



## Maryland State Soccer Association - Referee Guide for Cups

### FIFA Laws of the Game

The FIFA Laws of the Game apply to all of the competitions with exceptions listed below.

### Uniforms

1. When the uniforms colors of the two competing teams are determined similar by the referee, the home team shall change its color.
2. A clear visible number at least 8 inches in height must be worn on the back of each player's jersey. Each player on a team must wear a number different from the numbers of the other players on the same team.

### Player Identification

1. Teams must provide identity of their rosters that include a photo of each player. A roster from either the TeamLinkt App or league identification form showing the list of players (photo of each player included on form) will suffice for identification.
2. If a player photo is missing from the Roster, then a photo ID must be presented that includes the player's name as listed on the roster and a head shot photo of the player. The ID may be issued by a state government or recognized school.
3. Player or players without the proper identification are not eligible to play the match unless waived by the Cup Commissioner.

### Match Procedures

1. Match Day Roster
  - a. Teams are permitted a roster of up to eighteen (18) players. The Match Roster shall mark the 18 designated among the player pool. The jersey numbers shall be added on the roster.
  - b. The Match Roster is to be submitted to the referee no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the match.
2. Length of Match

Each match shall be comprised of two 45-minute halves with a halftime interval not to exceed 15 minutes. In matches where a winner must be determined, if tied after regulation, then the winner will be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.
3. Start of Match

Matches will start at the scheduled time. There is a five (5) minute grace period beyond the scheduled starting time for a team to get the minimum number of seven (7) players on the field for the start of the match. If a team fails to appear or has less than seven (7) players and the opposing team has seven (7) or more players ready to play, the latter team shall claim the match by forfeit. The forfeiting team is responsible for all officiating fees.
4. Substitutions

**Stewart Cup**  
A maximum of 7 substitutions shall be allowed. A player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the match.

**Rowland Cup, Morton Cup, Maryland-District-Virginia Cup  
Maryland O-30, O-40 & O-50 Cups**

Substitutions shall be unlimited in numbers among the 18 players listed on the match day roster. A player who has been substituted may reenter the match at any time. The referee may stop play and allow substitution in the following situations:

- After a goal by either team.
- On a goal kick by either team.
- On a throw-in by the team in possession.
- By either team at half time.
- For an injured player, when play is stopped for the injury.
- When a yellow card is given for the player given the yellow card. The substitution is not mandatory.

In any situation above where players are at midfield waiting to come onto play as a substitute, players from both sides may come on as substitutes.

**5. Match Officials**

Each team is responsible for the compensation of the officials, \$120 per team, \$240 total for the match crew. The fees are set at \$100 for the referee, \$70 for each assistant referee. Match fees are to be collected prior to the start of the match.

**6. Technical Area**

Teams will be permitted no more than four (4) coaches in the team's technical area (bench). Only those players designated among the 18 on the Match Roster are also permitted in the technical area. All other players must view the match from spectators area. Both teams will set their benches on the same touchline.

**7. Spectators/Supporters**

Spectators/supporters must be seated on the opposite touchline from the team benches or designated seating areas in the stands. Spectators are not permitted on the field or technical area. Teams are responsible for the conduct of their supporters.

**8. Send Off**

An individual sent off from a match (red card) must leave the playing area. The individual may observe the match from the spectator stands but any attempts to disrupt the match or create commotion with the referees, field delegate or opposing team, then the individual shall be removed from the grounds. The match will be temporary paused until said individual leaves.

## Administrative Matters

### Protests

Any intent to protest a match, the protesting team must present a notice of protest to the referee and the MSSA field delegate (if present) in the following manner:

- A. For matters concerning ineligible players, prior to the start of the match. Notice must state the ineligible player(s) and rationale. The referee/field delegate will notify the opposing team of the protest to allow ability to correct any error.
- B. For matters concerning the match itself, the notice must be given after the match is completed to the referee/field delegate. Notice must state the error for the basis of the protest. The referee or field delegate shall immediately notify the opposing team.
- C. The referee/field delegate will notify the Cup Commissioner and state the matter of protest in their match report.
- D. The decision of the protest will be deliberated and decided by the MSSA Cup Committee. It is not a matter for the referee or field delegate to decide on the field. For example, in the case of an ineligible player, the duty is to inform the opposing team of the intent to protest. It is not the responsibility of the referee to determine if the player is eligible. If the player did play in the match, make certain to note it in the match report.

### Referee Match Report

The match report will be emailed to Cup Director Fran McGrath at [mcgrath494@aol.com](mailto:mcgrath494@aol.com).

The report may be sent on official USSF forms but is not required. Photo copies of the Match Day Rosters submitted by each team are to be included as well. The report will include the names of each match official, the result of the match and any discipline actions and/or injuries that occurred during the match. Give full details for any serious incident. The email must be sent within 24 hours of the completion of the match.