



2026 MYSA MONTANA CLASSIC CUP– REFEREE GUIDE

Thank you for helping officiate the 2026 MYSA Montana Showcase. We appreciate your services and we hope you have a great tournament. MYSA would like to ask that all referees follow this guide and contact a tournament administrator or assignor if you have any issues or questions.

General Information

1. Check in with the referee tent at least 30-minutes prior to your match. If you have back-to-back matches, notify the admin so you can get your match cards. The center referee will receive the match card.
2. Match cards will be used as the official roster when checking teams in. **All players, subs and bench personnel must be on the roster.** Non-uniformed players are allowed on the bench, but they must be on the roster. Please report any roster problems to the admins immediately. Club provided trainers are allowed to be in the technical area, but they must be on the roster. **Do not write in any players or bench personnel.**
3. Match cards are used to report match scores and misconduct. All members of the crew should review the match report before the referee signs and turns it into the administration tent. Please use a pen and be very clear and neat with reports. The back may be used as a supplemental form. **Be sure the score is recorded correctly and turn in your card after every match.** You may ask a field marshal to return it. No need to collect coach signatures and you do not need to complete an Assignr match report, unless you want to.
4. **Player safety is our #1 duty and priority.** Call fouls and address unsafe play early. Talk to players, but don't hesitate to use cards if needed to control play.
5. **Look professional!** Black shoes, 2-stripe socks, black shorts, like style and color tucked in jerseys. No jewelry for referees either. There should be 5 distinct colors on the field. If you need to borrow a jersey, ask.
6. Deal with misconduct by coaches and spectators early, and at the first sign.
 - a. Ask: **"Coach, your behavior right now is irresponsible, please stop."**
 - b. Tell: **"Coach, you are acting irresponsible. If your behavior continues, you will be dismissed... Do you understand?"** Wait for a yes, show a Yellow Card and resume the match.
 - c. Dismiss: **"Coach you are dismissed."** Show a red card and do not restart the match until they are gone.
 - d. **Spectators: Do not deal with spectators directly.** Stop the match and make the coaches do it. There will also be field marshals around that can facilitate the removal of a spectator. Do not continue the match until the spectator has left sight and sound of the field. They don't have a right any longer to watch the match if they cannot behave responsibly. Report any issues on your match report.
7. **Remember, you are only wearing one hat at a time!** If you are watching a match and are not the crew in that match, you need to **remove or cover your uniform** (including socks) and enjoy the match. We ask that all spectators observe from the spectator areas. You may prefer to stay closer to the end line, but the technical area and team side is meant for only the referees on the match, mentors, admins and teams. **Misconduct by a referee that is spectating a match will not be tolerated!** If you have a concern about a referee on a match, please bring it to a tournament administrator.

Playing Rules

All Games to be played under [2025/2026 IFAB LOTG](#) with the below revisions.

1. **U13-U14: 35-Minute Halves & U15-U19: 40-Minute Halves** No added time or overtime.
Pool play and consolation games may end in a tie. (See below for finals.)
2. Teams may substitute an unlimited number of players at any stoppage in play with the permission of the referee.
3. Only 22 players are permitted on the roster with a max of 18 in uniform. 4 bench personnel in the technical areas, and they must be on the roster.
4. A 1-minute water break may be added to each half. Notify coaches that this will happen prior to the game.

Reduce to Equate: Reduce to equate is in effect for any Classic match. If Team A only has 9 players present, Team B must reduce to 9 players. Additional players may be added to each team at any stoppage. Teams must play with all available players in uniform. Classic matches may be co-ed and ages/sizes of players may range. Referees are asked to call Classic matches tighter and whistle for fouls sooner than other divisions.

Red Card Procedure: Rostered players that are shown a red card, and sent off, must leave the field of play, but may remain in the technical area under the supervision of a team official. If the sent off player cannot be controlled by a team official, the Referee may require the removal of the player from the entire field area. If such a player is removed from the field area, a team official or parent must supervise the player out of sight and sound of the field area. If only one team official is present, the match may be temporarily suspended for them to escort the player to a parent, but must return quickly or the match will be terminated.

Any team official dismissed from a match must leave the field area and retreat to the parking area of the complex and be out of sight and sound of the field. Any team official who is dismissed is prohibited from communicating with his/her team during a match, including but not limited to cell phone use, texting, or other means of communication.

If a team has you sign a sit out form for a player serving a sit-out, please record it in the match report.

Determining the Outcome of a Match

Finals matches will need a winner and will go straight to [Penalties](#) (No Overtime.) Only the players that are on the field at the end of the last half may take part in kicks, so do not let them leave the field! All substitutes and coaches must remain on the benches. Find help from a mentor or admin if you need help administering Penalties.

MYSA admins will monitor the weather and will sound a horn to stop play if a delay is needed and will sound a horn when play can resume. Please be prepared for all the weather.

[This tournament is supposed to be FUN!](#)

[Bring your sunscreen, water bottle, and a smile.](#)

Tournament Assignor: Brett Thackeray (brettpaco@gmail.com)

Referee Support/Mentors: Edwin Pryor, Chad Kirskovich