

Referee FAQs



REFEREE FAQs 2026/7

Below are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions:-

1. What size goals are used and what is the format?

Under 8s	Mini-soccer 12 x 6 ft	-	5 v 5
Under 9s	Mini-soccer 12 x 6 ft	-	5 v 5
Under 10s	Mini-soccer 12 x 6 ft	-	7 v 7
Under 11s	Mini-soccer 12 x 6 ft	-	7 v 7
Under 12s	16 x 7 ft	-	9 v 9
Under 13s	16 x 7 ft	-	9 v 9
Under 14s	Full size	-	11 v 11
Under 15s	Full size	-	11 v 11
Under 16s	Full size	-	11 v 11
Under 17s	Full size	-	11 v 11
Under 18s	Full size	-	11 v 11

2. How long is each match and what are the kick off times?

No match shall kick off earlier than 10.00 am or later than 3.00 pm (2.30 for the months November to February)

Under 8s	—	4 x 10 minute quarters
Under 9s	—	4 x 10 minute quarters
Under 10s	—	25 minutes each way
Under 11s	—	25 minutes each way
Under 12s	—	30 minutes each way
Under 13s	—	30 minutes each way
Under 14s	—	35 minutes each way
Under 15s	—	35 minutes each way
Under 16s	—	40 minutes each way
Under 17s	—	45 minutes each way
Under 18s	—	45 minutes each way

3. What should I wear and what do I need to take with me?

All Referees should wear approved Referee kit consisting of black shirt, shorts and socks, (NB - socks with white trim are only permitted if wearing a shirt with a white collar), socks should be worn up and your parent County badge should be displayed. Your boots should be black. All kit should be clean.

The equipment you need to take with you is: - flags, whistle, timekeeping devices (excluding phones), pencil, paper (a match pad sheet is recommended) and a coin. Don't forget your Red and Yellow cards but hope you don't have to use them! A ball pressure gauge is more reliable than pressing the ball with your thumbs!!

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4. How much do I get paid?

Under 8	£20
Under 9	£20
Under 10	£22
Under 11	£22
Under 12	£27
Under 13	£27
Under 14	£30
Under 15	£30
Under 16	£35
Under 17	£40
Under 18	£40

If you attend a match and the pitch is not playable you are entitled to half a match fee. If you attend a match that has been cancelled due to the team not contacting you, you are entitled to full match fee. For “double headers” you are entitled to 1.5 x referees fee to be paid equally by both teams.

If you are appointed by the League as an assistant referee you are entitled to the same fee as the referee.

5. Ball size

U8-U11	3
U12-U13	4
U14- U18	5

6. How much extra time is played in a Cup game?

NO EXTRA TIME. STRAIGHT TO PENALTIES

Note that in Mini Soccer (up to under 11) this is 3 penalties each followed by sudden death.

Under 12 and above is 5 penalties each followed by sudden death.

6. Who is the Match Delegate?

All Matches shall have a nominated ‘match delegate’ for each team, each delegate shall wear a MHRML ‘Match Delegate’ Bib.

Match Delegates should be introduced to the Referee 15 minutes before the start of the game and should not be either the Manager or Coach of the teams playing. They are there to help you manage their spectators and coaches.

In addition, the Home Match Delegate is there to ensure a Respect Barrier is provided for all spectators to stand behind. Team Officials and Substitutes are to be on the other touchline.

7. Minimum number of players required to start a match

11 v 11 Minimum of 7 players

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9 v 9	Minimum of 6 players
7 v 7	Minimum of 5 players
5 v 5	Minimum of 4 players

8. What do I need to do when I arrive at the Game?

Make sure you arrive in plenty of time (30 mins before KO) to check that your pitch is properly marked out, the goals and nets are properly fixed and the pitch is safe to use (e.g. Stones, Large Sticks, Holes, Dog Poo etc.) It is not your job to sort out any problems, get the Home Match Delegate to do so.

Be prompt, be smart and be decisive. You are representing the League at the match.

Reminders for all MHRML Referees

Before the Match

- Check the website to see if you have been allocated a fixture.
- If your game has not been confirmed by 9pm on Tuesday, be proactive and contact the home team copy the Referee Coordinator in so that they are also aware.
- If you unavailable to referee on any date let the Referee Coordinator know as soon as possible, so you won't get allocated a fixture. If you have already been given a fixture please contact both the home team and the referee coordinator ASAP.

At the Match

- Make sure you turn up at least 30 minutes before kick off
- Make sure you are wearing the appropriate clean smart kit.
- Introduce yourself to managers, match delegates and club linesmen.
- Record the names of the match delegates and tell them what you want them to do.
- Give your instructions to both club linesmen at the same time and Thank them for helping you.
- Inspect the pitch to make sure it is playable. Look out for:
 - frozen ruts and/or standing water
 - debris on the pitch (stones, glass, sticks etc)
 - dog poo or other animal droppings
 - rabbit holes, and
 - anything else that might be dangerous to players.
- Check that the lines are clearly marked and that the goal posts and nets are secure and the corner flags are in place.
- Report any issues to the home team. Get them to fix them if they can.
- If the pitch is not playable **do not** play the game and report why to the referee coordinator.
- Parents and spectators should stand behind the respect barrier on one side of the pitch. The manager, coaches and substitutes should be on the other side of the pitch.
- Make sure each team has the minimum number of players.
- Make sure the teams check their opponents' ref sec player sheet.
- Make sure the teams carry out the Respect handshakes before the game.
- If the weather is very cold, the League has no objection to players wearing gloves but not tracksuit trousers.

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- Be wary if you are asked to Referee a friendly amongst one squad if one of the teams does not turn up. How will you deal with any misdemeanors or disciplinary problems?

During the Game

- Give clear signals.
- Be confident in your decisions.
- Let the game flow and play advantage where appropriate.
- When you blow your whistle make sure all players can hear it.
- Take disciplinary action when needed.

After the Game

- Complete the on-line match result google form.
- Send in any disciplinary reports to the appropriate County Association. (Be prompt with this as Player Suspensions start after 7 days.