

## GHFYSA SOCCER: A COACH'S PRACTICAL GUIDE to GAME DAY

- Several days before game day, contact your opponent coach and confirm the date/time/location. *It's no fun driving 45 minutes only to find out a game has been cancelled.*
- Be prepared for weather. *Stocking caps, gloves, extra layers, hot hand packets--your players will thank you for reminding them to be ready for any sort of weather.*
- This is a no-standings league. *So if one team has a shortfall of players and the two coaches want to co-mingle players, fine. Or play down a player to even up the experience. The two coaches are responsible for making a great experience at that field, in cooperation with the ref.*
- If you have a referee...your referee(s) may be young and inexperienced. Please have a copy of the league rules at each game. However, be supportive and understand the referees are learning, too. The proper venue to complain about referees is via the Referee Feedback link at our [www.ghfysa.com](http://www.ghfysa.com). **Verbal altercations at the field are NEVER appropriate!**
- If you don't have a referee (some clubs don't provide refs, and sometimes there are not enough available), the two coaches need to decide on a volunteer to officiate the game. Once identified, this volunteer IS the referee--see the last point. *It would be great if one of the coaches could provide this volunteer with a copy of the rules and a whistle.*
- Rosters - Always provide a paper copy of your roster to the referee. *Referees are instructed not to begin games without a roster from each team.*
- Goal safety - Goals should be anchored to the ground or have sandbags or other weights holding them down. Even smaller goals can be dangerous. *Do not allow your players to hang on the goals, and home coaches should be prepared to assist with correcting goal safety issues.*
- U9/10 is using U10 Modified Rules. 7v7, no heading, build-out lines, offside starts at the build-out lines. Slide tackling is NOT allowed. *Please read through the U9/10 Rules for details.*
- U11/12 is using U11 Modified Rules. 9v9, no heading, build-out lines, offside starts at the build-out lines. Slide tackling is allowed. *Please read through the U11/12 Rules for details.*

If you have any concerns or issues, please contact the GHFYSA Director of Competition Ben Winkelman at [competition@ghfysa.com](mailto:competition@ghfysa.com) or call him at 360-581-5507. GHFYSA wants to help structure a terrific experience for our member clubs and teams, and your positive or constructively critical feedback helps us improve that experience.