



LISA Referee Handbook

May 2026
v5.2



“Positive experiences for everyone in a unified soccer community.”

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Introduction



The Lower Island Soccer Association (LISA) Referee Handbook was developed to serve as a practical and valuable reference guide for referees officiating matches directly assigned by the association or by its member club associations. LISA recognizes the critical role that referees play in the sport and is committed to enhancing their knowledge, skills, and confidence on the field.



Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the information contained within this handbook, please contact LISA Referee Development Officer, Al Moir at referees@lowerislandsoccer.com.

The information contained within this handbook is current as of April 2026.



In June 2022, LISA appointed Al Moir as its Referee Development Officer (RDO). The RDO position was developed to provide additional support and services to our member clubs in line with LISA's [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#) strategic priority to “support opportunities for the development of...officials...”

Al Moir, LISA Referee Development Officer



Email:

referees@lowerislandsoccer.com

Referee Development Officer Role & Responsibilities

- Provides leadership and oversight to all aspects of referee development in the lower island
- As Supervisor of Officials, assigns referees to all Cup Finals in the LISA
- Implements programs that promote and foster the growth and retention of officials
- Develops programming in support of the recruitment, retention and development of referees



The Situational Awareness Bulletins (SABs), developed by LISA Referee Development Officer Al Moir, share best practices and guidelines to support ongoing referee education.

They are distributed to Head Referees, who then share them with affiliated referees.



[Click the icon above to find the SABs on the LISA website!](#)

Policies, Initiatives and Guidelines



Zero Tolerance Policy & Green Armband Initiative

LISA has a Zero Tolerance policy against the abuse of officials. To help reduce verbal abuse and harassment of youth officials, LISA has implemented the **Green Armband Initiative** which identifies these officials as grassroots-level referees.

The LISA **Green Armband Initiative** took effect for the 2023/24 season.

All LISA referees **under the age of 16** will wear a **Green Armband** to signify their status as a youth / grassroots official.

This initiative was developed in partnership with:



This Green Armband means:



To learn more about the **Green Armband Initiative**, click the image above!



Released: November 1st, 2023

To: All Members and Participants

As an organization dedicated to fostering youth soccer, Lower Island Soccer Association stands firm in our commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all participants, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or background. As a district LISA has seen an unprecedented rise in on-field aggression, severe discipline, referee abuse, and racial abuse. We are particularly troubled and saddened by these reports of racial abuse within our district, which have no place in our sport or in society at large.

We recognize that eradicating racial abuse from youth soccer is a long-term commitment that requires the collaboration and dedication of all members of our soccer community. It is incumbent upon us all to create an environment where every participant feels safe, valued, and empowered.

Lower Island Soccer Association is actively working with partners INclusion INCorporated to bring forward initiatives that are dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion within our district. We are committed to implementing and reinforcing stringent anti-racism policies and aim to promote cultural sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among our players, coaches, parents, and supporters.

At all times all participants in soccer must comply with the [BCSA Conduct and Ethics Policy](#) which supports and complies with the British Columbia Universal Code of Conduct ([BC UCC](#)). Any violations of the Code are subject to review and disciplinary procedures according to the [BCSA Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Policy](#).

We encourage individuals to report any incidents of racial abuse, discrimination, or harassment promptly via BCSA's judicial party, ITP "Integrity Counts" system here: <https://www.integritycounts.ca/org/itpsport>, or via phone at 1-800-758-9412.

Regards,
Mike Synnuck,
On behalf of the LISA Board of Directors



LISA Rules and Regulations, Rule 704: Game Abandonment outlines the procedures and considerations related to game abandonment.






Rule Statement: Referees will abandon a game if they consider that the players, spectators, or referees are at risk and will not be able to play or enjoy the game.

If a game is abandoned, LISA will determine whether it will be replayed or how the points will be awarded.

REFEREES	THE 'HOME' ORGANIZATION	LISA
<p>will decide if the reason to abandon the game:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is due to actions of the coach, players, and / or spectators of either one or both teams is due to factors outside the control of the teams (such as weather or injury) will report that the game has been abandoned to the 'home' organization and LISA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will inform LISA that the game has been abandoned will provide the grounds for the decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will review the circumstances leading to the game being abandoned; will grant approval for the game to be replayed if the causes were outside the control of the teams; will not grant a replay unless there are special circumstances; may consider a match complete if the game was abandoned having completed 2/3rd (two thirds) of the match (53 minutes for 80 minute matches, and 60 minutes for 90 minute matches) if the abandonment was outside the control of the teams; LISA has the final authority to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> declare that the score at the time of the abandonment is the final score if one team caused the abandonment and the opposing team is ahead; score 1-0 in favor of the opposing team if the team causing the abandonment is ahead; score 1-0 in favor of the opposing team if one team caused the abandonment and the score is tied; a score of zero to both teams if both teams caused the abandonment.



All competitions within LISA adhere to the following Canada Soccer and BC Soccer policies and guidelines:

Canada Soccer Policies		
 Players Wearing Casts Policy	 Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy	 Insulin Pump Policy
BC Soccer Guidelines		
 Air Quality Safety Guidelines	 Extreme Heat Guidelines	

General Referee Information





Referees can work on developing the following skills to support their success on the field:

- Communication and leadership
- Confidence and resilience
- Conflict management
- Observation and awareness
- Decision making and critical thinking
- Fitness and stamina
- Time management and organization

Bonus Benefits of refereeing:

- Build lifelong friendships
- Gain unique experiences across different competitions
- Foster a sense of community through sport
- Enjoy the "best seat in the stadium"
- Take pride in contributing to fair play and sportsmanship



The following outlines equipment for Referees and Assistant Referees:

Referee Equipment	
List of referee equipment needed:	Where can I purchase this equipment?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LISA Green Armband for referees under 16 years 2. IFAB app, if possible! (for full field matches) 3. Referee Jersey (yellow recommended) 4. Black Shorts 5. Black Soccer Socks 6. Appropriate footwear (e.g., cleats or runners) 7. Whistle (Fox 40 Classic recommended) 8. Wristwatch (using a stop-watch or cellphone is not appropriate) 9. Coin (even a quarter will do!) 10. Notebook and pencil 11. Yellow and Red Card 12. Assistant Referee Flags 13. Ball pump and gauge 14. Zip ties (a nice to have to fix a net in a bind) 	<p>You can find referee equipment at local soccer retailers (e.g., Soccerworld) or online (e.g., Soccer Express, HeyRef, Whistler Sports)</p> <p>Equipment such as a Fox 40 Classic whistle or a wrist stopwatch can commonly be found at Canadian Tire or Walmart.</p>

Note: Prior to purchasing equipment, LISA recommends checking with your Head Referee to see if any equipment is provided.
A good referee is a warm and dry referee... so dress appropriately!

Head Referee Contact Information



The following provides Head Referee contact information for each LISA Member Club Association.

Head Referee Contact Information by Member Club Association		
Club	Head Referee	Email Address
Bays United	Kristal Lowe	headreferee@baysunited.ca
Cowichan Valley	Peter Delange	pdelange@telus.net
Gorge	Mark Tarrant & Aaron Walker-Duncan	referees@gorgesoccer.ca
Juan de Fuca	Steve Clout	Executivedirector@jdfsoccer.ca
Lakehill	Al Moir	almoir@gmail.com
Prospect Lake	Joey Ratcliffe	refcoordinator@plsc.org
Peninsula	Dale West	referee@peninsulasoccer.ca
Saanich Fusion	Chris Kerridge	c_kerridge@hotmail.com
Salt Spring	Malcolm Legg	mallegg@shaw.ca
Sooke	Dean McGeough	deanmcg@shaw.ca
Westcastle	David Schmidt-Schweda	wia.referees@gmail.com
LISA	Al Moir	referees@lowerislandsoccer.com

Match Fees



The following are the match fees for LISA scheduled referee appointments.
Please note, the below rates are subject to adjustment at the local club level.

Match Fees		
Age Group	Fee by Role	
	Referee	Assistant Referee
U9	\$20	\$15
U10	\$20	\$15
U11	\$30	\$20
U12	\$30	\$20
U13	\$40	\$25
U14	\$60	\$30
U15	\$60	\$30
U16	\$60	\$30
U17	\$70	\$35
U18	\$70	\$35
Additional Notes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officials are compensated an additional \$10 per match ending in penalties (penalty shoot-out)• Officials who are Regional or Provincial level receive a \$10 premium on top of the match fees listed above		

Important Note:
Match Fees Are Currently Under Review.



The following are hyperlinked field locations used by LISA Member Club Associations:

Field Locations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adam Kerr Field• Alexander Field• Bear Mountain Turf• Beckwith Park• Belmont Turf• Blue Heron Park• Braefoot Park• Bullen Park• Carnarvon Park• Centennial Park• Centre Mountain Lellum• Doug Day Field• Evans Park• Fernwood Elementary School• Finlayson Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fred Milne Park• Glanford Park• Glenlyon Norfolk School• Goudy Field• Gulf Islands Secondary School• Hampton Park• Henderson Park• Hollywood Park• Iroquois Park• Juan De Fuca Soccer Fields• Lambrick Park• Layritz Park• Lochside Park• Maynard Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Langford Turf Field• Oak Bay High School• PISE• Portlock Park• Reynolds Park• Royal Bay Secondary School• Rudd Park• Salt Spring Middle School• Sherman Road Soccer Park• Starlight Stadium• Tyndall Turf Soccer Field• UVIC• Victoria High School• Victor-Brodeur School

Pre- and Post-Match Duties Timeline



Below is an example of a pre- and post-match duties timeline for referees to follow.

Example of Pre and Post Match Duties Timeline

REMINDER!

Referees must submit a [LISA Online Game Report](#) post match.

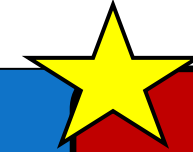
Time Before Kick Off	Activity	Additional Information
30 minutes	Field arrival	
25 minutes	Conduct field inspection	Check the field playing surface and conditions; field markings; corner flags; and goals and nets. If there are any issues, it is the home team's responsibility to correct them.
20 minutes	Collect a minimum of two (2) game balls	Collect the game balls from the Head Coach of the Home Team
18 minutes	Player Equipment / Player ID Check	Check team colours, players equipment, and player IDs (if required by the competition rules).
13 minutes	Warm Up & Pre-Match Instructions	It is important referees and assistant referees warm up! The Referee should always provide pre-match instructions to the Assistant Referees to foster effective teamwork.

Pre- and Post-Match Duties Timeline Cont.



Below is an example of a pre- and post-match duties timeline for referees to follow.

Example of Pre and Post Match Duties Timeline Cont.



REMINDER!

Referees must submit a [LISA Online Game Report](#) post match.

Time Before Kick Off	Activity	Additional Information
5 minutes	Double check Referee / Assistant Referee equipment	Ensure that both the Referee and Assistant Referees have everything (e.g., whistle, watch, cards, notebook, pencil, flags).
3 Minutes	Coin Toss	Call both team captains and conduct the coin toss.
0 Minutes	Kick Off	
Half-Time	No longer than 10 minutes	
Post Game	<p>For all games U11-13 (SSG) and Full Field U14 – U18 matches, the Referee must submit a LISA Online Game Report. Match reports are due within 48 hours or if there has been misconduct (yellow and red cards) 24 hours.</p> <p>*Note: The Referee may also be required to submit a match report to the club they are officiating for. If the Referee has any questions, they should contact the club’s Referee Coordinator. *</p>	



The following information serves as recommendations for pre-match instructions:

1. **Why should I give pre-match instructions?** > As the Referee, providing pre-match instructions to the Assistant Referees fosters effective teamwork. This also provides an opportunity to build or strengthen positive relationships and trust between officials.
2. **When should I give pre-match instructions?** > At a time suitable for the referee crew, but no later than 13 minutes to kick-off as per the suggested pre-match duties timeline.
3. **What should I include in pre-match instructions?** > Some suggestions for topics to cover during pre-match instructions include:

Pre-Match Instruction Recommendations	
Communication	Use of frequent eye contact; flag signals; subtle signals.
Positioning and Movement	Emphasize the importance of staying in line with the second-last opponent; following the ball back to the goalkeeper or all the way to the goal line for tight in/out decisions.
Areas of Control	For example, Referee vs. Assistant Referee quadrants for throw-in, goal kick, and corner kick decisions; fouls; and penalty area incidents.
Offside	Using the "wait and see" technique unless there is a potential collision with the goalkeeper; in that case, a quick flag is recommended; deliberate play vs. deflection.

Continued →



The following information serves as recommendations for pre-match instructions (cont.):

Pre-Match Instruction Recommendations cont.	
Fouls	Define areas of responsibility (e.g., Who is closer? Who has a better angle?); protocol for penalty area incidents and when to assist (e.g., handball situations).
Misconduct	Subtle signals to communicate sanctions to the Referee. For example, tapping the chest pocket for a yellow card and tapping the front of the shorts for a red card.
Technical Area Management	Provide guidance on managing interactions with coaches, including when to involve the referee.
Substitution Management	Substitution requests should be directed to AR1, who will manage substitutions at the halfway line. However, the Referee can assist if they are closer.
Injury Management	Assistant referees should use the “attention” flag signal and their voice to alert the referee about any missed injured players; AR1 waits for a signal from the referee before allowing medical personnel to enter the field to attend to an injury.
Record Keeping	It is recommended that all officials document the times of goals and the numbers of the goal scorers, as well as the times of sanctions (yellow/red cards) and the numbers of the sanctioned players.



The following information serves as guidelines for match reporting including discipline (yellow / red cards):

- Where do I submit my report?** > Match reports for are submitted through the LISA website here: [LISA Online Game Report](#) **Note:** *The Referee may also be required to submit a match report to the club they are officiating for. If the Referee has any questions, they should contact the club's Head Referee.*
- When do I submit my report?** > Match reports are due within 48 hours or if there has been misconduct (yellow and red cards) 24 hours. Match reports are required to be completed for all games U11-13 (Super 8's) and Full Filed U14-18. Team lists are also required for each of these divisions.
- What should I include in a match report?** > Match reports should be clear and concise; complete with all of the required information; and factual, meaning avoiding opinions. Paint a picture of what happened. Each team is required to provide a team list, if a team list was not provided this should be referenced in the game report so LISA can follow up. Further Details as to what should be included in a game report can be found on the LISA website 'Online Game and Discipline Report' Page.

Following the **“Who, What, Where, and When”** method will help ensure all the required information is included in the match report.

WHO?	WHAT?	WHERE?	WHEN?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Player / Technical Staff Name (First and Last) Player Number / Technical Staff Role 	<p>For yellow cards, include the reason and a brief description of the offense.</p> <p>For red cards, more details are required.</p>	<p>For example, the location on the field.</p>	<p>The minute of play or if the offence occurred pre- or post-match.</p> <p>Continued →</p>



The following information serves as guidelines for match reporting yellow and red cards:

Yellow Card (Caution)

Reporting cautions requires the following information:

- First and last name of who committed the offense
- Number or role of player or technical staff
- Team the player or staff is associated with
- Reason for the caution
- Brief description of the offense

Example: In the 65th minute, #7 [insert individual's name] on [insert team name] was cautioned for committing a reckless tackle.

* All teams need to provide game sheets. If a team has not provided a game sheet, and discipline is shown, please acquire the players name and number.

Remember to use language from the laws!

If a team official is sent off (issued a red card), please identify in your match report if the Referee or Assistant Referee was wearing a Green Armband.

Red Card (Send-off)

Reporting send-offs requires the inclusion of the information required for reporting cautions as well as the following:

- Detailed description of the offense including the considerations below:
 1. Point of Contact (what was the point of contact the player used to make contact with their opponent and where on the opponent did they make contact?)
 2. Speed / Intensity (Low-Medium-High)
 3. Force (Low-Medium-High)
- If the send-off was for offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) use direct, uncensored quotes



ASSISTANT REFEREE (A/R) REFERENCE CARD

GUIDELINES AND PRACTICAL TIPS FOR "VOLUNTEER" ASSISTANT REFEREE'S :

1. **Determine what role the referee wants you to perform ?**
2. Consistently makes eye contact with the referee.
3. Does NOT signal for fouls.
4. Stays in line with the second-last defender to identify when a player in an offside position may be penalised.
5. Signals when the whole of the ball has left the field for direction; corner or goal kick; and substitutions.
6. The assistant referee's flag should always be visible to the referee. When making a signal, the assistant referee should stop running, face the field of play, make eye contact with the referee, then signal.
7. Signals for direction should always be made with the hand in "line with the top of the head" pointing in the direction of the throw in. The flag stick is an extension of the outstretched arm.
8. All signals should be made with the flag held in the right hand (except direction and substitution).
9. Reports to the referee any instances of verbal abuse/dissent.
10. If uncertain as to direction for a throw in, make eye contact with the referee and keep the flag down. Wait for the referee to make the decision then follow his lead.
11. Never takes it personally if the referee overturns or disagrees with your signal. Final decisions are always made by the referee.
12. Doesn't coach or direct players. Remain neutral in your decision making.

GUIDELINES AND PRACTICAL TIPS FOR "REGISTERED" ASSISTANT REFEREE'S:

1. Determine your role: AR1 or AR2 ?
2. Assists but never insists.
3. Stays in line with the offside line (2nd to last defender or the ball, whichever is closer to the goal line.)
4. Consistently makes eye contact with the referee.
5. Signals for fouls in their area of credibility.
6. Signals for direction for throw ins, goal kicks, corner kicks and for substitutions.
7. On a penalty kick indicates when the goalkeeper has moved off the goal line before the ball is kicked.
8. Maintains focus, concentration and eye contact with the referee.
9. Assists the referee with inspecting the field of play; conducting a net check; the air pressure/quality of the game balls; team lists; etc
10. Manages the substitution process and technical area decorum.
11. Never touches, retrieves or stops the ball once it has left the field of play. Stays focused on the game and their position.
12. Signals for a goal by making a short sprint up the touchline with your head up, making eye contact with the referee, facing the field of play.
13. Always faces the field of play.
14. Utilizes various running styles when needed (side to side lateral movement and sprinting) and strives to stay on the balls of your feet.
15. Follows the ball all the way to the goal line to be in position to make credible and accurate goal line decisions.
16. Owns the area around them !

Competitions





The following is a list of rules and regulations applicable to competitions within the LISA:

Small-Sided Matches (U6 – U13)	
LISA	Small-Sided Games (Part 3, page 20)
BC Soccer	BC Soccer Small-Sided Rules and Regulations

Full Field Matches (U14 – U18)	
IFAB	IFAB Laws of the Game
LISA	LISA District Leagues (Part 4, page 39)
	Tim Satterford Cup and District Cup (Part 5, page 59)
	Provincial A and B Cup (Part 6, page 66)
BC Soccer	2025 BC Soccer Provincial Championship Rules and Regulations

Important Note:

- For Provincial A cup: Player ID cards are mandatory for ALL competitive matches.
- For Provincial B cup: Player ID cards are mandatory when Lower Island competes against Upper Island to determine Island and B Cup winner



Small-Sided

Small-Sided Match Information



The following applies to Small-Sided matches (U6 – U13):

Small-Sided Match Information				
Age Group	Number Of Players	Duration of the Match	Half-Time Interval	Ball Size
U4-U6	Informal Games	2 x 15-minute halves	5 minutes	3
U6-U7	3 v 3 (No GK)	2 x 15-minute halves	5 minutes	3
U8-U9	4 v 4 (no GK) or 5 v 5 (w/GK)	2 x 20-minute halves	5 minutes	3 or 4
U10-U11	7 v 7	2 x 25-minute halves	5 minutes	4
U12	9 v 9	2 x 35-minute halves	5 minutes	4
U13	9 v 9	2 x 35-minute halves	5 minutes	5
Substitution Allowance				
For all age groups, substitutions are unlimited throughout the duration of the match, including the half-time interval, and re-entry is permitted.				
Retreat Line				
U6 – U9		U10 – U11	U12 – U13	
Half-way line (1/2 of the field)		2/3 line (1/3 of Field)	None. FIFA Law 11 applies.	




The following outlines the Small-Sided field dimensions appropriate by age group:

Small-Sided Field Dimension Information		
Age Group	Width	Length
U6-U7	Minimum 18m Maximum 22m	Minimum 25m Maximum 30m
U8-U9	Minimum 25m Maximum 30m	Minimum 30m Maximum 36m
U10-U11	Minimum 30m Maximum 36m	Minimum 40m Maximum 55m
U12-U13	Minimum 45m Maximum 55m	Minimum 65m Maximum 75m



Below are frequently asked rule clarifications for Small-Sided matches, along with procedural updates.

Small-Sided Match Rule Clarifications	
Category	Rule
Kick-ins	At U7 - U10, kick-ins replace throw-ins. However, after the winter break in January, some LISA member club associations may choose to switch to throw-ins. Please confirm this with your Head Referee / Referee Coordinator.
Throw-ins	<p>Throw-ins are taken at U10 - U13. However, as noted above, some member club associations may choose to have U7 - U10 take throw-ins after the winter break in January.</p> <p>Failing to Complete the Throw in – U11: If the player fails to complete the throw-in correctly, their team shall be permitted a second attempt. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, the throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team.</p> <p>Failing to Complete the Throw in – U12 and U13: If the player fails to complete the throw-in correctly, the throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team.</p>
Heading	Heading is not permitted at U12 and below. In the event that a player heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposition and taken from the place where the offence occurred.
Slide Tackling	Slide tackling is not permitted at U10 and below. . In the event that a player commits a slide tackle, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposition and taken from the place where the offence occurred.



UPDATE!

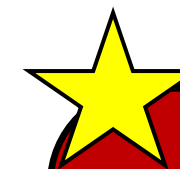
U11 – U13 teams are required to provide the Referee with team lists. If a team list was not provided this should be referenced in the game report so LISA can follow up.

The Referee is required to submit a game report via the [LISA Online Game and Discipline Report system](#).

Small-Sided Rule Clarification & Updates

Below are frequently asked rule clarifications for Small-Sided matches, along with procedural updates.

Small-Sided Match Rule Clarifications	
Category	Rule
Kick-ins	Kick-ins At U7–U11, kick-ins replace throw-ins.
Throw-ins	Throw-ins Throw-ins are taken at U12–U13. Failing to Complete the Throw-in If a player fails to complete the throw-in correctly, the throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team.
Heading	Heading U11 and below Heading is not permitted at U11 and below. In the event that a player heads the ball, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposition and taken from the place where the offence occurred. Heading U12 Heading is only permitted if the ball makes contact with the ground (bounces) and a header follows.
Slide Tackling	Slide Tackling Slide tackling is not permitted at U10 and below. In the event that a player commits a slide tackle, an indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposition and taken from the place where the offence occurred.



UPDATE!

U11 – U13 teams are required to provide the Referee with team lists. If a team list was not provided this should be referenced in the game report so LISA can follow up.

The Referee is required to submit a game report via the [LISA Online Game and Discipline Report system](#).



SMALL SIDED REFEREE QUICK REFERENCE CARD

U7-U10
Offside: Do not play with the offside rules. A player in these age groups cannot be offside.
Fouls: Direct free kicks and penalty kicks are NOT awarded - ALL free kicks are taken as indirect free kicks awarded to the opposing team, if a player commits any form of foul or misconduct.
Misconduct: Cautions and Sending Off (Yellow and Red Cards) NO cards are shown to players in these age groups. It is recommended that coaches should recognize serious foul play and substitute off an offending player. A team official guilty of misconduct may be shown a yellow card (caution) or red card (sending-off).
Free Kicks: All opponents shall be not less than the following distance from the ball until it has been kicked and clearly moves : 7 metres (8 yards)
Kick-ins: A kick-in, replaces the throw-in at this age groups. After the winter break, some clubs replace kick-ins with throw-ins.
Scoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A goal may not be scored directly from a Kick-off; if the ball directly enters the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded. - A goal cannot be scored directly from a corner kick.
Heading: no heading is permitted, in order to reduce head related trauma. Restart is in an indirect free kick.
Slide Tackling: not permitted at u10 and below.
Team Lists: not required for u10 and below.

U10-U11
Offside: Play with the offside rules in the attacking third of the field. The offside line is the same line as the retreat line.
Fouls: both direct and indirect free kicks apply.
Misconduct: caution (yellow) and sending off (red) cards are used for players. A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a yellow card (caution) or red card (sending-off). Penalty kicks are awarded at this level.
Free Kicks: All opponents shall be not less than the following distance from the ball until it has been kicked and clearly moves: 9 metres (10 yards)
Throw-ins: Kick-ins: A kick-in, replaces the throw-in at this age groups.
Scoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from a kick-off. - A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
Heading: No heading is permitted at U11 and below, in order to reduce head related trauma. Restart is in an indirect free kick.
Slide Tackling: permitted at u11
Team Lists: required for u11+, must include the coaches names.



SMALL SIDED REFEREE QUICK REFERENCE CARD

U12-U13
Offside: Full offside rules will be in effect.
Fouls: both direct and indirect free kicks apply.
Misconduct: caution (yellow) and sending off (red) cards are used for players. A team official guilty of misconduct will be shown a yellow card (caution) or red card (sending-off). Penalty kicks are awarded at this level.
Free Kicks: All opponents shall be not less than the following distance from the ball until it has been kicked and clearly moves: 9 metres (10 yards)
Throw-ins: If the player fails to complete the throw-in correctly, the throw-in shall be awarded to the opposing team.
Scoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A goal may be scored directly against the opponents from a kick-off. • A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
Headers: u12 heading is allowed only when the ball is headed following direct contact with the ground (one bounce) •u13: heading is permitted.
Slide Tackling: permitted at u11-u13.
Team Lists: required for u11-u13, must include the coaches names.

ALL AGE GROUPS

- Shin Guards are compulsory at all levels
- Unlimited substitutions may be made throughout the game. All substitutions are only allowed at the discretion of the Referee and the Referee shall be advised of all substitutions. Substitutions can be made on any stoppage, but only after the referee has given permission. After the referee has given permission, the player being replaced shall leave the field. Once the player has left the field, the substitute may enter the field.
- Corner flags may be used but are not mandatory.

Retreat Line: The retreat line for all age groups is marked by a line across the field and/or cones placed 1 metre outside the touch line. The retreat line for U7 through U13 is marked at the 2/3 line (1/3 of Field)
 All opposing players must be on their side of the retreat line and cannot pursue the ball until: The ball is touched by a teammate of the kicker; OR the ball travels over the retreat line; OR the ball leaves the field of play.

Encroachment of Retreat Line: If the opposing team encroaches across the retreat line before one of the above conditions, the referee shall stop play and allow a re-take of the goal kick. When the goalkeeper makes a save and is in possession of the ball, players must back away to the retreat line to allow for play to build up from the back.

GAME LENGTH* AND BALL SIZE

Age Group	Playing Numbers	Playing Time	Ball Size
U6-U7	3 v 3 (No GK)	2 x 15 minutes	3
U8-U9	4 v 4 (No GK) or 5v5 w/GK	2 x 20 minutes	3 or 4
U10-U11	7 v 7	2 x 25 minutes	4
U12	9 v 9	2 x 35 minutes	4
U13	9 v 9	2 x 35 minutes	5



Below are Small-Sided Festivals to be aware of:

Small-Sided Festivals	
Festival	Description
U9 / U10 Festival	This is a non-competitive event. No trophies will be awarded, and no standings will be recorded.
U11 Canada Soccer Active Start Festival	This is a non-competitive event. No trophies will be awarded, and no standings will be recorded.
U12 Festival	This is a non-competitive event. No trophies will be awarded, and no standings will be recorded.
U13 Full Field Festival	This is a non-competitive event open to all U13 teams as preparation for full-field play. No trophies will be awarded, and no standings will be recorded.

Note: *These festivals are hosted by various clubs throughout the season.*

Full Field

Full Field Competition Structures (U14 - U18)



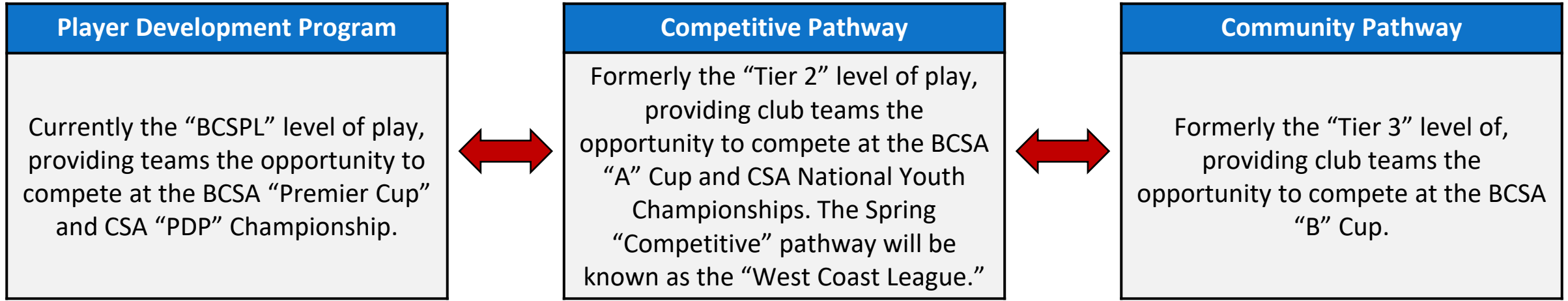
Below are LISA Player Pathway and Competition structures:



Continued →



The following depicts the LISA Player Pathway Structural Implementation Plan, with arrows showing players can move in and out of pathways.



Please review the full [LISA Player Pathway Structural Implementation Plan](#) for a detailed overview of the levels of play.



Below are the LISA cup competition structures and pathways for advancement to BC Soccer and Canada Soccer competitions.

LISA Cup Competitions	
Competition	Description
Tim Satterford Cup	Named after long-time LISA President, Tim Satterford Cup is open to all Division 3 teams and takes place during the regular season. Winners do not advance beyond this competition. Division 3 teams are also eligible to compete in the District Cup.
District Cup	The District Cup is the final competitive event of the Division 2 and Division 3 season. All teams participate except for the B Cup representative, any A Cup declared teams, and the Division 2 League winner. District Cup winners do not advance further. Division 3 teams are also eligible to compete in the Satterford Cup.
BC Soccer Provincial B Cup	For Division 2 teams, the Lisa B Cup representative competes against the Upper Island representative for a chance to qualify for the BC Soccer B Cup Provincials. Island playdowns are held between February and March. Provincial B Cup occurs in early-mid July.
BC Soccer Provincial A Cup	For Division 1 teams, the cup winner in each division earns the opportunity to represent Vancouver Island at the BC Soccer A cup Provincials. Island Playdowns are held in mid June. Provincial A cup occurs early-mid July.
Canada Soccer Player-Development Program (PDP) Championship	If a LISA team wins BC Soccer's Provincial A Cup in the U15 or U17 divisions, they will advance to represent BC at the PDP Championship.

Note:

- Satterford Cup Finals- LISA and Host to assign officials.
- B Cup Semi Finals- LISA to work with the host club on the assignment of officials.
- B Cup Finals- LISA to provide referees. Host club to provide ARs.
- District Cup Semi Finals- held at various venues. LISA to work with the host club on the assignment of officials. Host club to provide ARs.
- District Cup Finals- LISA to provide all officials.
- B Cup Island Finals - LISA to provide referee. Host to provide AR's.
- A Cup (WCL) Finals-LISA to provide referee. Host club to provide ARs.
- With respect to the assignment of AR's, you are encouraged to utilize registered full field officials (not small sided.)

Cup Games- Instructions to officials 2025/2026





There must be a “winner” in all Cup games (Satterford; District; A; B; Island Final.)

If the game is tied at the end of regulation time - **straight to PK's.**

Regulation time:

- U14/15/16 = 2 x 40 mins
- U17/18 = 2 x 45 mins
- 10 mins half time break

Officials should arrive at least 30 minutes before kick off in order to review the rules of the competition; check ID cards (if necessary,) and to provide pre game instructions to the AR's. Ensure you allow time for a warm up and field inspection, which is to include a net check.

**** For all A Cup and West Coast league games, and the Island B Cup Final, ID cards are **mandatory** for all players and anyone in the technical area- no exceptions.**

- ❖ Ensure a technical area is established.
- ❖ For the semi- finals and finals, LISA will provide the referee with the host club providing the AR's (no Small Sided)
- ❖ The home team is to provide 3 game balls.
- ❖ There are “unlimited” substitutions - no sub slips required.



Captain's Armband: consistent with the spirit of Law 3 (10) each team is encouraged to have a captain on the field of play that is wearing an identifying armband. However, if he/she is not, they are still eligible to compete in the game. We have taken the position that not having a captain's armband should not impact the player or the game.

- ❖ Ensure the game report is submitted via the LISA Online Game and Discipline system on a timely basis (within 24 hrs if there was discipline.) Select the appropriate competition from the drop down box.
- ❖ Official's should hold onto the team lists for a week in the event of a protest.
- ❖ For some finals a 4th official will be provided.

*** Important *** Please ensure you are familiar with Law 10 "Determining The Outcome of a Match" and Law 14 "The Penalty Kick" including the "Penalty Kick Summary table (Law 14-3)" We do not have any experience with Law 10 during league play so it is important you review this law. Law 14 can be tricky as it refers to encroachment; feinting etc. whose procedures get heightened during cup play. Review Law 10 carefully as this was not well understood in some earlier Cup competitions.

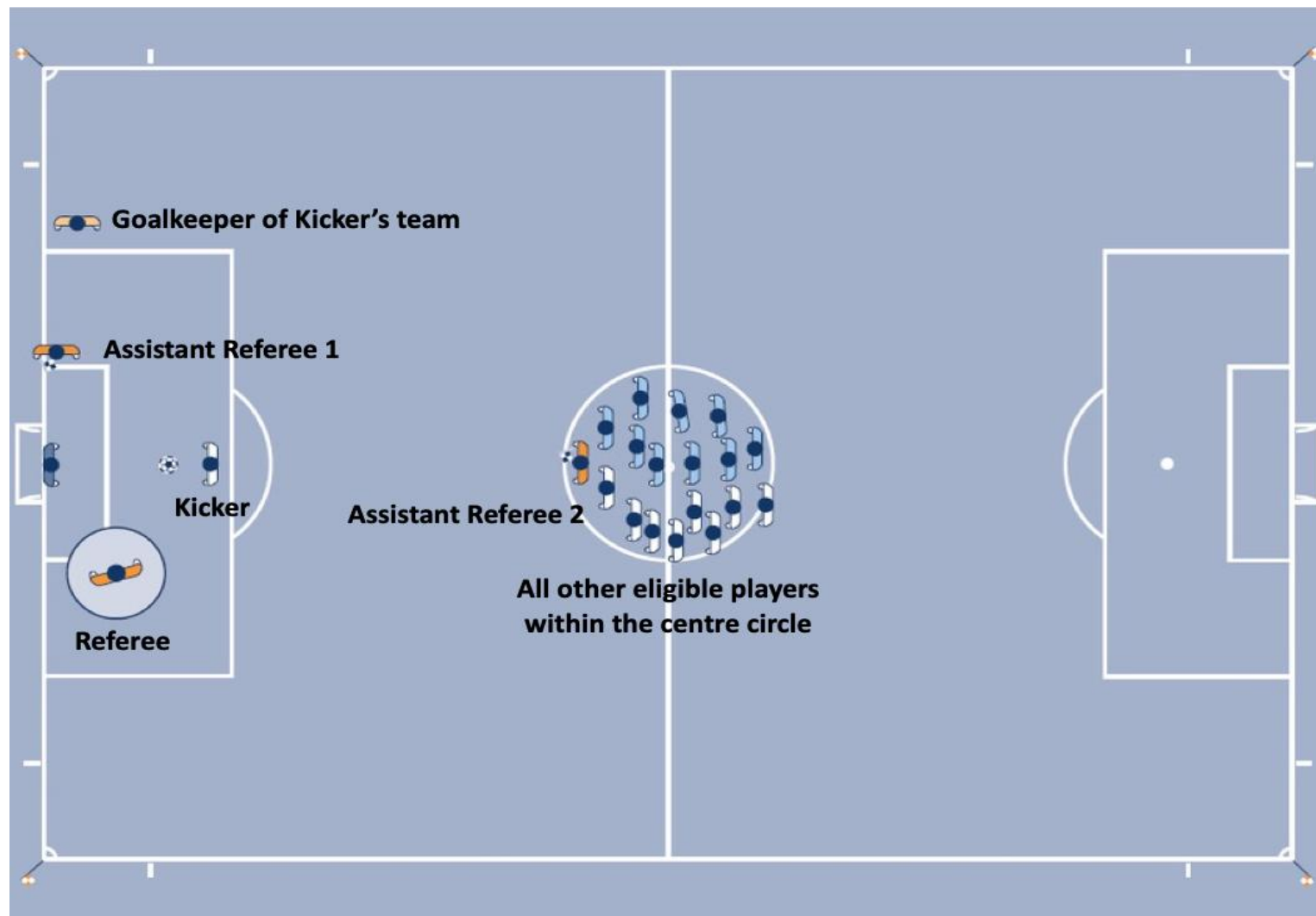
The goalkeeper of the kicker must remain on the field of play, outside the penalty area, on the goal line where it meets the penalty area.

- ❖ Referee: manages the PK process.
- ❖ AR 1: on the goal line at the intersection of the goal area and the goal line.
- ❖ AR2: manages the players in the centre circle

Assistant Referee Responsibilities:

- ❖ AR1 – watch for the ball to fully cross the goal line. Also, be alert for goalkeeper encroachment but only call it if it is clear, significant, and has an impact on the outcome. Confirm expectations with referee before kick off.
- ❖ AR2 – ensure the next kicker is ready and that all players remain inside the centre circle.

The following depicts the positioning of officials (Referee and AR's) in a penalty shoot out →





The following applies to all cup matches that are tied at the end of regulation time.

For the full procedure, please review IFAB [Law 10 Determining the Outcome of the Match > Penalties \(penalty shoot-out\)](#).

1.) Proactive Refereeing Tip: LISA recommends that at a stoppage in play approximately two to three (2-3) minutes prior to the end of the second half, that the referee advise both the home and away team coaches that there is two to three (2-3) minutes remaining in regulation time if they wish to make any substitutions prior to the penalty shoot-out.

2.) At the end of regulation time and prior to the penalty shoot-out, players must remain on the field of play. Players are permitted a maximum of five (5) minutes prior to the penalty shoot-out to consult their coach. Players must remain on the field of play and their coach must remain in the technical area. Players may get a drink and receive instructions from their coach but they must remain on the field of play.

3.) Only eligible players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play. To provide further clarity, this means that coaches are not permitted on the field of play during the penalty shoot-out.

Note: If at the end of the match and before or during the kicks one team has a greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded. Any excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks.



The following applies to all cup matches that are tied at the end of regulation time.

For the full procedure, please review IFAB [Law 10 Determining the Outcome of the Match > Penalties \(penalty shoot-out\)](#).

- 4.) **Reminder:** A player who has been sent off during the match is not permitted to take part; warnings and cautions issued to players and team officials during the match are not carried forward into the penalty shoot-out.
- 5.) Before penalties start and unless there are other considerations (e.g. ground conditions, safety etc.), the referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken, which may only be changed for safety reasons or if the goal or playing surface becomes unusable. The referee tosses a coin again, and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
- 6.) **Who records during a penalty shoot-out?** > To avoid any confusion or controversy, all three (3) officials should record the kicker's jersey number and whether or not they scored.
- 7.) Both teams take five (5) kicks during a penalty shoot-out.
- 8.) The kicks are taken alternately by the teams
- 9.) Each kick is taken by a different player, and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick.



The following applies to all cup matches that are tied at the end of regulation time.

For the full procedure, please review IFAB [Law 10 Determining the Outcome of the Match > Penalties \(penalty shoot-out\)](#).

10.) If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken

11.) If, after both teams have taken five kicks, the scores are level, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks

12.) The above principle continues for any subsequent sequence of kicks but a team may change the order of kickers

13.) Penalties (penalty shoot-out) must not be delayed for a player who leaves the field of play. The player's kick will be forfeited (not scored) if the player does not return in time to take a kick

Reminder: Don't forget to blow your whistle to indicate the end of the penalty shoot out !

Laws of the Game



The main law changes and /or clarifications for 2025/26 include:

Law 5: Only the Captain

The “only the captain” protocol can be used anytime, usually after major decisions or to prevent confrontations.

- Referee blows the whistle to start the “captain only” protocol.
- Signal: raise both arms, cross wrists above head, then uncross and push forward with open palms.
- This creates a 4-meter “captain’s-only zone” around the referee.
- Only team captains may approach to discuss decisions.
- Any other player entering the zone or ignoring the signal is cautioned for dissent.

Law 8: Dropped ball

- If play is stopped with the ball inside the penalty area, the referee drops it to the **defending** goalkeeper in that area.
- If the ball was outside the penalty area, it’s dropped to one player from:
 1. The team that had or would have gained possession, or
 2. The team that last touched the ball (if unclear).
- The ball is dropped where it was when play stopped.

Law 12: Corner Kick (goalkeeper)

- A corner kick is awarded if the goalkeeper holds the ball with their hands/arms for **more than 8 seconds inside their penalty area.**
- The referee decides when control begins and starts the 8-second count.
- The referee raises a hand to visually countdown the last 5 seconds.

Law 3 Captains Armband

LISA has taken the following position with respect to Captain's Armband:

“Consistent with the spirit of Law 3 each team is encouraged to have a captain on the field of play that is wearing an identifying armband. However, if he/she is not, they are still eligible to participate in the game. We have taken the position that not having a captain’s armband should not impact the player or the game.”

Review the full IFAB 2025/26 law changes [here!](#)



The main law changes and /or clarifications for 2024/25 include:

Law 3 – The Players Equipment

1. Teams must have a captain who wears an identifying armband. The captain must wear the armband issued or authorized by the relevant competition organizer or a simple armband.
2. The size and protection provided by the shinguards are each player’s own responsibility. Players should be aware of the potential dangers resulting from wearing very small/thin shinguards.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

For non-deliberate handball offences in the penalty area, the same philosophy should apply as for offences (fouls) which are an attempt to play the ball or a challenge for the ball. Consequently, for penalties awarded for a non-deliberate handball offence, DOGSO offences will now result in a yellow card and SPA offences will result in no card. There is no change to the punishment for deliberate handball offences, which will continue to be sanctioned with a red card when a penalty is awarded, as they are similar to holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Encroachment by players will be penalised only if it has an impact, which is the same philosophy applied to goalkeeper encroachment. It was also decided that part of the ball must touch or overhang the centre of the penalty mark.

Review the full IFAB 2024/25 law changes [here!](#)



LISA has outlined the following position on Law 3 and the Captain's Armband:

IFAB Law 3 – The Players Equipment

“The team captain must wear the armband issued or authorised by the relevant competition organiser, or a single-coloured armband that may also have the word ‘captain’ or the letter ‘C’”



LISA's Position

To maintain consistency with the spirit of the Laws of the Game, each team should have a team captain on the field wearing the captain's armband. However, if a team captain is not wearing an armband, they are still eligible to compete.

LISA has taken the position that the absence of a captain's armband should not impact the match.

Penalty Shoot-out Procedure



The following applies to all cup matches that are tied at the end of regulation time.

For the full procedure, please review IFAB [Law 10 Determining the Outcome of the Match > Penalties \(penalty shoot-out\)](#).

1. **Proactive Refereeing Tip:** LISA recommends that at a stoppage in play "two (2) - three (3) mins" prior to the end of the second half, that the referee advise both the home and away team coaches that there is two (2) - (3) minutes remaining in regulation time if they wish to make any substitutions prior to the penalty shoot-out.
2. At the end of regulation time and prior to the penalty shoot-out, players must remain on the field of play. Players are permitted a maximum of five (5) minutes prior to the penalty shoot-out to consult their coach. Players must remain on the field of play and their coach must remain in the technical area.
3. Only eligible players and match officials are permitted to remain on the field of play. To provide further clarity, this means that coaches are not permitted on the field of play during the penalty shoot-out.

Note: If at the end of the match and before or during the kicks one team has a greater number of players than its opponents, it must reduce its numbers to the same number as its opponents and the referee must be informed of the name and number of each player excluded. Any excluded player is not eligible to take part in the kicks.

4. **Reminder:** A player who has been sent off during the match is not permitted to take part; warnings and cautions issued to players and team officials during the match are not carried forward into the penalty shoot-out.

Continued →



5. Before penalties start and unless there are other considerations (e.g. ground conditions, safety etc.), the referee tosses a coin to decide the goal at which the kicks will be taken, which may only be changed for safety reasons or if the goal or playing surface becomes unusable. The referee tosses a coin again, and the team that wins the toss decides whether to take the first or second kick.
6. ***Who records during a penalty shoot-out?*** > To avoid any confusion or controversy, all three (3) officials must record the kicker's jersey number and whether or not they scored.
7. Both teams take five (5) kicks during a penalty shoot-out, subject to the following conditions):
 - The kicks are taken alternately by the teams
 - Each kick is taken by a different player, and all eligible players must take a kick before any player can take a second kick
 - If, before both teams have taken five kicks, one has scored more goals than the other could score, even if it were to complete its five kicks, no more kicks are taken
 - If, after both teams have taken five kicks, the scores are level, kicks continue until one team has scored a goal more than the other from the same number of kicks
 - The above principle continues for any subsequent sequence of kicks but a team may change the order of kickers
 - Penalties (penalty shoot-out) must not be delayed for a player who leaves the field of play. The player's kick will be forfeited (not scored) if the player does not return in time to take a kick

Reminder: Don't forget to blow your whistle to indicate the end of the penalty shoot-out!



The following summary table outlines Penalty Kick Offences and Sanctions, some of which may be applicable during a penalty shoot-out.

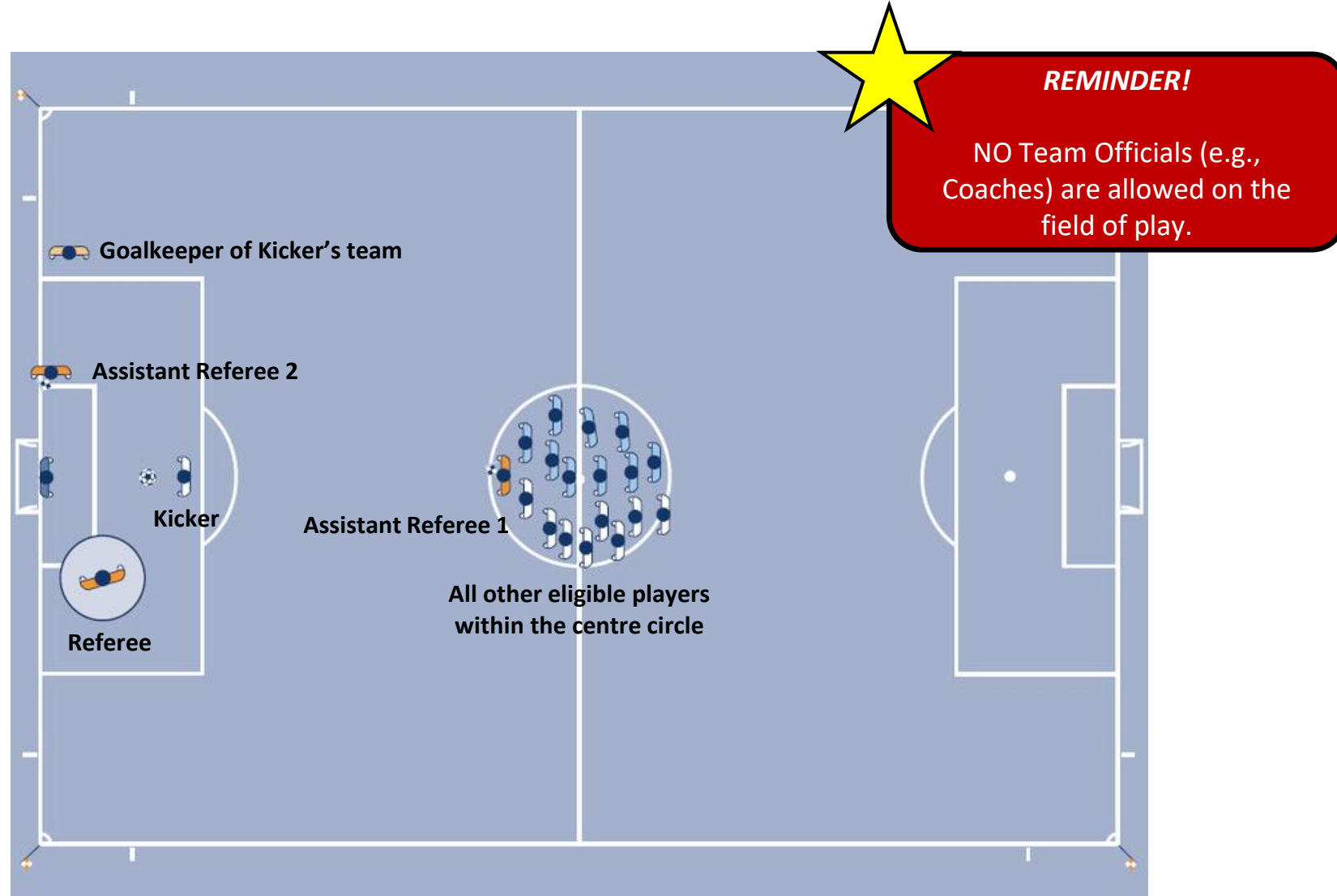
Law 14 Summary Table 3 Outcome of the Penalty Kick

	Goal	No Goal
Encroachment by attacking player	Penalty is retaken	Indirect free kick
Encroachment by defending player	Goal	Penalty is retaken
Encroachment by defending player and attacking player	Penalty is retaken	Penalty is retaken
Offence by goalkeeper	Goal	Not saved: penalty is not retaken (unless kicker is clearly impacted) Saved: penalty is retaken and warning for goalkeeper; caution for any further offence(s)
Goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
'Illegal feinting'	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker

Penalty Shoot-Out Positioning



The following image depicts the positioning of the Referee, Assistant Referees, and Players in a Penalty Shootout.



Substitution Procedure



The following substitution procedures apply to all Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 cup matches:

1. Substitutes are required to wear a pinnie and be seated on the team bench unless they are warming up (a pinnie must still be worn during warm-up)

Note: At the referee's discretion and dependent on the space available surrounding the field of play, substitutes may warm-up from the top of the penalty area to the corner or from the corner to the intersection of the penalty area and goal line.

2. When a substitute is ready to enter the match, they are to leave their pinnie at the bench and wait at the halfway line approximately 2m away from the touchline.
3. The referee must be informed before any substitution is made. If there is an Assistant Referee 1 (AR1), coaches are to request the substitute through AR1 who will then inform the Referee of the substitution request by using the substitution signal and their voice stating "Referee, substitution". The substitution signal should always be mirrored by Assistant Referee 2. Both Assistant Referees can put their flags down once the referee has acknowledged the substitution signal.

Proactive Refereeing Tip: AR1 can attempt to determine which player number is being substituted and inform the referee of the player's whereabouts on the field to ensure the substituted player leaves the field of play at the nearest point on the boundary line in a timely manner.

Continued →



4. When the player being substituted receives the referee's permission to leave the field of play, unless already off the field, they must leave by the nearest point on the boundary line unless the referee indicates that the player may leave directly and immediately at the halfway line or another point (e.g. for safety/security or injury) and must go immediately to the technical area.

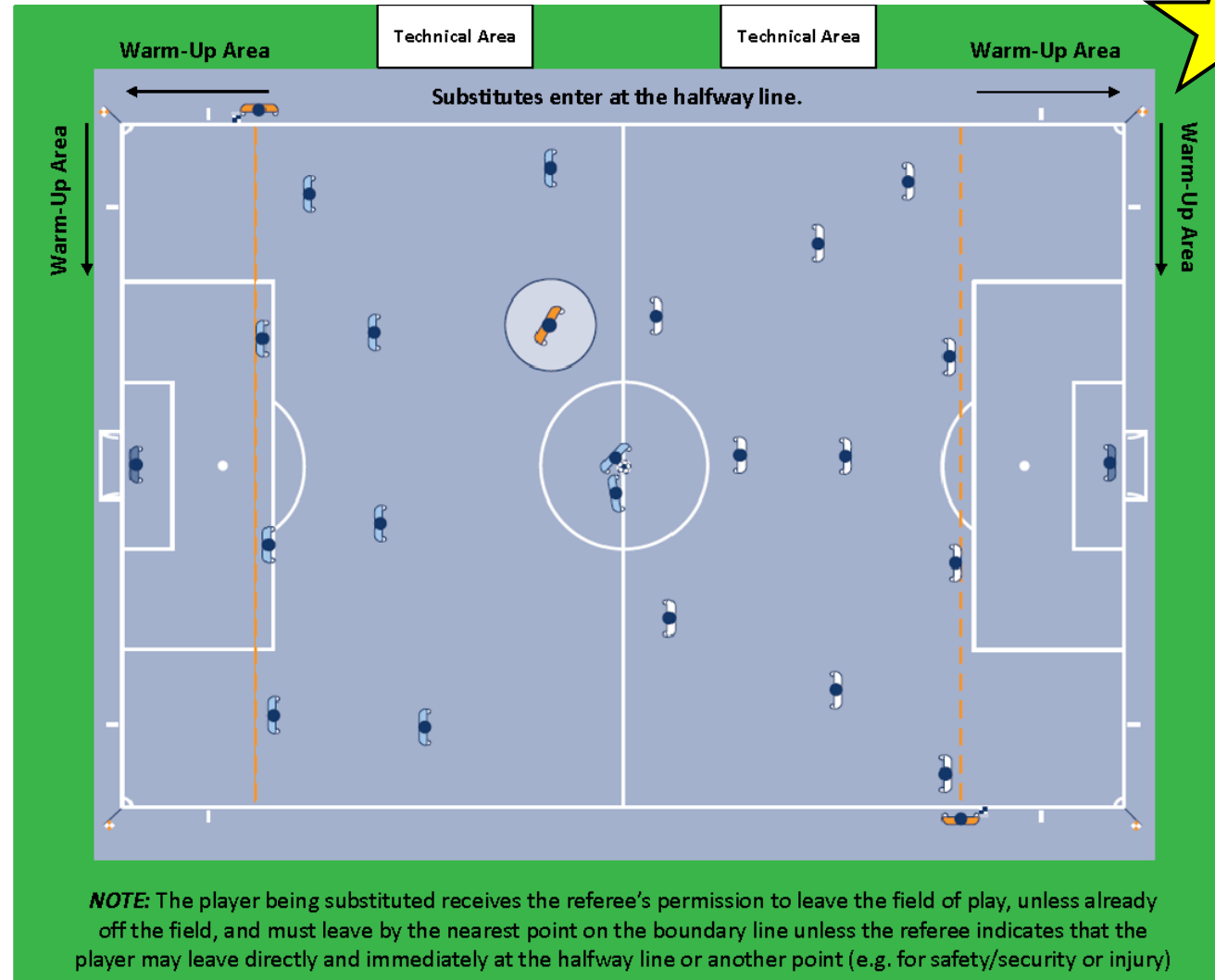
Note: If a player who is to be substituted refuses to leave, play continues.

6. The substitute only enters: during a stoppage in play; at the halfway line; after the player being replaced has left; and after receiving a signal from the referee.
6. The substitution is completed when a substitute enters the field of play; from that moment, the replaced player becomes a substituted player and the substitute becomes a player and can take any restart.

Substitution Protocol: Where to Warm-Up and Enter



The image below shows the designated warm-up areas for substitutes and the point where they must enter the field.



The referee designates one warm-up area for substitutes and informs the teams before kick-off.

NOTE: The player being substituted receives the referee's permission to leave the field of play, unless already off the field, and must leave by the nearest point on the boundary line unless the referee indicates that the player may leave directly and immediately at the halfway line or another point (e.g. for safety/security or injury)

The Technical Area



The technical area is the designated sitting area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players.

The following information serves as guidelines for technical area management within LISA matches:

For more detailed information, please review IFAB [Law 1 The Field of Play 1.9 The technical area](#)

1. Team benches (designated seated area) must be set-up on the same side of the field and opposite to the spectators.
2. The technical area should only extend 1 m (1 yd) on either side of the designated seated area and up to a distance of 1 m (1 yd) from the touchline and markings should be used to define the area.
3. ***What should I do if the technical area is not defined?*** > If the field does not have markings to define the technical area, it is recommended that the referee define the technical area with cones prior to kick-off.
4. ***Why should I define the technical area?*** > By doing so, the referee and assistant referee 1 can better manage the team officials, substitutes and substituted players as they must remain within its confines with the exception of players warming up in the designated warm-up area.

Note: While it is strongly encouraged that technical areas are created for every match (a best practice habit to form!), technical areas are **mandatory** for all cup matches as they are part of the rules of the competition.

Managing Team Officials



The following information serves as a reference guide to support referees in managing team officials:

1. Referees are encouraged to use the Ask, Tell, Remove method when managing Team Officials.

Ask	Tell	Remove
<p>Serving as a formal warning, the Referee is encouraged to “Ask” the coach to stop the repeated or blatant offences (e.g., minor/low-level disagreement (by word or action) with a decision).</p> <p>Example Language: The referee could approach the coach and state “I understand that you may feel frustrated, however, I cannot have that type of behaviour directed towards me (or the Assistant Referee) and it must stop.”</p>	<p>Issuing a caution serves as “Tell”. This may occur after a previous “ask” or an offence that warrants an immediate caution (e.g., dissent).</p>	<p>“Remove” indicates issuing a sending-off (red card) to the coach for persistent behaviour or an offence the warrants an immediate sending-off (e.g., using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)).</p> <p>“Remove” may be the result of two (2) cautions or a straight red card.</p>

Continued →



2. Where an offence is committed by someone from the technical area (substitute, substituted player, sent-off player or team official) and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.
3. Please review the IFAB [Law 12 Fouls and Misconduct > Disciplinary Action](#) > Team Officials > Warning, Caution, and Sending-off for further information on what types of behaviour or actions should result in a warning, caution, or sending-off.
4. In the event that a Coach is sent off during a match and there is no other Coach present and listed on the roster, the referee must abandon the match.

LISA has a strict zero-tolerance policy against the abuse of officials. It is imperative that the Referee include a detailed description of offences in their match report to ensure team officials are disciplined accordingly.

Managing Players, Substitutes or Substituted Players



The following information serves as a reference guide to support referees in managing players, substitutes or substituted players:

1. Referees are encouraged to use the Ask, Tell, Remove method when managing players, substitutes or substituted players.

Ask	Tell	Remove
<p>Serving as a formal warning, the Referee is encouraged to “Ask” the player / substitute / substituted player to stop minor/low-level disagreements (by word or action) with the match official’s decisions.</p>	<p>Issuing a caution serves as “Tell”. This may occur after a previous “ask” or be issued straight away for dissent (public protest or disagreement (verbal and/or physical) with a match official’s decision).</p>	<p>“Remove” indicates issuing a sending-off (red card) to the player / substitute / substituted player for using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) – <i>this behaviour is different from dissent!</i></p> <p>“Remove” may also be the result of two (2) cautions. For instance, this could involve receiving two cautions for dissent, or one caution for dissent coupled with another issued for a separate cautionable offence.</p>

Continued →



2. **What is dissent?** > IFAB defines dissent as “public protest or disagreement (verbal and/or physical) with a match official’s decision; punishable by a caution (yellow card).”

Dissent is a combination of the below 3P’s or any single one taken to an extreme.		
Personal	Public	Provocative
Aimed at a specific official	Distinguishes between a private conversation between a player and an official and a situation where a player is audibly yelling and can be heard by others	Anyone who saw or heard the dissent would be shocked

3. **Why must officials deal with dissent?** > While it is understood that soccer is an emotional game, the Referee must determine what is considered to be an acceptable disagreement versus behaviour which requires intervention. Dissent undermines the authority of the referee and can affect match control.

3. **How can officials deal with dissent?** >

1. Deal with dissent early! It is important to set an acceptable standard and tone for the match.
2. Use strong body language! Remember to use the ‘stop sign’ gesture not only to signal the need to cease certain behaviour, but also to establish clear boundaries between yourself and the player(s).

Continued →



3. Be clear with players regarding acceptable behaviour and be prepared to follow through on your expectations.
4. Always remain professional, calm and respectful. The objective is to de-escalate the situation.
5. ***What about offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s)?*** > A player, substitute or substituted player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) must be sent off (issued a red card). This behavior goes beyond expressing disagreement with a referee's decision and is not tolerated.

LISA has a strict zero-tolerance policy against the abuse of officials. It is imperative that the Referee include a detailed description of offences in their match report to ensure players, substitutes or substituted players are disciplined accordingly.

Managing Spectators



The following information serves as a reference guide to support referees in managing spectators:

1. As a referee, do not engage with spectators by word or action(s)! Spectator behaviour is the responsibility of the Head Coach of the team they are supporting.
2. ***What do I do if a spectator crosses the line?*** > If a spectator directs abuse (verbal or by action) towards the Referee or Assistant Referee(s), at the next stoppage in play the Referee should approach the Head Coach of the home team, advise them of the situation, and ask them to warn the spectator to stop their behaviour. If the Head Coach of the home team tells the Referee that the spectator is not affiliated with their team, the Referee should approach the Away Coach, advise them of the situation, and ask them to warn the spectator to stop their behaviour. If the Away Coach states that the spectator is not affiliated with their team, the responsibility falls on the home team Head Coach to manage the situation.

Note: Some situations of spectator abuse should result in immediate removal including, but not limited to, personal attacks (e.g., racial abuse) directed towards the Referee or Assistant Referee(s), players, substitutes, or team officials. If the spectator refuses to leave, the referee should abandon the match and include the details in the match report.

3. ***What do I do if the Home or Away Coach refuses to speak to the offender?*** > Advise both the home and away coaches that you will abandon the match if the spectator is not dealt with and include this information in your match report.

Continued →



4. ***What do I do if the issue persists?*** > If a warning has been issued to the spectator by either the Home or Away Team Coach and the issue persists, at the next stoppage in play advise the coach of the team that the spectator is affiliated with to remove the spectator.
5. ***What do I do if the spectator refuses to leave?*** > Abandon the match and include the details in your match report.
6. **LISA has a strict zero-tolerance policy against the abuse of officials.** Although referees are unable to sanction spectators, it is imperative that the Referee include a detailed description of any warnings to or removal of spectators in the match report. This will help ensure teams and/or spectators are disciplined accordingly.

Offside Clarification



The IFAB 23/24 edition of Law 11 Offside provides clarification of guidelines to distinguish between ‘deliberate play’ and ‘deflection.’ Please review the IFAB [Law 11 Offside](#) for full details.

A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent who deliberately played the ball, including by deliberate handball, is not considered to have gained an advantage, unless it was a deliberate save by any opponent.

What is ‘Deliberate play’?

‘Deliberate play’ (excluding deliberate handball) is when a player has control of the ball with the possibility of:

- passing the ball to a team-mate;
- gaining possession of the ball; or
- clearing the ball (e.g. by kicking or heading it)

Note: If the pass, attempt to gain possession or clearance by the player in control of the ball is inaccurate or unsuccessful, this does not negate the fact that the player ‘deliberately played’ the ball.

What is a ‘save’?

A ‘save’ is when a player stops, or attempts to stop, a ball which is going into or very close to the goal with any part of the body except the hands/arms (unless the goalkeeper within the penalty area).



What are the considerations for 'Deliberate play'?

The following criteria should be used, as appropriate, as indicators that a player was in control of the ball and, as a result, can be considered to have 'deliberately played' the ball:

- The ball travelled from distance and the player had a clear view of it
- The ball was not moving quickly
- The direction of the ball was not unexpected
- The player had time to coordinate their body movement, i.e. it was not a case of instinctive stretching or jumping, or a movement that achieved limited contact/control
- A ball moving on the ground is easier to play than a ball in the air

There are two (2) parts needed for 'Deliberate play':

Deliberate Action



Control of the Ball

Continued →



There are two (2) parts needed for 'Deliberate play':

Deliberate Action

- Player goes to the ball
- Conscious Action vs Instinctive Reaction
- Time and options
- Distance and space
- Control of body



Control of the Ball

With the possibility of:

- Passing the ball to a team-mate;
- Gaining possession of the ball; or
- Clearing the ball (e.g., by kicking or heading it)

Things that impact control of the ball include:

- Distance
- Speed of the ball (unexpected)
- Ball on the ground vs in the air
- Stretching or jumping for the ball
- Trajectory of the ball
- Being challenged

Referees must now evaluate the considerations for deliberate play with control of the ball or possibility to control the ball versus before considering only the clear movement towards the ball.

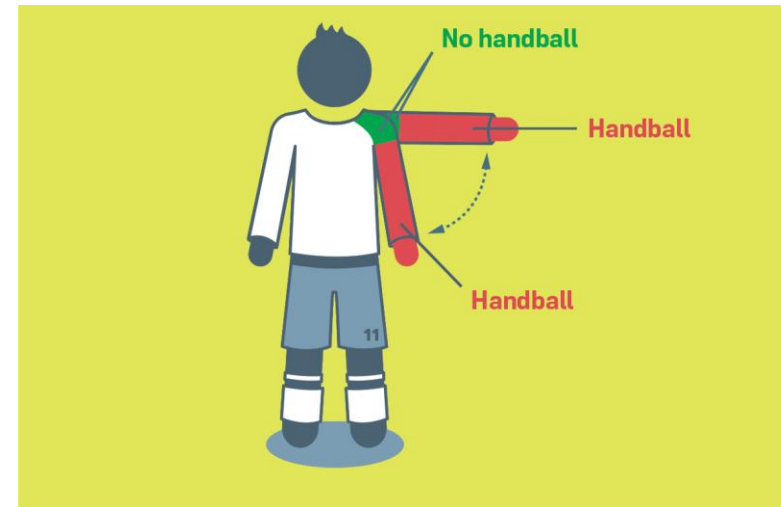
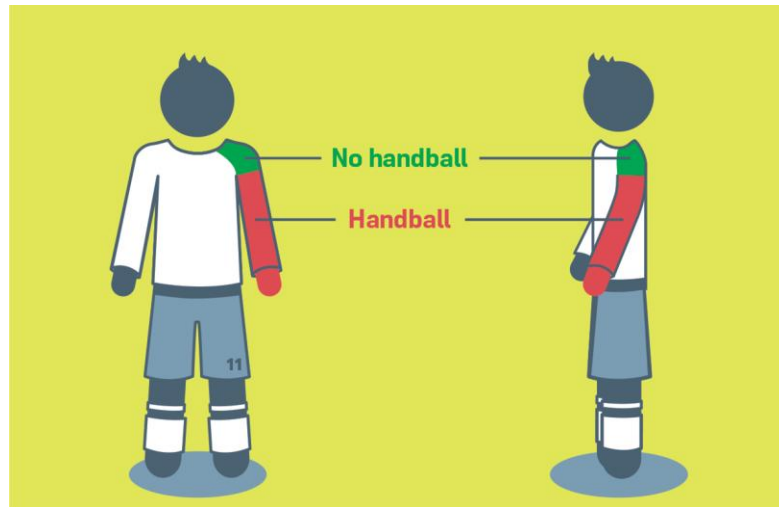
When a player is stretching for a ball and makes limited contact, these plays should not be considered a deliberate play.

Handball Clarification

Handball is arguably one of the most contentious decisions a referee faces during a match. The key is for the referee to be consistent.

Parts of the Body Considered for Handball

For the purposes of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.



Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offence!

The following information outlines handball offences:

Handball Offences

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalised
- scores in the opponents' goal:
 - directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
 - immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental

The goalkeeper has the same restrictions on handling the ball as any other player outside the penalty area. If the goalkeeper handles the ball inside their penalty area when not permitted to do so, an indirect free kick is awarded but there is no disciplinary sanction. However, if the offence is playing the ball a second time (with or without the hand/arm) after a restart before it touches another player, the goalkeeper must be sanctioned if the offence stops a promising attack or denies an opponent or the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.



The following are some considerations to use when making handball decisions:

Handball Considerations	
Use your “Football Understanding”	For example, consider the following: What is a normal playing position? Why are the arms there?
Use Clear Considerations	Such as moving the hand/arm towards the ball.
Natural Positions and Movements	For example, the hand/arm is close to the body, is being used for support, or is in a justifiable position.
Use of Supporting Arm	Is the player using the hand/arm for support? Horizontal (e.g., slide tackle support) vs. vertical (e.g., jumping). Natural falling action vs. blocking action.
Taking a Risk	Did the player take a risk by making their body bigger? For example, extended hand/arm; hand/arm is away from the body vs. tucked into the body; hand/arm is above the shoulder.

Referee Development



Referee Development Pathway



LISA is dedicated to supporting each referee on their chosen development pathway.

BC Soccer Referee Development Pathway

BC Soccer has created a [Referee Grading Protocol and Pathway](#) which includes Community and Performance streams.

COMMUNITY Grassroots, Club Recreational, District & Regional Competition



PERFORMANCE Regional Leagues, Provincial Competition, University & College, Semi-Pro



NATIONAL & FIFA National University and College, Semi-Pro, Professional Competition



BC Soccer offers a [Referee Upgrade Program](#) for referees aspiring to advance in the performance stream and achieve Regional or Provincial status.

Referee Mentorship and Assessments



LISA recognizes that mentorship and assessments are essential to referee development.

LISA Referee Mentorship Program

A mentorship can be requested through your club Head Referee or the LISA Referee Development Officer at referees@lowerislandsoccer.com.

Mentorships are performed for referee maintenance and development purposes.

The cost is born by the LISA Referee Development Fund.

Referee Mentorship Program

NAME: _____ Match: _____ vs. _____

Classification: _____ Match Level: _____ Match Difficulty (Circle) _____

Match Date: _____ Location: _____ Fair _____ Difficult _____

Competitive _____ Very Difficult _____

Competency Reference: AOS: (Areas of Strength) AOD: (Areas of Development)	AOS	AOD
Referee		
1. Application of Law		
2. Positioning / Fitness / Work Rate		
3. Alertness / Awareness		
4. Communication / Advantage		

Areas of Strength

Areas of Development

Mentor Signature: _____ Date: _____

BC Soccer Assessment

A formal assessment for maintenance of a current referee grade or for promotion / upgrading purposes can be requested via [RefCentre](#) under Assessments > Request.

Currently, the cost of having a formal assessment conducted is \$80 plus GST.

Referee Recognition & Awards



LISA collaborates with its member club associations to select the 'Referee of the Month' and 'Referee of the Year.'

Selection is made by the LISA Referee Development Officer in consultation with Head Referees from member club associations.

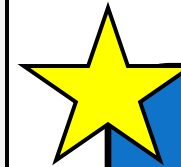
LISA 2023/24 Referees of the Year



Lacey Appleman



Greg Teucher



View all past recipients here:

[Referee's of the Year](#)

[Referee's of the Month](#)

Scholarships



LISA is pleased to provide eight (8), \$1000 scholarships annually to individuals who go above and beyond for the game of soccer:

LISA Scholarship Information	
Eligibility Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants must have played three (3) or more years with an affiliated LISA team and/or must be currently participating within LISA in a specific capacity. Priority is given to individuals currently playing youth soccer but is involvement in playing soccer, but participation may also be as a coach, official or volunteer. 2. Applicants must demonstrate a focus on scholastic excellence. At a minimum, an applicant must have demonstrated marks for the current year with a minimum of a “C” average. 3. Applicants must provide examples of community involvement. An applicant must have demonstrated good citizenship, character and leadership within the community. 4. Applicants must be either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Proceeding from Grade 12 to any University or other post-secondary institution approved by LISA’s Scholarship Committee; or b) Already attending post-secondary institution but be under 19 years of age as of December 31 of the current year and are not already in receipt of a LISA scholarship; or c) Will be attending a post-secondary institution by September 30th of the following year.

Continued →





LISA is pleased to provide eight (8), \$1000 scholarships annually to individuals who go above and beyond for the game of soccer:

LISA Scholarship Information cont.	
Application Rules	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The application must be received by April 30 of the current year.2. The application must be accompanied by three (3) letters of reference including at least one from the applicant's club or district personnel outlining the applicant's specific attributes as a player, official or volunteer, their involvement in the community and how they demonstrate good citizenship, character and leadership. <p>Failure to meet these requirements will render the application ineligible.</p>
<p>Note: Scholarships are conditional in that funds will be withheld until such time as the recipient provides proof that they are enrolled in a post-secondary institution authorized or accredited by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology. Scholarship funds will be held for the recipient until September 30th of the year following the date of the award; after that time has elapsed the award will be forfeited.</p>	
Application Form	<p>Click here to apply!</p>



LISA is pleased to provide information on the following additional scholarship opportunities:

Additional Scholarship / Bursary Opportunities	
 BC Soccer	 BC Soccer Referees Association (BCSRA)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BC Soccer Scholarship Procedures (application form link can be found within the procedures document)• BC Soccer Scholarship Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annually awards the Dan Kulai-Jack Tinnion Memorial Scholarship (\$1000) to a registered referee who will be graduating from high school this year and has hopes to enter post-secondary education• In 2024, introduced a \$500 bursary for those BC Soccer-registered referees who are already in post-secondary education• For more information, email bcreferees@gmail.com