

OAKVILLE SOCCER CLUB

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR MATCH OFFICIAL DOESN'T SHOW UP! AGES U8-U9



Did you arrive at your game with no match official present?

Sometimes things happen and your match official will not be able to make it. Not to worry – we will give you all the information you need to have a successful game!

As one of our valued coaches, we are asking you to step into the role of Match Official for the game.

No Match Official Experience? No Problem!

Keep reading along for a quick and easy how-to guide for officiating a game at U8/U9!

Step 1: Connect with the other coach. If possible, split the game, and each play the role of “Match Official” for half.

Step 2: Work with your parents! When you are on the field officiating, have a parent from your team stand-in as coach to handle substitutions. *Helpful hint:* If possible, get them to time the halves with their phone or watch to remove a task of officiating!

Step 3: Prepare the teams – make sure that all players have shin-pads on, and are not wearing any jewelry before the game begins. This includes bracelets, earrings, necklaces, studs, etc.. (*Medic alert bracelets are allowed but must be secured)

Step 4: Read through the following rules for your age group prior to kick-off. Remember to let the game flow while enforcing the rules where needed.

- 5v5 (including goalkeeper)
- 10 minute warm-up, 40 minute game (2 x 20 minute halves)
- When a goal kick takes place, the opposing team must move behind the “retreat line” (half) and stay there until the ball is played
- Kick-ins or dribble-in (not throw-ins) if ball is put out-of-play
- There are no corner kicks at this age group and all free kicks are indirect
- Unlimited substitutions allowed
- Issue fouls as required, but do your best to remain impartial to the game

Step 5: Be sure that one coach from the field reports the game details to the Youth House League Coordinator.

*It is important to remember that the game does not need to run perfectly. OSC asks that you do the best you can in the short time provided to prepare in this situation. We sincerely appreciate your participation in creating a positive soccer experience for the youth of Oakville!