



TIPP CITY YOUTH SOCCER

IT'S OFFICIAL!

www.tippsoccer.org / tcysreferees@gmail.com



April 2024

Dear Referee Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in learning how to become a referee for the upcoming **2024** Fall soccer season. This training will allow you to referee any of the **TCYS RECREATIONAL** soccer matches played at Kyle Park and at any of the other Clubs' locations in the Miami Valley East League, if you so choose...including Bethel, Graham, Miami East, and Northwestern.

In order to become a referee, you must do the following:

1. Go to www.tippsoccer.org/Referees
 - a. Find the following documents in the left-hand margin of the Referees page. Click on each one and read them.
 - *Referee Requirements*
 - *Referee Application* > download the form and complete it on your computer. You may also fill in the form by hand if needed, but you would need to either take a picture of it or scan it and email that. Attach it to an email and send it to the Referee Coordinator > tcysreferees@gmail.com
 - *Referee Code of Conduct*
 - *The IFAB Laws of the Game (LOTG)* – this will link you to www.theifab.com where all the Laws are presented as well as any recent Law changes, guidelines for match officials, and other resources. You may also want to download *The IFAB* app to your phone, which has a great Q/A section in addition to the same material found on the website.
 - *Miami Valley East League (MVE) Special Rules* – some of the Laws are modified for the younger age groups
 - b. Find the Referee Test.
 - Download it and save it to your computer, or you may print it if you do not have Excel software.
 - Begin reading the questions and try answering the questions gradually between now and the Training in August by typing or writing in your answers; use this as a worksheet for now. We suggest that you print your 'test worksheet' and bring it with you to the Training. We will go over much of it then.
 - You may use the LOTG presented at www.theifab.com and any other source to find the answers to the test questions.
 - You will need to send us the final version of your test by **Saturday, Aug 10. (Please attach your test to an email if possible in Excel format for easier grading. We will return it to you with any corrections.)**
 - **Please, do not take a picture of your test...makes it too hard to read and grade.**
 - Passing Score is '70'. However, we will support anyone who may not reach that mark.
2. Attend the Introductory Clinic on the Laws of the Game
 - a. Indoor Class on **Saturday, August 3**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at **TOOL TESTING LAB, INC** at 11601 North Dixie Dr just north of Ginghamburg and across from *Route 25 Self Storage*. Free pizza and pop will be provided at lunch. Instruction/videos will continue through lunch.
 - b. Outdoor Session on **Sunday, August 4**, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the **KYLE PARK RESTROOMS SHELTER** at the east end of the main parking lot. Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend the Outdoor Session, but let us know us if you cannot.
 - c. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS INTRODUCTORY CLINIC OR LUNCH.**

3. Even if you send us an application, **PLEASE, CONFIRM BY WEDNESDAY, JULY 31**, that you will be attending the clinic so that we can plan for food and teaching materials. Email us at tcysreferees@gmail.com, or call or text both **Mike Mahan** at [937-499-4378](tel:937-499-4378) and **Todd Niswonger** at [937-974-4570](tel:937-974-4570).
4. **You are under no obligation to attend the clinic once you apply, but we will assume you are not coming if you do not CONFIRM by the above date. If you forget to CONFIRM by the above date, you may still attend. But please, call us to let us know you are coming.**
5. TCYS offers no other dates for the Introductory training. If a desiring Candidate cannot attend, he or she may instead take the OSSRC training online to become a **'USSF Grassroots Grade 8 Referee'**.
 - a. Go to www.ossrc.com
 - b. Click 'Read More' under 'License Renewal Information'
 - c. Follow the directions listed.
 - d. Click the link to [The US Soccer Learning Center](#)
 - e. The USSF Introductory Training costs \$55 for the first year and will allow a referee to do both recreational and competitive (Select/Club) matches sanctioned under USYS.
 - f. Even so, we must meet with a referee to go over details specific to the TCYS soccer program that are covered at the TCYS clinics.
6. Concussion Awareness Training
 - a. All referees must take the **Concussion in Sports** training every 2 years (already required for USSF licensed referees)
 - b. Prior to your first game, go to <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>
 - c. In the upper right, enter **Ohio** in the State window
 - d. **\$0** will then show, as this course is **FREE**
 - e. Then, click **Order Course**
 - f. Take the 20-min course, then follow the instructions to download your certificate
 - g. Email your completion certificate to, tcysreferees@gmail.com (no need if USSF licensed)
7. SafeSport Training
 - a. Adults (18 y.o.) must take the SafeSport Training (already required for USSF licensed referees)
 - b. Prior to your first game, go to <https://safesport.org> and register
 - c. Take the **FREE SafeSport Trained** course
 - d. Email your completion certificate to tcysreferees@gmail.com (no need if USSF licensed)

Opening Day is **Saturday, August 19**. The regular season ends **Thursday, October 5**, followed by tournament play. We have posted the [2022 TCYS Officiating Report](#) on the TCYS website, www.tippsoccer.org. This will give Candidates an idea of the scope of the referee program.

A single referee is assigned to 8U Passers matches. Two referees are assigned to each match in the older groups. The referee pay scale for games played at Kyle Park in Tipp City is currently under review. Rates last year were:

- 8U Passers – \$25 (7v7, 1 ref) NO OFFSIDE, unless a clear advantage, GK interference, or score occurs
- 10U Wings – \$30 (7v7, 1 ref) OFFSIDE
- 12U Strikers – \$35 (9v9, 2 refs)
- 14U Kickers – \$40 (9v9, 2 refs)
- 19U Minors/Seniors Co-ed – TBD if there are any teams; if so, they play 11v11, 2 refs

TCYS joined USYS in February 2020. TCYS is a member of the Miami Valley East League (MVE) consisting of the same Districts (now called Clubs) that we have played for many years...Bethel, Graham, Miami East, and Northwestern. Referees select their own matches on a referee assigning website, which will be described to you at the Clinic. Prior to Opening Day you will be given online access to list of matches being played at Kyle Park. You may select any of those to referee based upon your availability.

As a new referee, you will mostly do matches in the younger 8U and 10U age Divisions...there are more teams and matches in those two groups. However, you may choose to referee the older groups as well if you feel comfortable, and with the Referee Coordinator's approval. If you do choose an older match (e.g. 12U – 14U), you will be partnered with a more experienced referee that you can learn from. We can also do that in the 10U matches to help you gain confidence, if desired or needed. You will receive a confirmation email of your match selection at the email address you provide us. So, it is essential that you have access to a computer and a reliable email address for consistent communication.

Before you referee, we must be reasonably confident of your entry level knowledge of the laws and match mechanics. One way we assess your readiness is through a written test. The test is viewable anytime on the Referees page at www.tippsoccer.org. As we stated above, you may use the *LOTG* and any other resource to answer the questions. This is a good way to build your knowledge of the *LOTG* and to teach you where to find the answers and valuable guidance in applying the technical as well as the practical aspects of the game of soccer. A minimum score of **70** qualifies you to referee; those scoring **below 70** may be permitted to continue on **Probationary Status** at the discretion of the TCYS Referee Coordinator.

After the Clinic and prior to your first match, you will observe part of a match from the perspective of a referee. An experienced referee will go over some of the finer points of the laws and match field mechanics, as well as your test answers that will reveal areas you need to review. It is our intent to develop any Candidate who wants to referee and to assist any referee who wants to improve by validating their strengths and identifying areas for potential improvement.

As we hope you already understand, refereeing is not just about the money you will make but also about your providing a very valuable service to the kids playing the game. As a referee you will gain a perspective of the game that you will get in no other way. Many of our youth referees also play Select and High School soccer. There is no doubt that refereeing has enhanced their understanding and appreciation of the game when they play.

We hope you decide to join the TCYS Referee Team, or at least attend the Introductory Clinic. However, if you decide after completing the training that refereeing is not for you, or you encounter too many scheduling conflicts, that's fine...just let us know. Of course, contact us if you have any questions before then. Try to prepare for the Clinic by visiting the websites mentioned above and reading the materials on the TCYS website.

Thank you for your consideration

Mike Mahan, Director of Officiating - *TCYS, INC.*
950 Hunters Ridge Dr., Tipp City
937-499-4378

Todd Niswonger, Treasurer, Field Coordinator, Referee Co-Coordinator, USSF Grassroots 8+ Referee
937-974-4570

tcyreferees@gmail.com
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