

## **Guidelines for SOCA Referees**

1. Show up for games at **least 20 minutes** prior to start time. Identify yourself to the team's coaches; check player equipment; assess field conditions and inform coaches of any problems. Check the Rules of Play for any equipment restrictions (e.g., all players must have shin guards).
2. You are responsible for determining if the game can be safely played. If at any time weather (or other) conditions make playing unsafe, stop the game.
3. **Check [www.SOCAspot.org](http://www.SOCAspot.org) or call the weather line before going to your matches if there is any doubt about the weather!! The weather line is 817-7426.** A decision on whether to cancel all matches for the day will be made prior to 8 AM. If the decision is made to play matches, but weather conditions are expected to worsen, the message may identify additional times when the message will be updated. If you are scheduled for matches that would be affected by a later message, you are responsible to check the later message and act on its guidance. If SOCA has not canceled its matches, but weather conditions have continued to deteriorate, you are responsible for determining to play. The **safety** of the participants is your primary concern. Once you have determined that conditions warrant the cancellation of a match, you may consider all of your remaining matches at that field cancelled.
4. Have the proper equipment & attire. **Equipment** includes a watch, whistle, game card, coin and red and yellow cards. The **proper attire** includes black shoes, black socks and black shorts. The first choice for the uniform shirt is the USSF Yellow Ref Shirt. When doing Rec/Challenge matches you may wear a black t-shirt when one of the teams wears yellow.
5. Make distinct calls. **Whistle loudly**, and give a **clear hand signal** of any call.
6. In U10 & U12 age group rec matches instruct occasionally (example: on errors made in taking a proper throw-in).
7. At the end of each match, the opposing teams should shake hands. Be present at the center of the field to observe and when possible prevent unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. Ensure that both goals are **anchored or secured** to prevent them from falling.

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