

2026 Referee Guidelines and Rules

- 1) Weekly referee schedules will be posted on the LMS website:
 - Go to www.learmingtonminorsoccer.com
 - Scroll to the bottom of the page
 - Look for the weekly schedule i.e. 2026 Referee Schedule May 2 – May 6.
 - If you cannot make an assignment, contact Tony Omar immediately.
- 2) At the start of the game, at half time or after a goal, the ball starts at center. A player must kick the ball in any direction, but cannot touch it 2 consecutive times.
- 3) If the ball goes out over the end line, depending on who last touched the ball, it is a corner kick (last touched by defensive team) or goal kick (last touched by offensive team).
- 4) Opposing players must be 10 yards away from the ball when a free kick is being taken, except for a penalty kick in which all players except the shooter and goalie must be outside the penalty area.
- 5) If a substitution is being made (not on a free kick or corner kick), make sure that the correct number of players remain on each team.
- 6) If a player is injured and the referee blows the whistle to stop the play, tend to the injured player and allow a substitution if necessary. Restart the game with a drop ball to the team that had possession when you stopped the game for the injury.
- 7) Referees should always try to stay 15 - 20 yards from the ball, near the middle of the field. The younger the age group, the more the players will need explanations for calls.
- 8) When you blow the whistle, it should be blown “with authority” – loud and firm.
- 9) If the ball hits the referee, the referee will blow the whistle and restart the game by dropping the ball to the team who last had possession. Opposing players should be 10 yds back.
- 10) If a player trips, kicks, pushes, shoulders or knocks down an opposing player, it is a foul. Blow the whistle, back up the opposing team 10 yds and allow a free kick to be taken. If this happens in the defensive penalty area, it is a penalty shot.
- 11) All free kicks inside the penalty area are taken from the penalty spot. For a penalty shot:
 - A) The goalie must have at least one foot on the line when the ball is kicked.
 - B) The ball must completely cross the line to be a goal.
 - C) If the goalie saves a penalty and there is a rebound, any player including the shooter may play the ball.
 - D) If the penalty hits the post/crossbar without the goalie touching it, any player except the shooter can play the ball.
- 12) A ball is deemed to be out when the entire ball crosses the line.
- 13) Goalie Rules:
 - A) A goalie may only handle the ball inside the penalty area.
 - B) A goalie cannot pick up a ball in the penalty area if it is deliberately passed to him/her by a team mate.

- C) The goalie can only hold the ball for 6 seconds once they are back on their feet. (Referees have to teach this with multiple warnings.)
- D) There is no limit to the number of steps a goalie can take with the ball.
- 14) A goal kick does not need to leave the penalty area.
- 15) LMS Soft Offside Rule: a player is deemed to be offside when, at the moment the pass is made, they are not within 2 steps of the last defender. (Not when they receive the ball!)
- 16) A Retreat Line will be used for all age groups except U15 and U18. The line will be the centre line and opposing players must remain in their half until the goal kick is taken and another player touches the ball. Exception: if the goal kick is kicked into the opposing half, any player can touch the ball.
- 17) Games will not have injury time added. Generally, if time runs out and a team is attacking, let the play finish and then blow the whistle.

	Number of Players	Fields	Ball Size	Soft Offside	Retreat Line	Substitutions
U9B	7 v 7	Junior 6,7,10, 11, 5A & 5B	4	Yes	Yes	FIFA Rule
U9G	7 v 7	Junior 6,7,10, 11, 5A & 5B	4	Yes	Yes	FIFA Rule
U11B	7 v 7	Junior 6,7,10, 11, 5A & 5B	4	Yes	Yes	FIFA Rule
U11G	7 v 7	Junior 6,7,10, 11, 5A & 5B	4	Yes	Yes	FIFA Rule
U13B	10 v 10	Intermediate 8 or 9	5	Yes	Yes	FIFA Rule
**U13G	7 v 7	Junior 6,7,10, 11, 5A & 5B	5	Yes	Yes	FIFA Rule
**U15 Coed	10 v 10	Intermediate 8 or 9	5	Yes	No	FIFA Rule
**U18 Coed	7 v 7	Junior 6,7,10, 11, 5A & 5B	5	Yes	No	FIFA Rule

** All 3 teams will play two 30-minute periods each night against each team in the following format:

6:00 – 6:30 Team 1 vs Team 2
 6:40 – 7:10 Team 2 vs Team 3
 7:20 – 7:50 Team 3 vs Team 1

18) Referees will report game scores using the following sheet found in the canteen:

<u>Date</u> Saturday May 2	-	<u>Time</u> 11:00 AM	-	<u>Field</u> Field 7
<u>Team A</u> Reis Appliance Sales & Service	U11G <u>Score</u> <input type="text"/>	<u>Team B</u> Mincity Designs	<u>Score</u> <input type="text"/>	

<u>Date</u> Saturday May 2	-	<u>Time</u> 1:00 PM	-	<u>Field</u> Field 5B
<u>Team A</u> Advanced Wellness Centre U13G	U13G <u>Score</u> <input type="text"/>	<u>Team B</u> Fehr Services U13G	<u>Score</u> <input type="text"/>	1:00 PM
Fehr Services U13G	<input type="text"/>	Jose's Bar and Grill U13G	<input type="text"/>	1:40 PM
Jose's Bar and Grill U13G	<input type="text"/>	Advanced Wellness Centre U13G	<input type="text"/>	2:20 PM