**Minutes for Spring 2024 ASC Pre-Season Referee meeting   
on 3/27/24—for In-Town Refs***updated on 3/28/24 by Chris Carlsmith*

*Zoom link:* [~~https://uml.zoom.us/j/98399261427~~](https://uml.zoom.us/j/98399261427)~~.~~

* Introductions & Logistics (webcam, hand-raising, Chat)
* Purpose of meeting; Agenda
* Recap of In-Town Workshop on 3/19 with Damian Arrondo
  + Slide request pending….
  + “What can you do to succeed?” = Knowledge, Attire, On-Time, Signals

Announcements:

* Season begins Saturday, April 6 (weather permitting).
* Availability to referee due Sun, 3/31 in US Officials (see below).
* In-Town Uniforms: pickup at 219 Crosby St (near Bishop School)
  + 5:00-7:00 pm on Wed 4/3, or Thu, 4/4, or Fri 4/5.
  + Supply your own black shorts, socks, cleats; whistle, watch, coin, notebook.
* Future Training: with Lexington Soccer Club on Mon, June 10 from 6-8 pm in-person, for aspiring In-Town referees for Fall 2024.
* Yellow-Red cards generally not used by In-Town Referees
* Referee Appreciation Day = May 11-12, 2024.
* Minutes of this meeting will posted shortly after the meeting, on ASC website under “Referee Resources”.

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), 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.
   * Names and emails of all new In-Town referees have been submitted to US Officials on Wed 3/20. Prior to our Pre-Season meeting on 3/27, you (or a parent) should receive a login ID and password from US Officials. You (and a parent) should log in to enter your information. See email of 3/21 from Chris Carlsmith with more details.
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.
5. Game Reports (and payment) – Complete game reports within 24 hours of the game.
   * In-town games are reported at <https://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](mailto:paul2319@gmail.com) and Chris Carlsmith at [chris.carlsmith@gmail.com](mailto:chris.carlsmith@gmail.com).
6. 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.
7. 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)
8. Game Day Reminders
   * Check ASC website and your email re: possible cancellations.
   * Arrive at least 30 minutes before kickoff, with uniform, whistle, stopwatch pen, coin, and other equipment. (cards and flags not necessary)
   * Consult with fellow referees, and inspect the field. (NOTE: In-town referees are solo.)
   * 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 3 coaches per team.
   * [Obtain team roster from each coach. No write-in additions for players! NOTE: checking to see if Grades 2 and 3-4 have paper rosters….]
   * 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:

Six (6) players to start for 7v7.  
Four (4) players to start for 5v5.

1. In-Town Rules for ASC.
   * Grade 2 rules in-town: <http://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ASC-2020-Grade-2-In-Town-Rules.pdf>
   * Grade 3-4 rules in-town: <http://www.arlingtonsoccerclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ASC-2020-Grades-3-and-4-In-Town-Rules.pdf>
   * 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>
2. Laws of the Game & Some Recent Rule Changes for 2023-24: See [IFAB app](https://www.theifab.com/).
   * Law 3: Extra person on the field when goal is scored—must be actively involved in the goal-scoring for the goal to be disallowed. This is rare.
   * Law 7: Add extra time for excessive goal celebrations (and for other reasons too). This does not apply to In-Town or Grade 2 games, as we need to start/end games on time.
   * Law 11: Offside does not apply if defender deliberately tries to play the ball. This does not apply to In-Town or Grade 2 games
   * Law 14: Goalkeeper may not unfairly distract the kicker on a penalty kick. This does not apply to Grade 2 or In-Town games.
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. 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/>.
2. Questions in Future:
   * Contact Paul Athanasiadis, ASC Referee Assignor, with questions about assignments at  
     [paul2319@gmail.com](mailto:paul2319@gmail.com).
   * Contact Chris Carlsmith, ASC Referee Director, with other questions at [Chris.Carlsmith@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.Carlsmith@gmail.com).
3. Q&A with Chris Carlsmith

Table from BAYS re Game Cancellation and Referee PaymentA table with a list of information

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