

Referees' Orientation & Training Syllabus

August 18, 2017

Introduction:

We want to keep Flag Football a family friendly, character and skill building program, where values come first with winning as a close, but definite second. We will not only share the responsibilities of teaching the kids, but we also need to share the responsibilities of being respectful at all times, setting up and breaking down the fields, locking and unlocking the toilets, and keeping the garbage cleaned up.

Basics Stuff:

- Show up at least 10-15 minutes before a game properly dressed, equipped, and ready to start.
- Check the game clocks at least 5 minutes early and confirm it is plugged in and the remote is working.
- Please do not take the remotes with you. Attach them to the back of the clock when you are done.
- Be professional, no matter how someone else is acting. Deep breath, step away if you need to, and talk it over with your partner.

Coaches and Assistant Coaches:

- Only Head Coaches may deal with the referees.
- Head Coaches must deal with their parents, players, assistant coaches, and spectators.
- Head Coaches do not deal with the other coaches or the players of the other team.
- Everything goes through the referees.
- Referees do not engage anyone but the head coach.
- If there is a problem with anyone else, the head coach should deal with it, but help if they are having a hard time with advise or encourage them to do the correct thing.
- If the coach can't or won't deal with an issue on their sideline, the commissioner or deputy commissioner should be engaged by the Referee.

Coin Toss & Introductions:

- Includes the two team captains and head coach of each team, and both referees.
- Head Coaches must identify themselves at the coin toss. If anyone is identifying themselves as the head coach they must let you know if they are not the registered head or assistant coach. Anyone other than the official head or assistant must be confirmed by the Commissioner before being the lead coach on the field.
- Referees introduce themselves and encourage everyone to do the same.
- Confirm Shirts tucked in.
- Shoes tied.
- Flags on correctly and tight with the extra part tucked or wrapped.
- Mouth Guards are mandatory.
- No diving. Zero Contact.
- No one but the head coach speaks to the referees.
- Will only make calls they see themselves.
- Will not change a call if approached less than calmly.
- Will penalize for bad sportsmanship.
- Remind Home Team to handle the down marker.
- Remind Coaches to have everyone clean up before they leave (remind at end of last game on each field that both teams must breakdown and clean up the entire field.)

- Have fun, play smart, and hard.
- Coin toss.
- Line everyone up, shake hands, and go play.

Sportsmanship & Dealing with Officials/Coaches (this is what the coaches have been trained on and it goes both ways.)

Our officials are good guys and good referees. They make mistakes, like we all do. They will definitely make mistakes this season. They will miss calls because they won't see them. Over the course of a season, they will make mistakes about equally to everyone. It doesn't matter how important or not the situation is to you, a mistake is a mistake.

This is a youth sport league. If you can't let it go, don't yell, don't scream, don't throw anything. Call a time out and very politely and very respectfully speak with the head referee.

Referees are asked to reconsider a call ONLY when there is a respectful challenge, but NOT if there is anything less than total respect and calm. Respect will pay off for you, in every way.

Coaches can not make calls themselves. If a referee does not see a call with their own eyes they may not make a call. Repeated call making by the other team in some way (even if by parents) can result in a penalty being assessed for sportsmanship.

Commissioners will not change calls on the field.

Every sportsmanship related penalty must be reported to the head referee who will report it in writing (email OK) with names, circumstances, etc. to the Commissioner. This is only way we can exclude certain coaches year after year.

Games that become a little unruly can be stopped by an agreement of both referees for the good of the children. Just call the game and tell everyone to go home and contact the commissioner, if necessary. We will figure it out later.

Rules:

AYYA's version of the NFL Flag Rules are on the website, www.allyonkers.org. AYYA changes are clearly shown in red. Please read them a couple of times, know them, and have them with you.

Rules questions. Referees must know the rules... if there is a doubt, the referees may confer and check the rule book under their own time out.

Dogs are not allowed on the field. Please ask spectators with dogs to remove them from the field since it is now a Yonkers Rule, not AYYA's.

Playing Time:

- 6u, 8u- Every child plays equally every game, and should play different positions.
- 10u - Every player should play very close to equal every game and have a chance to play different positions.
- 11u, 13u- Every player should play at least 1/3 of the game, no one should play more than 2/3 of the game. You should have more than one quarterback and you should still be trying to develop talent and let the children play different positions.
- Referees are encourage to remind coaches if they witness unequal playing time and to assess sportsmanship penalties in extreme cases.

Important Dates:

All documents, dates, times, etc. are on www.allyonkers.org.