

**LOWER ISLAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**“SITUATIONAL AWARENESS”**  
**BULLETIN #3**

1. **Green Armband Initiative**: Effective the start of the 2023/24 season, officials under the age of 16, who are often in just their first or second year of refereeing, will be wearing green armbands, which is part of a new LISA initiative. The intention is to let everybody know that we've got rookies out there who are young referee's who are just doing their job and trying to get better as they go along, so please leave them alone as these are our referee's of the future ! Complementary to the "Zero Tolerance for Ref Abuse" banners and sign boards that were introduced in 2022 it is proposed that the Green Armband initiative will further contribute positively to the recruitment and retention of officials. The objective is to reduce the verbal harassment and abuse of grassroots officials by clearly identifying them as “youth” to coaches, parents, players and league officials. It is hoped that this action will prevent those who wish to give our youngest of referee's a hard time, from doing so.
2. **Flag Technique While Sidestepping**: a friendly reminder that the flag should always be on the “field side.” Assistant referees are asked to keep the flag in the left hand **at all times** when side stepping. This allows the flag to be visible to the referee as much as possible. If the assistant referee's next action is to make a signal with the right hand, they are reminded to switch hands below the waist before raising the flag.

3. **Advantage Signal**: you may have seen some referee's on TV, in other countries etc., signalling for advantage using only one arm. The Canadian Soccer Association has taken the position that referee's may use one arm OR both when signalling for advantage.
  
4. **Game Reports**: game reports are required for all games u14-18. These should be completed via the LISA Online Game Reporting tool within 48 hours of the completion of the game. If there is discipline to report the game report should be submitted within 24 hours. The online game reporting webpage is:  
<https://www.lowerislandsoccer.com/referees/online-game-discipline-report/>
  
5. **Game and Discipline Reporting for Red Cards**.  
When reporting on a red card shown to a player and/or a team coach or manager, providing more detailed information is encouraged in order that the Discipline Committee can make an informed decision with respect to the length of the likely suspension. The referee should provide factual information as to what they saw or heard, not an "opinion" as to what might have happened. This should include any details that the AR's can provide. The game report should also include any abuse or harassment received from supporter's that was not dealt with by the offending team. With respect to abuse and harassment hurled at the officiating crew from the bench remember the "ASK-TELL-DISMISS" protocol is a valuable tool in the referee's tool kit. In situations like this I would encourage you not to wait but take action when a coach is persistently committing dissent. Use all the tools in your referee tool kit — those being your voice; your whistle; and your cards.  
Three steps:

1 - sharp whistle. “**ASK**” the coach to stop questioning your decisions.

2- sharper whistle. “**TELL**” the coach you’ve already given him a verbal warning and show him the yellow card.

3- long sharpest whistle. “**SHOW**” him a red card and “dismiss” the coach. Don’t restart the game until he has left the field. If he refuses to leave, abandon the game...LISA will support you.

6. **Players Wearing a Cast Policy**: The Canada Soccer policy document is designed to reduce inconsistencies in rulings over players wearing casts. Law 4 states that a player may not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous. It further states that non-dangerous protective equipment is permitted as long as it has the sole purpose of protecting the individual physically providing that it poses no danger to the individual or any other player. Modern protective equipment made of soft, light weight, padded materials are not considered dangerous and are therefore permitted. Hard casts are considered to pose a danger to both the wearer and other players and are not permitted to be worn. The practice of padding a hard cast does not reduce the element of danger. Players wearing a soft cast will be permitted to play if the cast does not present a danger to the individual or any other player. The cast must be inspected and approved by the referee.

7. **What is “Added Time ?”** Allowance for “time lost” is to be made by the referee in each half for all playing time lost through:

- substitutions
- wasting time
- disciplinary sanctions

- injury stoppages
- any other cause, (e.g. goal celebrations)

There could be situations whereby “time is added to added time.” For example, a player is injured during added time. It takes 2 minutes to deal with the injury and restart play. In this case, an additional 2 minutes would be added to the already existing amount of added time.

**8 .Abandoning or Suspending a Game:** the referee has full authority to stop, abandon or suspend a game if the lights go out, are not on or the lighting is inadequate. This decision is all about player safety.

**9 Net Check:** Conduct a thorough net check upon arrival at the field so any issues can be dealt with well in advance of kick off. Followed by a “ceremonial” (quick) net check just before KO and again at half time.

**10 Pro Tip: How to Warm Up Like a Premier League Referee:** Warming up is a vital but often overlooked facet of match day prep. It prevents injury, gets your blood pumping and is an important ritual to get you into the right mindset.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atZwifd0NwQ>**

Any questions, please reach out to me via text or email, OR if you have any suggestions for future bulletins please let me know.

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