555

Sam Reynolds : [samuelreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:samuelreynolds@gmail.com) Mobile: 940-435-8994

Andrew Stefanick : [apstefanick@icloud.com](mailto:apstefanick@icloud.com) Mobile: 412-303-7383

## 5. Pre-Match Responsibilities

To ensure smooth match operations, referees must complete the following tasks prior to match day:

### Contact Team Managers

- Game assignments should be released by the designated assignor to the officials via TeamPass by the Monday prior to the match-day.
- The center referee shall contact team managers by **Wednesday** to confirm match details (time, location, etc.). If no response is received by Friday at 12:00 PM EST, contact your **assignor**.
  - **Game Cancellations-** GPSL reserves the right for games to be cancelled same-day when a playing facility or venue becomes unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances. Please contact your assignor if this occurs.

## Email/Text Crew Members

- It is best practice for the center referee to communicate with their referee crew by text or email 24 hours prior to confirm availability and arrival times.

## Arrival at Fields

- Arrive at the field at least **30 minutes prior** to kick off to allow time for field inspection, check-in, and pre-match discussions with your crew.

# 6. Check-In Procedures

Proper check-in ensures all players meet eligibility requirements before the match begins.

## Roster Submission

- Rosters are found on TeamPass (Insert link here) and must be available to the referees prior to the match
- “No roster, no play”

## Team Pass Link

- Use the designated team pass link or documents provided by the league to verify player eligibility.
- Referees may be contacted to be informed of a suspended player via TeamPass or email.

# 7. Match Day Guidelines

## Player Uniforms and Equipment

In accordance with Law 4 of the IFAB Laws of the Game, players must:

- Be free of jewelry that could be dangerous- tape is not permitted. Use discretion.
- Wear shin guards- required per PA West policy and liability requirements.
- Confirm that both teams are wearing distinct uniforms.
- Determine which team must change if there is a color conflict.
- **OVER-19 ONLY:** Verify that all **field players** have unique jersey numbers.
  - Tape may be used to add or modify numbers if the referee is notified.
  - Jersey number requirements for 2025 are new so only remind players and teams that numbers are now required for the Over-19 divisions, especially the first month of the season.
  - Please note it in your match report whether field player jerseys had numbers.

## USSF Concussion Protocol

- Referees must prioritize player safety per USSF Protocol:
  1. If a player shows signs of a concussion or head injury, they must be removed from play immediately.
  2. The referee has the authority to prevent a player from returning without proper medical clearance. Medical professionals are not required or present for adult matches; so referee discretion is required when allowing a player to return to play.
  3. Referees **MUST** make note in the report of the head injury if the player does not return to play.

## Substitutions

- Substitutions are allowed at any stoppage in play.
- There are no limits on the number of substitutions per team.

## Match Duration- Regular Season

- **Coed:** Two 35-minute periods plus appropriate added time. Maximum duration of half-time is 5 minutes.
- **Over-19:** Two 45-minute periods plus appropriate added time. Maximum duration of half-time is 10 minutes.
- **Over-30:** Two 45-minute periods plus appropriate added time. Maximum duration of half-time is 10 minutes.
- **Over-40:** Four 20-minute periods with 5-minute breaks.
- **Over-50:** Four 20-minute periods with 5-minute breaks.

### Playoff Matches:

- **Coed:** ONE 10-minute period, no golden goal. Then PKs, *all players eligible*. (NCAA rules 7.2 and 7.3 will be followed) EXCEPTION: Alternate gender of kick takers. A player may only take a second kick once all players of his/her gender have kicked.
- **Over-19:** Two 10-minute periods, **golden goal**. Then PKs, *all players eligible*. (NCAA rules 7.2 and 7.3 will be followed)
- **Over-30:** Two 15-minute periods, **golden goal**. IFAB kicks from the mark if still tied.
- **Over-40:** ONE 10-minute period, no golden goal. IFAB kicks from the mark if still tied.

## Weather Policy and Guidelines

- **Warm Weather Guidelines:** [Click Here](#)
- **Cold Weather Guidelines:** [Click Here](#)
- **Inclement Weather:** If you can hear thunder you are in danger of lightning. Referees' top priority is the safety of all participants. Stop the game activities immediately so that participants and spectators may retire to a safer place. Applying the 30-30 rule is

recommended and to wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving shelter.

- **Field Conditions:** The referee may postpone a match due to unsafe field conditions in his judgment. In that case the match will be rescheduled. The referee may suspend a match due to inclement weather; however, if the game has progressed past the half time interval mark, the score will stand as final.

## 8. Game Management Policies

### Diagonal System of Control (DSC)

The DSC is the standard officiating system used in matches:

1. The center referee leads decision-making and positioning.
2. Assistant referees support with offside calls, fouls near their area, and other duties as assigned.

**The "two-man" referee system is not used per IFAB or USSF; only ONE referee may have a whistle.**

### Club Linesman Duties

A club linesman as a replacement for a no-show scheduled referee may be used if:

- They are a USSF-certified referee.
- Both team captains approve of the use of this official.

AND if they are not a USSF-certified referee:

- They may only assist with out-of-bounds calls.
- They are not permitted to make offside or foul decisions.

### Send-Offs:

If a red card is issued:

- The ejected participant must leave the vicinity of the playing area, out of sight and sound of the match prior to the match resuming.
- Failure to leave may result in match abandonment.
- The ejected participant must not return to the playing area or approach the match officials after the conclusion of the match.

**The center referee must file a report on TeamPass within 48 hours of the match.**

## Banned Terms and Handling Derogatory Behavior

Referees must take immediate action when derogatory slurs or gestures occur:

### When Officials Witness an Incident:

1. Stop the game immediately.
2. Issue a red card to the offending player(s).
3. Inform both coaches of the incident.
4. Require coaches to gather their teams and inform them of what occurred.

### When Officials Do Not Witness an Incident:

1. Allow the player making the allegation time and space to explain fully.
2. Stop the game and consult with your referee crew to determine if anyone witnessed the incident.
3. Inform team captains of the allegation.
4. Require captains to gather their teams and inform them of what occurred.

## 9. Post-Match Responsibilities

### Match Report Submission

The center referee is responsible for completing and submitting a detailed match report on TeamPass promptly after each game within 48 hours of the final whistle:

- Include accurate information on:
  - Final score
  - Cautions (yellow cards)
  - Send-offs (red cards)
  - Injuries
  - Weather conditions
  - Any incidents requiring league administrator attention

### Accuracy Check

The entire referee crew should review the match details (score, cards), before leaving the field to ensure all details are correct.



## 10. Referee Fees and Payment Schedule

### Payment Process

- Referees are paid cash directly at the field before the match. The center referee will be paid an additional ten dollars for completing the match report. Payment will be issued by the PA West State office by the conclusion of the season.

### Fee Structure

1. Assistant Referee Fee: \$70.00
2. Referee Fee: \$80.00
3. Referee Match Report Bonus: \$10.00

Coed League will play two-35 minute halves. The fees will remain \$50/\$50/\$60 but the referee will collect \$10 additional when he or she submits the TeamPass report within 48 hours.

### Special Circumstances

- If only two referees are available for a match:
  - One referee will receive the center referee fee.
  - The assigned assistant referee will receive the assistant referee fee
  - Only one referee may collect the match report bonus.

## 11. Laws of the Game and GPSL Amendments

All the leagues follow the [2024/25 IFAB Laws of The Game](#), (the 25/26 Laws which go into effect in some places in summer of 2025, will not go into effect until calendar year 2026).

These amendments have been made as our local rules of competition:

**Periods of Play:** See “Match Duration” in Section 7 of this handbook.

**Tie Breaking Procedures:** See “Match Duration” in Section 7 of this handbook.

**Unlimited substitutions** will be permitted in all league games at the defined stoppages. All substitutions must have permission of referee and are allowed at his or her discretion.

**Slide tackles are not allowed** in the Coed, O-30, O-40 and O-50 leagues. O-19 (“the Open”) is the only league that allows slide tackling.

**A slide tackle** is by definition a “tackle” where a player leaves both feet to challenge an opponent. Sliding to prevent a ball going in the goal or going over a boundary is allowed as long as there is no opponent involved and no other player is within 6 feet. Slide tackle

calls are to be enforced by referees for the safety of all players and the referee's decision as to whether a player slides or not is final.

EXCEPTION: A goalkeeper may slide tackle in his or her own penalty area.

The sanction for a slide tackle that the referee deems as otherwise fair, an indirect free kick restart is used.

A slide tackle that the referee deems as otherwise fair shall not use considerations for "Stopping a Promising Attack" and "Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity" and no additional sanction shall be issued other than an indirect free kick restart.

A slide tackle that the referee deems an ordinary foul under law 12 is still subject to all possible sanctions, including cautions and sendoffs