**Pelham Referee’s Instructions**

* Arrive early. Do a safety inspection of the field and goals before play begins.
* Be very polite. You are in charge. They are playing on your field.
* Referees will perform cleat, uniform, and attire checks in the center of the field not the sidelines. The children come to you.
* Coaches responsible for moving goals to reconfigure fields for play and at end of day.
* Ask coaches to provide two volunteer to be line persons.
* Games start with a coin flip and winner chooses either to kick off or side of field.
* Coaches may ask the referee why he made a call or ask about the rule during the break at the half or after the game.
* Referees may not argue with Parents or Coaches. They are to be given my phone number 629-1220 (cell) for any complaints.
* The Coaches from both teams must be together to have any discussion with the referee, and only in the center of the field, away from players and spectators.
* Coaches are required to control their Parents and Spectators.
* A younger player can be asked to sit out a quarter and older players can be carded for bad sportsmanship.
* The referee will stop the game, call the coaches onto the field, and ask them to control bad sportsmanship from players, coaches, or parents.

**Players will not be allowed to play**

* If they are not wearing soccer cleats and shin guards.
* If they have a hard cast or hard arm braces, unless they are properly padded.
* If they will not remove all their jewelry.

**Have players:**

* Wear long socks over their shin guards to hold the guards in place.
* Tuck their uniform shirts into their shorts or pants.

Coaches and spectators may not sit or stand on the goal sides of the fields during game play. The game can be stopped to move them. Spectators’ chairs and/or belongings must several feet from playing area for the player’s safety. Spectators must allow linesman plenty of room to follow the ball along side the lines.

**Substitution and Game Balance**

* Substitutions are only made during the quarter and half breaks, except for injuries. Also there can be an extra forth quarter 1 minute substitution break for larger teams to equalize playing time only. Coaches will tell you before the game if they need the extra break.
* Every player must play two quarters, half the game. As a general rule, all players should play three quarters before some players play four quarters.
* Teams are to be balanced. If you find a team ahead by 4 points in the first quarter, the balance is way off. Coaches especially in 1st & 2nd and 3rd & 4th grades should use strategies to balance the game. The coach of the stronger team might put their stronger players on defense and give weaker players a chance to play offense.

**Injuries on the field**

**Stop play immediately** ifa player is bleeding, or their injury is visibly serious, or a player is down on the field near the ball and the player is in danger of being kicked.

**Stop play within 15-20 seconds** if a player is down, but has no visible injuries and is not in danger from other players or the ball, allowing time for a shot on goal, the ball to go out of bounds, or possession to change.

**Do not stop play for a crying player who is ambulatory.** Small children fall a lot. Parents may get upset. Coaches may either call the player off the field, or quickly pick them up and take them to the sideline.

**Game Information & Responsibilities**

**1st & 2nd grade**

* 10 minute quarters, 2 ½ minute substitute break between 1stand 3rd quarters, and 5 minute half time break. 40 minutes play, 50 minutes in all – 6 players per side. No goalie. Size 3 ball.
* Only one coach from each team on the field during game play. Coaches should not interfere with game play.

**Responsibilities**

* Your job is to teach soccer rules to the children.
* Quarters begin with alternating team kickoff, but teams change sides only at the half.
* Throw-ins must be done correctly. Demonstrate proper throw-in. Allow as many tries as needed.
* Double touch rules must be enforced. Teach the rule and allow the child to kick or throw again.
* Do not let children stay in an off side position especially near the goal. Have their coach move them. A goal scored from off side does not count. Restart play with goal kick by the defending team.
* Do not let the coaches interfere with game play, block the ball, stand in front of the goal, etc.
* Do not call handballs unless the player intentionally handles the ball.
* Handball, in the box, opposing team awarded a throw in near the corner flag.
* No slide tackling. No kicking at the ball once goalie has touched it.

**3rd & 4th grade**

* 12 ½ minute quarters, 2 ½ minute substitute break between 1stand 3rd quarters, and 5 minute half time break. 50 minutes play, 60 minutes in all. 8 players per side. Size 4 baIl.
* Coaching from non-goal sides of field only, outside playing area.

**Responsibilities**

* Quarters begin with alternating team kickoff, but teams change sides only at the half.
* Throw-ins must be done correctly. Demonstrate for the first week of the season. Each team get one re-do per game for the first infraction only.
* Double touch rules must be enforced. Explain the call.
* Call obvious off sides. Explain off sides if needed.
* Do not call handballs unless the player intentionally handles the ball.
* Handball, in the box, opposing team awarded a kick 15 paces but to the far right or far left of goal line.
* No kicking at the ball once goalie has touched it.
* No slide tackling.

**5th, 6th, and 7th grade**

* 15 minute quarters, 2 ½ minute substitute break between 1stand 3rd quarters, and 5 minute half time break. 60 minutes play, 70 minutes in all. 9 players per side- size 4 ball.
* Coaching from non-goal sides of field only, outside playing area.

**Responsibilities**

* All rules are enforced
* The teams change sides at the half.
* Quarter breaks starts at a stop in play and restart where play stopped.
* No kicking at the ball once goalie has touched it.
* No slide tackling.

***If you have any problems during a game with coaches, spectators, or players call Peter Romaniuk immediately, at 1-401-323-1423(cell). Get the name of the team or coach. It is my responsibility to resolve problems not yours. If you can not reach me call Mike Iannuzzi at*** (***914) 629-6098(cell).***