

It's 2021 and City Tournament is back!!!! All City tournament matches are loaded. If you are officiating in the City Tournament you MUST read and know the information below. A pdf file of this email will also be posted on the SSRA website.

CITY TOURNAMENT ZOOM MEETINGS: Every referee is strongly encouraged to attend the scheduled City Tournament Zoom meetings. Referees who attend will not only have a fantastic time, but they will also receive priority for finals assignments. **THE FIRST MEETING IS TONIGHT, SUNDAY, November 28, 2021 at 7:00PM.**

Topic: Seattle Referees - City Tournament Preview

Time: Nov 28, 2021 7p

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87607000390>

WERE YOU SWITCHED FROM REFEREE TO AR? WSYSA policy is that the referee on any match should be at least two years older than the age group. The limit was not set correctly. If you have been reassigned from a middle to AR it's probably because we need to conform with the guideline. We are prioritizing assigning adults to U11-13 games. We understand that these are the matches the younger referees do during the Season. We asking you younger referees will request AR assignments instead.

KNOW ALL CITY TOURNAMENT RULES/PROCEDURES: Please be certain that you know and follow all the proper rules and procedures for the tournament. We should not be making mistakes with things such as team check-in, reporting scores and misconducts, administering kicks from the mark or U11/12 field/rules modifications. Errors in procedure lead to valid protests and replayed matches. Get the procedures correct, please.

(We also understand that referees will make many judgment calls during the match; such as fouls, advantage and direction of restart. Not everyone will agree with every call you make. We will support your calls on the field 100%.)

Again, procedures are hard and fast rules that are enforced when the game is stopped. Easy to get correct. Judgment calls happen in real time, while the play is happening. Sometimes, not so easy.

PROFESSIONALISM: Please look and act like everyone is watching you because they are. Impressions matter. Wear the proper uniform at all times. If you must layer up for the cold, the jersey is ALWAYS the outside layer. Shirts should be tucked in. Visible underlayers should be black. Black shorts and shoes. Please, also work hard and keep up with play. The players come to work hard and compete. You should be giving the same to the game. Finally, NO CELL PHONE USE during a match!

MASKS: Masks are required on all u11/12 games all matches played at Seattle Public School facilities. Masks issues are not treated as player equipment issues. Instead this is an SYSA a club policy on U11/U12 and school policy on school fields. The referees are not being asked to be the mask police, but only to (1) remind the teams/coaches during pregame and (2) direct all issues to the coaches during the match. If players are not wearing their masks properly at a stoppage, send player over to coach and continue game. If it is a repeated issue, just remove the player for an "extended time" for coach to fix the problem.

NO TIES-ALL MATCHES MUST HAVE A WINNER: SYSA City Tournament is a double-elimination tournament. There is no group or round-robin play. A team is eliminated after two losses. This means every game needs a winner.

NO OVERTIMES: All games that are tied at the end of regulation will be decided by Kicks from the Mark. No overtime periods are played.

KICKS FROM THE MARK: Know the procedures for Kicks from the Mark. If you are not confident you can do them correctly, then DO NOT take any solo matches. While someone may be there to help you from the next match, you may have to do administer KFTM on your own.

PLAYER CARDS: You must check rosters and player cards before the match. All players must have a valid player card and must be on the roster. If a team does not have a roster OR a player does not have a player card, you should still play the match. You MUST report any player card or roster issue on the match report and text Cathy Echert immediately after the match.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: The issue of player eligibility comes up often in CT. If a player does not have a card he or she still plays. Your job is to report the issue after the match, not to decide it before the match. If a team has a concern about another team's players, just let them know you will file a report with your assignors and the league immediately following the match and SYSA will decide what to do.

ROSTER SIZES: U15 and above teams may have 22 players on their overall roster, BUT only 18 players may suit up for any game. The coaches must present three copies of their rosters. The names of the players who will NOT be part of the 18 for the game should be crossed out. We must be diligent in ensuring only 18 players are suited up and participate in the match. This means you must track late arriving players as well. Please arrive early enough to do a correct check-in.

REPORT YOUR SCORES IMMEDIATELY: Every referee must fill out a match report including the CORRECT SCORE AND NUMBER OF CAUTIONS/SEND OFFS on the website the same day as the match. Make sure you put the proper score with the proper team. SYSA uses the scores YOU report to determine which team advances.

REPORT MISCONDUCTS IMMEDIATELY: All cautions and send-offs MUST be reported on the website within 24 hours of the match. Teams play several times a week and the judicial board needs this information to take timely action. Please include all of the relevant facts that support your decision and THE REASON WHY YOU ISSUED THE CARD (reckless foul, tactical foul,...). Do not include your feelings or opinions. If you are not sure how to write a report please contact Cathy Echert or Scott Lawrence for help. ALL SEND OFFS AND EXPULSIONS OF PLAYERS, COACHES OR FANS MUST ALSO ALWAYS BE REPORTED TO CATHY ECHERT immediately after the match by text (or email). Reporting the issue to the assignor does not relive you from the obligation to report the card through the Seattlerefs.org website.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS: If there is a problem with player cards, fields or other issues that needs to be reported, but does not fit into the misconduct category, you MUST file a supplemental report online AND notify your assignor.

COACHES, SPECTATOR AND SIDELINE ISSUES: Do not ignore sideline issues. Employ "Ask-Tell-Dismiss." If a coach or parent is disrupting the game, please deal with it. SYSA cannot address problems if you don't report them. You should also report issues with teams and their sidelines to Cathy Echert and

Scott Lawrence. Please help us avoid sending young or inexperienced referee into bad situations. Your assignors, fellow referees and the opposing teams will appreciate your following through on this.

PROTESTS: If you are notified of the intent to protest a match, please mark this on the roster and notify your assignors. YOU MUST NOTIFY THE ASSIGNORS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MATCH and fill out a supplemental report located under REFEREE>MISCONDUCTS on www.seattlerefs.org. REMEMBER: REFEREES MAKE DECISIONS ON THE FIELD, ADMINISTRATORS MAKE DECISIONS OFF THE FIELD: If there is a protest SYSA will decide what action to take after the match. Do not argue with coaches or tell them what you think will happen. Simply tell them you will notify the league of the intent to protest and the SYSA board will take over from there.

WHEN TO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY YOUR ASSIGNORS: (1) Roster issues, (2) player card issues, (3) send offs of coaches or players, (4) problems with spectators, (5) protests and (6) any significant problems with fields, lights, etc....

SIDE BY SIDE TEAM BENCH POLICY: The Side-by-Side rule is MANDATORY. All spectators at games must be on one side of the field. Across the field, on the opposite side, will be only the players, coaches, and managers (that is, any player or adult with a team player card or member pass) for each team.

DO YOUR RESEARCH: You can look up previous scores under Information>SYSA Standings on the website. SYSA also has the brackets, scores, etc. posted on their website. Take the time to see how many losses a team has (are they facing elimination), where the teams finished during the regular season, head-to-head scores and anything else that may be relevant to your match. Remember, every game is a must win game for the teams.

U11/12 RULE MODIFICATIONS: The rules and field markings for U11 matches have been modified by SYSA. You must know how the field is supposed to be marked and which laws are different. This information can be found at in the Documents section of the website. No intentional headers in U11.

SNOW POLICY: If the fields are closed by the parks department we will let you know. If you have not heard otherwise, you should assume your match is going to be played. We encourage you to play all matches if field conditions allow. Remember that you are the final judge of whether the match will be played, not the teams. You should never play under conditions you deem dangerous. You should play under conditions that are unpleasant if it is safe to play. City Tournament does not have a lot of extra days built into the schedule for replaying matches. Your help in making sure matches get played is appreciated.

FINALS: The finals will be held on Saturday, December 18, 2021. Please email Cathy Echert and Scott Lawrence if you would like to be involved. All games need a 4-man crew, so there are lots of opportunities. The matches are all mentored as well. The last few years there has been a clinic offered in conjunction with the BU19 final and we hope to do the same again this year.

MANDATORY ZOOM SHOE-SHINE SESSION: Once again we will have a clinic and shoe-shine session Friday, December 17, 2021. We go over the procedures for the finals and it's a chance for the crews to start their game preparations early. This session is MANDATORY for all referees assigned to a final. You are encouraged to attend even if you are not participating in finals.

2021 RECERTIFICATION HOURS: If you need recert hours there are two opportunities at the tournament. You do not need to officiate in the tournament to take part in the clinics. The BU19 match on Saturday and the Shoe-shine session on Friday night will count for your hours. You should preregister on wareferees.org to make sure you get credit.

YOUR 2021 CITY TOURNAMENT ASSIGNORS: This year Cathy and I would like to welcome Larry Metz to the team. Cathy and I tried to figure out how many years we have assigned this, but both realized we didn't have enough fingers and toes to figure it out. Larry brings some new ideas, energy and is dedicated to developing our young referees.

Cathy Echert

Larry Metz

Scott Lawrence