



United Clubs League (UCL) - Referee Procedures

These parameters must be followed as long as the match has a confirmed date, time, venue, and field number assigned in GotSport.

Referee Assignments

Referee assignments for UCL games in and around Maryland and Washington, DC will be made by the MSYSA Referee Assigning team.

Payouts are generated bi-weekly through GotSport-GotPay.

The MSYSA Referee Assigning team can be reached at referee@msysa.org.

For all UCL games, referee fees are included in the Registration Application Entry Fee. Referees will be paid according to the fee published prior to each seasonal year.

- U8–U10 Matches: One referee will officiate the match.
- U11 and Older Matches: A full referee crew of three officials will be assigned.
- Referee Assignment Contact:
 - Referees are scheduled through MSYSA Referee Assigning.
 - If referees do not arrive at the field, immediately contact the on-call assignor at **(443) 766-0610** and notify referee@msysa.org.

Checking in Teams by Referee

It is the Referee's responsibility to check in the teams.

- Check GotSport the morning of your games to confirm times and locations. If you have questions about a venue, call the **MSYSA ON-CALL Number: (443) 766-0610** (It's better to be safe than sorry!)
- Arrive 30 minutes prior to kickoff
- All Referees should bring their own tools to every match: flags, whistles, proper uniform/socks, snacks, water.
- Communicate with your crew! Contact your crew before the game to confirm the arrival time. Text/call each other if you are running late.
- Home team must print the Match Card and must present it to the Referee prior to the match.

- Check the teams in utilizing the printed game sheet that the Home team provides (if the Away team provides one that was printed closer to kickoff time, use that one)
 - If a Club Pass Player was added after the Match Card was printed by the Home or Away team, then please call the UCL on-call number **(443) 472-7749** to confirm that the player is eligible to participate.
- Teams must show **physical** or **digital** cards during check-in.
 - Participants (team officials and players) must have an official pass and be listed on the Match Card to compete.
- NO WRITTEN IN NAMES
- Check off attendees on the Match Card.
- Strikethrough individuals on the Match Card who are not present.
- You may change a jersey number
- If there is a color conflict between teams, the Home team must change. Work with the teams and remember; the ultimate goal is to play the match!
- Do NOT ask teams for money. Payment will come through GotSport-GotPay.
- If any match has 2 referees, DO NOT USE TWO-WHISTLE SYSTEM. Ask the clubs to provide a club linesman. US Soccer does not allow two whistles.
- **Match Day Maximum Eligible Players by U-Group**
 - **U8-U10** (7v7): 14 active players (Minimum of 4 players for kickoff)
 - **U11-12** (9v9): 16 active players (Minimum of 6 players for kickoff)
 - **U13+** (11v11): 18 active players (Minimum of 7 players for kickoff)
 - Please note: If a team has more than the numbers listed above, the players may sit on the bench, in street clothing. **ONLY** active players may be dressed for the match.

During the Match

- **For U8-U10 Matches**
 - There will be a build out line for all 7v7 age groups.
 - The opponent must retreat behind the build out line on all goal kicks or when the goalkeeper has possession in their hands.
 - The ball is considered to be in play for all players once it has moved either from the Goalkeepers hands or a goal kick.
 - Teams may decide to play quickly before the opponent has retreated behind the build out line.
- Substitutions are unlimited at any stoppage.
- U12s can head the ball, but U11s cannot. If a U11 player intentionally heads the ball, it's an indirect free kick for the other team at that spot.
- Game Durations:

Age Group	Half Length	Halftime
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U8-U10	25	10
U11-U12	30	10
U13-U14	35	10
U15-U16	40	10
U17+	45	10

Weather-Related Policy

- Please refer to the [Inclement Weather Guidelines](#).
- Only official communications from the referee on-site should be considered authoritative regarding a match status once at the field.
- Please contact the on-call referee assigning number at **(443) 766-0610**; if further assistance is needed.

Reporting Scores, Misconduct and Injuries

- All scores should be reported by the Referee within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the UCL match in GotSport.
 - [As a Referee - How to Report Scores, Misconduct, and Injuries](#)
 - For UCL Fall 2026, the Event Code is: **UCLFall2026** and Pin Code is: **2026**
- For any player issued a red card, the Referee is also required to complete the [USSF Supplemental Report](#).
- A forfeited match will be reported as a 1-0 score, with the one (1) being awarded to the non-offending team.

Referee Absence Policy

If assigned officials fail to appear:

- If the match cannot be played due to the fault of the home team, it will be rescheduled, and the originally designated home team will travel to the opponent's field.
- The teams may proceed with a volunteer referee, such as a parent or other mutually agreed individual.
 - Both teams **MUST** approve the person serving as referee and email referee@msysa.org stating the match details and decision to continue to play the match with their designated official.
- UCL's standard position is that any match played will have its result recorded as official as long as it has reached half-time.

- If both teams choose to treat the match as a friendly, UCL must be notified before kickoff by emailing ucl@msysa.org.

Referee Abuse Policy

The abuse of referees by coaches or spectators **will not** be tolerated.

- Any such behavior must be reported immediately by calling the Affiliate Logistics Director at **(410) 330-8692**.
 - The case may be referred to the UCL Administrator who will address the situation with the UCL Rules and Disciplinary Committee for investigation and possible sanctions.
- The full policy and penalties can be found [here](#) and on the MSYSA [website](#).
- All game results will be final, and no game result will be subject to protest.