



# US YOUTH SOCCER CONFERENCES REFEREE INFORMATION

(as of July 29, 2019)

This document summarizes the Referee information and procedures that are standard across all 13 Conferences within the US Youth Soccer Leagues Program. 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 2019-20 US Youth Soccer calendar. Thus the new laws are in effect immediately for Conference Play. (We have noted one procedural modification below regarding the substitution process specific to the youth soccer environment—please take note!)**

[http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/documents/793/103202\\_200519\\_LotG\\_201920\\_EN\\_SinglePage.pdf](http://static-3eb8.kxcdn.com/documents/793/103202_200519_LotG_201920_EN_SinglePage.pdf)

## **LAWS CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS**

In June 2019, US 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/u475o2m6aa7ao13mxme5siemcufugsei>

**Regarding the Substitutions section, please know that the current procedure of managing substitutions on the team bench side is to continue. Substituted players must leave the field of play at the half line near their team bench. Please do not allow players to leave the field of play other than at the team bench side.**

While the new procedures adopted by IFAB assist in eliminating time wasting at the professional level where playing fields are surrounded by barriers and security measures, our concern at the youth level is to avoid any possible conflict between a player leaving the field and spectators that may line the field in areas other than at the team bench area. In the youth soccer environment, generally there are no barriers or security between the playing field and spectators, thus there is an opportunity for interaction between a player leaving the field of play and spectators. This should be avoided by continuing to manage the substitution process at midfield between the team benches.

## **SPECIFIC CONFERENCE REFEREE INSTRUCTIONS**

In addition, each 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.*