

## **What Sc Toronto Expects from their Referees**

### **Be on time.**

Get an idea of how long it would take you to get to your assigned field and be sure to arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. If you are running late for whatever reason, please call the Referee Coordinator to inform them. It is not acceptable to miss a game or be consistently late; any referee who does this will have some or all of their games reassigned.

### **Remember your uniform.**

You need shoes, socks, shorts, referee jersey, certification badge, whistle, wristwatch, yellow and red cards, notepad, pen/pencil. It's your responsibility to have a full, clean and professional-looking uniform with you at all of your games, as well as everything else you need to referee.

### **Check the field and players.**

Before the game begins, check the field: are there any safety hazards, such as large holes in the ground, or objects on the field, such as branches or garbage? Are the nets properly assembled? Do all of the players have proper soccer cleats and shin guards? Are any players wearing unacceptable jewellery, casts or other hazardous items? It's easier to check these before the game begins, to avoid having to stop the game and address any issues.

### **Communication must be loud and clear.**

Sometimes there will be multiple games going on at a park, or other distractions. Be confident in your decisions and blow your whistle loudly and clearly so your players know when to stop. Most importantly use your voice so people understand what is going on. If they do not respond, keep blowing the whistle until they acknowledge it.

### **Use clear hand signals.**

Make sure you use hand signals with verbal instructions. It's good for players to understand what the proper signals are. Being able to make a clear signal with the appropriate hand signals for all plays makes your job easier. Young players likely won't know what these signals mean so combining them with verbal instructions (i.e. "goal kick", "kick-in for the blue team") will help them learn the signals and get you in the habit of using them consistently and correctly.

### **Coaches and other information**

Do not engage in verbal exchanges with players, parents or coaches. Sometimes players, coaches or spectators will make comments during or after the game concerning your decisions. This is an

unfortunate reality of any sport. Always remain calm and professional, and do not engage in any sort of argument with coaches or parents. If you are asked a polite question, then of course respond, but you are not required to explain any decisions to anyone during the course of the game, nor are you required to provide your name or any other information to anyone. Your responsibility is only to officiate the game. You may tell any coach or parent who has a complaint to contact the Referee Coordinator at [referee@sctoronto.ca](mailto:referee@sctoronto.ca)

**Bring in your game sheets promptly.**

It is your responsibility to hand in your game sheets after each game to the club house. If for whatever reason your game got cancelled i.e. Rainout – then you are responsible for handing in a blank game sheet with your name date and at the bottom stating that the game was cancelled due to the weather. If you do not hand in your game sheets you will not get paid.