

Nassau BOCES Soccer Officiating Tips

- Keep your availability up to date
- Accept assignments promptly once assigned. Call the BOCES office and cancel any that you have accepted but need to turn back.
- Call the school by 9:00 am the day of the game. If it is a Saturday game, make sure you call the school on Friday. If possible, get the name of the person who answered the phone. Provide your contact information and confirm the site and time of the game. Contact your partner if you will be running late or to confirm if you will be wearing pants/shorts/long sleeve/short sleeve.
- If weather looks questionable, as you get close to game time, consider calling the home school again to confirm game is still going to be played.
- Arrive (a minimum of) twenty minutes prior to the time of the game start and wait in the parking lot for your partner. Decide on uniform if you have not already spoken.
- Walk to the field together, no later than 15 minutes before game start. Go to each goal to ensure that it is safe, that they are anchored and whether any holes in the net must be repaired. Walk the field looking for holes or debris. Check for field markings and corner flags. Look at the girls warming up to see if they are properly equipped. Look at jersey colors, sock colors, if they have shin guards, hair adornments or jewelry. Try to address this with the player and/or coach before the game begins.
- Together, introduce yourself to the coaches, then move away (don't socialize with either coach).
- Review time procedures with the timer. If the school does not have a timer then the official on the coaches' side always has the official clock.
- Ask the home coach for 3 balls. Check each ball for NFHS stamp, pressure, size, and condition. Place one ball behind each goal.
- Review with your partner which side of the field and direction each official will be at the start of each half. If you start the game on the coaches side then for the second half you should be directly opposite on the other side of the field. Also review any other information pertinent to the game.
- If you have waited more than 26 minutes to begin the game you may have both coaches sign a late form. This must be mailed to BOCES the next day.
- At five minutes before the game start, call the coaches and captains together. Have the home team greet the away team. Ask the coaches if their players will be properly, and legally, equipped according to the rules before the game begins. Read the sportsmanship card, excuse the coaches and perform the coin flip to decide which team chooses the side of the field or starts with the ball.

- Get in position to start the game. The official who is on the side of the team that kicks off should stand close to the mid-field line and blow their whistle for the start of the game.
- Stay with the second-to-last defender or the ball (whichever is deeper). Keep eye contact with your partner.
- Substitutions – Blow whistle to stop play. Keep your hand up to signal substitutions. The official nearest the restart blows their whistle to resume play.
- A whistle is required for restart on all ceremonial restarts: start of each half, direct kicks, indirect kicks, penalty kicks, after substitution. Count out 10 yards for walls if team does not opt for a quick kick.
- Call what you see. If you issue a card, write down the team, number of the player, time when you issued the card and reason. You will need this information for your report. If you issue the same player a second yellow card, be sure to inform the coach that the player may not enter the field again.
- Remember do not referee in anger. You are impartial. You and your partner are a team, show mutual respect. Do not make any comments to the coaches regarding your partner's calls.
- Indirect Free Kick – mirror your partner and keep your hand up until the second touch of the ball.
- Corner Kick – Trail official: Move down to the top of the 18 yard line to look for any fouls. Lead Official: Move onto the goal line between the corner and the goal post.
- Penalty Kick – Signal to stop the clock. Lead official: - instruct goalie to stand on goal line. Trail official: Instruct other players to move outside the box and penalty arc.
- Move to the sideline when play is on your side, and move towards your partner when play is on the far side. Try to avoid being caught within the play's action.
- When the game is over, join your partner and leave the field together.
- Any cards issued must be reported within 24 hours on the website by filling out the appropriate form.
- Any red cards must also be followed up with a disqualification form sent to BOCES within 24 hours.
- Call BOCES (or email/fax) the next business day if you are asking for an additional fee – i.e. Late start, solo game, 5 period game, 4-quarter extended game.