

Surrey Youth League Referee Role in Match Day Respect

Referee Responsibility

First of all thank you for volunteering to help the Children on a Sunday morning play in a friendly and sporting environment by being an appointed or voluntary referee. It is time that the adults on a Sunday morning took back control from the small mindless people that occasionally spoil the children's game.

The league has been working with the FA's to develop processes to tackle the unnecessary levels of touchline abuse directed at Referees and Linesman; for 2016-17 the League was granted a fully FA sanctioned pilot to trial the eradication of this problem. Following the success of the pilot, from the 2017-18 season onwards these Match Day Respect processes are now approved by the FA and are fully adopted by the Surrey Youth League. Refereeing in this league means that you must be aware of and follow these process.

Your Role as a Referee for Match Day Respect is as follow:-

1. Firstly to meet and greet with the Respect Marshals from the two teams,
2. If a Team does not have a Respect Marshal then it falls to their manager to act in this role for the match, but you must still report the team as not providing a dedicated Respect Marshal.
3. It maybe that you brief the Managers and the Respect Marshals at the same time – saves time.
4. Your Briefing should consist of:-
 - a. Exchange of Names – you will need these for the match report
 - b. If you are Under 18 please inform those at the briefing
 - c. Clarify that you are aware of the Match Day Respect processes and that if there are respect issues in the game between Managers, Spectators or Linesman then you will stop the game and call the Respect Marshals on to the pitch and inform them of the culprits, who will now be reported to the league by you.
 - d. Clarify if further issues occur then you take the process down the formal misconduct route of either sending the culprit away, abandoning games etc,etc and report this to the FA, it would be useful to note in your report that you had implemented the Respect Marshal Warning.
 - e. Ensure everyone understands that Spectators are not to stand behind their opposition's Linesman.
5. Clarify that you will have a two minute Post Match Debrief to clarify the names of anyone involved in any disrespect incident.

Key Restrictions

Please make sure that both teams are aware of the following restrictions. If they do not follow them warn their Respect Marshal at the time and report the incident as a breach.

1. Members of a team including their spectators must not stand behind their opposition's linesman.
2. Managers and Coaches are being asked to stand in one area only, as per best practice guidance.
3. Respect Marshals are now mandatory at all matches in all age groups. If a team refuses to provide one, then play the game and report this to the league on your report form.

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Disrespect – What can I tolerate

1. Essentially this is down to you, but this process is aimed at stopping the continuous questioning and general abuse that managers and spectators from time to time hurl at referees.
2. However the odd “Oh ref” or polite enquiries is part of the game, we are not trying to dilute competitive passionate sport, but there is a line.
3. The league’s position is that a respect breach is a “Yellow Card” to the manager and spectators, use it as a tool to manage the situation.
4. For older experienced referees you have ways of dealing with it, but do not let it continue in a game, just use the Respect Marshals to inform them of unacceptable touchline abuse.
5. If you are a younger referee U18, you should not feel vulnerable, use the Respect Marshals as a liaison point to manage their own touchline, you should never feel threatened or abused in a game, we want you to enjoy the experience.
6. Also please ensure that Linesman are not being abused or indeed players are being abused by adults, report these issues as well.

After Match, Reporting the Game

Anyone who referees in a Surrey Youth League game MUST submit a match report this includes scores, fairplay marks and any respect breaches. If you do not report matches then we may choose not to use you as a referee, part of your fee is to report the match results to the league.

Please do not think that by submitting a SYL Result Card that you can ignore the Whole Game System. You must still use the FA’s Whole Games System to report Player Cautions, Player Sendings Off and Misconduct of anyone associated with a club, it is only fairplay marks and respect breaches that are dealt with by the League.

The Match Result Card is to be found at:-

<http://www.prawnsandwich.com/views/reportSelection.php>

There are you tube demo’s of how to fill in the Referee Match Result Card, its no more than a 5 minute job.

<https://youtu.be/0s3-87B18DQ>

Reporting Why is it Important

The league needs to monitor around 450 matches each week, we need the referees to report the good, the bad and the ugly. We have people who look at the data that you send in and we can then take action as necessary with the Clubs.

In many cases Clubs are not aware of what happens within individual teams, by reporting you are helping the league and the clubs to raise standards. If you fail to report or deal with the idiots then you are potentially providing a platform for the culprit to continue week in week out and abuse other referees.