

# THE GAME CARD

October 2005

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In an attempt to keep the referees who are assigned games in the Harold S. Young/Don Hawkins Playing Leagues informed, D7 will begin issuing a newsletter. The newsletter will be included in the monthly checks. Referees are encouraged to read the newsletter and apply the information, as it will make the job of administrators, assignors and referees, hopefully easier.

**The items selected for this edition come from observations made in October of the 2005/2006 season:**

1. **Referee Re-Registration with USSF**
2. **How to Handle Delays at Free Kicks**
3. **Jewelry/Piercing Worn by Referees**
4. **Code of Ethics for Referees**
5. **Decisions Cannot be Reversed After Restart**

1. **Referee Re-Registration with USSF**---Referee's are reminded to re-register with USSF for 2006 if not already done so. The 2005 badge will soon no longer be valid, and if not registered for 2006, you will not be eligible to referee as of 12-31-05.
2. **How to Handle Delays at Free Kicks**---Examples:
  - A. Referee is setting the wall, and while he is doing so, another defender walks towards the ball. Referee does not keep his eye on the area around the ball, and so does nothing.
  - B. The wall is set, but just as the referee is about to blow his whistle, a player from the defending side walks or slowly jogs from midfield right past the ball to join his other defenders. He effectively interrupts the taking of the kick.
  - C. A defender picks up the ball after the whistle and walks away with it, finally tossing it to the referee, or to the area of the kick. Referee needs to see this early and shout for the ball, with a warning.
  - D. After the whistle, a defender dribbles the ball a short distance away and then leaves it for his opponents to retrieve. Referee needs to react as in C.
  - E. Referee is at the site of the free kick, and a defender comes to him to argue the decision, thereby delaying the kick. A variation is for the player to bring the ball and hand it to the referee, but the effect is the same - delay.
  - F. Player who was fouled stays down at the site of the free kick, but gets up once enough defenders are back and there has been a delay.

Basic points:

1. Referees have to be proactive, not just wait for the wall to form.
2. Referees have to look around the ball, as well as at the wall.
3. Referee has to see the attempts at delay early in the process and jump on it to make it clear what his attitude is about attempted delays. Too many referees are simply accepting the delays. They are not "enforcing the laws".

Recommendations:

- A. Should be a caution.
- B. Should be a caution.
- C., D., and E. At least a chewing-out.
- F. A chewing-out for feigning injury, or in an important tactical situation, a caution.

3. **Jewelry/Piercing Worn by Referees**--- Referees are expected to look professional for every game they do, regardless of the level of play. Referees should exercise good sense in choosing what to wear--and what not to wear. Law 4 tells us that the players are not permitted to wear

jewelry or any other item of equipment or dress that might be dangerous to either them or to any other participant.

Law 18 (common sense) tells us that if players are not permitted to wear jewelry, neither should referees or assistant referees or fourth officials wear unnecessary jewelry, including gold chains, lip rings, or any other items that could prove dangerous to either themselves or to other participants. The only exceptions would be wristwatches, a very necessary item of officiating equipment, and plain wedding bands (no stones or other protrusions). As with players, referees may also wear medic alert bracelets that provide necessary information in case of sickness or accident.

If referees cannot follow the above principles, then they should seriously consider whether they should be in the referee program.

4. **Code of Ethics for Referees**--- Membership is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably as State Referee Administrators, referees, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors during United States Soccer Federation sanctioned activities. It carries with it an obligation for each individual member to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives of the Federation and do nothing to bring the Federation into disrepute or work against its goals and objectives. Any conduct which is considered unethical or as a conflict of interest shall be subject to possible disciplinary actions.

#### **Code of Ethics for Referees**

- A. I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
  - B. I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
  - C. I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
  - D. I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
  - E. I will always strive to achieve maximum team work with my fellow officials.
  - F. I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
  - G. I will be in good physical condition.
  - H. I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
  - I. I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
  - J. I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
  - K. I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
  - L. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.
5. **Decisions May Not Be Reversed by the Referee After Restart**---The referee can always change his mind and reverse his decision up and until the restart of play. After the restart of play, the referee's decision may not be reversed. Examples are: Whether or not a goal is allowed, a change of direction of play after a stoppage of play or the decision to deal with misconduct (caution and/or sendoff). If the latter is applicable, the referee must include the full details in the match report.