**Minutes for Spring 2024 ASC Pre-Season Referee meeting
on 3/27/24
—for Grassroots Refs***revised 3/28/24 by Chris Carlsmith following the meeting, to include additional details*

*Zoom Link:* [~~https://uml.zoom.us/j/98399261427~~](https://uml.zoom.us/j/98399261427)Introductions
Purpose of meeting; Agenda

Announcements:

* Season begins Saturday, April 6 (weather permitting).
* Availability to referee due Sun, 3/31 in US Officials (see below).
* Uniforms: Supply your own gold jersey, black shorts, black socks, cleats; stopwatch, whistle, coin, notebook, cards and flags.
	+ 4 XS referee kits available from Chris Carlsmith
* Additional Mass Ref Recert session online on April 4 (Thurs)—see MassRef
* Referee Appreciation Day = May 11-12, 2024.
* Game Management per BAYS—stop disrespectful behavior early in the match; use yellow cards as necessary to discourage taunting, swearing, etc;
* Minutes will be posted on 3/28 following the meeting.
1. 3 keywords for all ASC referees: SAFE – FAIR – FUN.
2. Referee Resources: See “[Referee Resources](https://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/referees/resources/)” on ASC webpage for multiple links to Laws of the Game (LOTG), IFAB app, BAYS and ASC rules, Uniform requirements, Certification, etc.
3. [US Officials](https://usofficials.com/) (USOfficials.com) – this is the site for registering as an ASC referee. You will need your contact information and bank information, so please do this with a parent.
	* Returning referees should already have an account with US Officials. If you are a brand-new Grassroots referee and do not have an account with US Officials, please contact ASC Referee Director Chris Carlsmith (chris.carlsmith@gmail.com).
4. [Game Assignments](https://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/referees/game-assignment/)/Scheduling – All referees input availability (by Sunday night for the following weekend) and accept/reject games at <https://usofficials.com>.
	* Sunday – Referees input availability
	* Monday – Games are assigned;
	* Tuesday – Referees accept/reject games
	* Wednesday – Open games are announced via email
	* Wed-Fri – Referees respond to Paul A. directly via email, and schedule is finalized.

NOTE: BAYS referees must accept/reject games in US Officials AND in BAYS. BAYS games can be accepted/rejected at at <https://bays.org>, then Login 🡪 MyBAYS 🡪 Referee 🡪 Game Accept/Reject. This is somewhat duplicative, but necessary to get paid.

1. Game Reports (and payment) – Complete game reports within 48 hours of the game.
	* BAYS games are reported at <https://bays.org>, then Login 🡪 MyBAYS 🡪 Referee 🡪 Game Report Management (NOTE: not at USOfficials.com!]
	* Payment happens three times each season and should happen automatically via check or Direct Deposit (your choice).
		1. Payment in Spring 2024 will be after week 3, week 6, week 9, and June 30.
	* Games must be reported by the end of the season, or you risk not getting paid for them.
	* For last-minute changes, update US Officials, AND contact Paul Athanasiadis at paul2319@gmail.com and Chris Carlsmith at chris.carlsmith@gmail.com.
2. Game Cancellations
	* The Town and the ASC usually make decisions about whether fields are open/closed on a given day due to weather, maintenance, or other factors.
	Decisions by 7:00 am for weekend morning games, and 10:30 am for weekend afternoon games.
	* Referees may also declare a field to be “unplayable” and cancel a game. This is generally done in consultation with coaches, but it is ultimately the referee’s decision.
	* [ASC Weather policy](https://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/weather-policy/) re: thunder/lightning
	* Coaches should cancel games by Thursday 7:00 pm for a weekend match.

See table at bottom of agenda re: whether referees are paid for cancelled games.

1. Create a BAYS Referee Account
	* Once you have completed your training requirements for certification by MassRef, follow instructions to create a BAYS Referee account: See <https://bays.org/content/referee-application-create-referee-account>.
2. Codes of Conduct from Mass Youth Soccer
	* [**Player’s Code of Conduct**](https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/mass_youth_soccer_players_code_of_conduct_jan_23.pdf)
	* [**Coach’s Code of Conduct**](https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/mass_youth_soccer_coaches_code_of_conduct_jan_23.pdf)
	* [**Parent’s / Guardian’s / Spectator’s Code of Conduct**](https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/mass_youth_soccer_parents_code_of_conduct_jan_23.pdf)
	* [**Soccer Official’s Code of Conduct**](https://mayouthsoccer.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/mass_youth_soccer_referees_code_of_conduct_jan_23.pdf)
3. Game Day Reminders
	* Check ASC website and your email re: possible cancellations.
	* Arrive at least 30 minutes before kickoff, with uniform, whistle, pen, coin, and other equipment.
	* Consult with fellow referees (if any), and inspect the field.
	* Check coaches’ credentials—name, photo, current season. Coach credentials must be in-person (not on phone); lack of credential means that person sits on parents’ side of field. Max of 3 coaches per team.
	* Obtain paper team roster from each coach. No write-in additions for players!
	* Check-in players and their equipment: inspect uniform, cleats, jewelry, casts.
		1. Use player numbers and/or names (practice ahead of time!)
	* Coin Toss with team captain(s). Begin game on time. 15-minute grace period for late arrivals.
	* The minimum number of players for each team are present:

Seven (7) players to start for 11v11;

Seven (7) players to start for for 9v9;

Six (6) players to start for 7v7.

1. BAYS Rules of competition.
	* Comparison chart of In-Town vs. BAYS rules, at <http://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ASC-2020-In-Town-and-BAYS-Rules-Summary-Grid.pdf>
	* BAYS Rules for competition: <https://bays.org/book/playing-rules-and-regulations-bays-soccer-competition>
	* Game Rules Summary Chart for BAYS: <https://bays.org/book/game-rule-summary-chart>
2. Laws of the Game & Recent Rule Changes: See [IFAB app](https://www.theifab.com/).
Law 3: Extra person on the field when goal is scored—must be actively involved.
Law 7: Add extra time for excessive goal celebrations (and for other reasons too). ASC games are tightly scheduled due to limited field space, so we don’t usually add extra time.
Law 11: Offside does not apply if defender deliberately tries to play the ball.
Law 14: Goalkeeper may not unfairly distract the kicker on a penalty kick.
3. [Zero Tolerance](https://bays.org/content/zero-tolerance-policy) Policy
	* Designed to protect referees from abuse and harassment.
	* Required by BAYS and by ASC.
		1. Essential Elements of ZT policy:
		 - Players may talk to referee (respectfully) before, during, or after game
		- Coaches may ask questions before game, call for subs, or point out emergencies. Coaches may NOT yell, dispute calls, offer advice, use sarcasm, throw their clipboard, or intimidate the referee.
		- Spectators may cheer but may NOT yell, dispute calls, or offer advice.
		- Referees must submit Game Reports, including ZT violations as needed.
* Consequences for violations of ZT (altered Spring 2024)
ZT-1: Clubs track, monitor, and impose sanctions as they see fit;
ZT-2: One-game suspension
ZT-3: Two-game suspension

If violator coach is not identified, head coach serves suspension.
If violator is a spectator, all spectators are forbidden at next game.
Violations are tracked for 4 seasons (2 years) as repeat offenses.

1. Review Direct Free Kick (DFK) and Indirect Free Kick Fouls (IFK)
	* DFK = violation with physical contact/handball; IFK = no physical contact
	* DFK = kicking, tripping, jumping, charging, striking, pushing, holding; & spitting & handling.
	* IFK = dangerous play, obstruction, dissent, blocking GK kick; GK offenses inside the penalty box like delay, pick-up of deliberate pass.
2. Grassroots Referee Certification Information. Information about becoming a Grassroots Referee (ages 14 and older) can be found at these two websites: [https://www.massref.net/becoming-a-referee/steps-to-become-referee/](https://www.massref.net/becoming-a-referee/steps-to-become%20referee/) and <https://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/referees/referee-certification/>. Courses are offered online and/or in-person for referees who will be 14 years old before April 1st.
	* Intro to Safety (US Soccer Learning Center) online module
	* 2 electives at appropriate level (I, II, III) via Mass Ref, online or in-person
	* Field Session (for new referees) via Mass Ref, in-person
	* Written test (50 questions, 80% = passing), Fee payment ($50)
3. Questions in Future:
	* Contact Paul Athanasiadis, ASC Referee Assignor, with questions about assignments at
	paul2319@gmail.com.
	* Contact Chris Carlsmith, ASC Referee Director, with other questions at Chris.Carlsmith@gmail.com
4. Q&A with Chris Carlsmith

Table from BAYS re Game Cancellation and Referee Payment 