



NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES REFEREE INFORMATION

(as of Sept. 1, 2020)

This document summarizes the Referee information and procedures that are standard across all 13 Conferences within the US Youth Soccer National League. In addition to this document, each Conference may have Information and instructions specific to their Conference Operating Procedures. Such information may include and not be limited to Referee Fees, Pre and Post Match administrative instructions (submitting scores, filing of match reports and incident reports).

Know that the IFAB Laws of the Game that were announced earlier this year are in effect for the 2020-21 US Youth Soccer calendar. Thus, the new laws are in effect immediately for National League Conference Play. (We have noted one procedural modification below regarding the substitution process specific to the youth soccer environment—please take note!)

<https://ussoccer.app.box.com/s/xx3byxqgodqt1h15865/file/683837728699>

LAWS CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

In June 2020, U.S. Soccer distributed the following to its Member State Associations and State Referee Committees outlining the changes to the Laws of the Game:

<https://ussoccer.app.box.com/s/xx3byxqgodqt1h15865/file/683846624324>

Regarding the Offside section – Please note that a player in an offside position that receives the ball from an opponent who deliberately plays the ball, including by a deliberate handling offense, is not considered to have violated Law 11. The referee still has the option to blow the whistle for the deliberate handling offense, or allow advantage.

Please note the clarification further defining that the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.

Referees need to be aware of the decisions that an accidental handling offense that ‘immediately’ gives the player a goal or a scoring opportunity needs to be called.

Dropped ball procedure – (changed 2019/20): The ball will be dropped to a member of the team who last touched the ball. If the dropped ball occurs in the penalty area, the ball will be dropped to the goalkeeper.

SPECIFIC CONFERENCE REFEREE INSTRUCTIONS

In addition, each National League Conference may also provide Match Officials with additional Instructions specific to their Conference Operating Procedures.

Any questions should be directed to your local Conference Referee Assignor or the League Manager of your specific Conference.