

# R.P.S.A. REFEREE GUIDELINES 2009-2010

## I. PHILOSOPHY:

- a) Be in control of game—players, coaches, fans.
- b) Safety 1<sup>st</sup>-Use judgment on fouls and to stop game, if necessary.
- c) Lower Div: Teach, explain calls. Always whistle and point direction when ball out of play.
- d) Mid. Div: Less explain, whistle most times, but always point direction when ball out of play.
- e) Upper Div: Let them play (more physical, less explaining), whistle ball out of play if close, but always point direction.

## II. MECHANICS:

- a) Two man system. Stay even with last defender. Responsible for 1 sideline and 1 goal line.
- b) Make calls loud and strong, even if not sure. Check with other ref if not sure of rule or call. Keep whistle out of your mouth to avoid calling plays too quickly.

## III. SUBSTITUTIONS:

Substitutions: We will use High School rules for Upper and Middle Divisions. Substitutions can be made by either team on goal kicks and kickoffs. On Throw-ins and corner kicks, the team not in possession can only sub if possessing team subs 1st. This will help eliminate situation of players sitting too long, playing while tired, or losing advantage. Coach must get permission from referee before substituting. Referee will use discretion on allowing substitutions (advantage, too many stoppages, close to end, etc). Lower Div. can sub any time ball goes out of play.

## IV. RESTARTS:

- a) Kickoff: Must go forward. Re-kick if not. If touched by kicker twice, then ball to opponent.
- b) Throw-in: Any ball out of bounds along sideline. Both feet on ground on release, ball released directly over head (if ball has big sideways spin it is usually bad throw). No offside on throw-ins.  
Lower: Unlimited tries-same person  
Mid: Two tries-same person  
Upper: One try.
- c) Goal Kick: Passes goal line (not a goal) last touched by offensive team. Take anywhere along goal box (lower can be moved out a bit). Ball must clear penalty area or re-kick. No offside on goal kick.
- d) Corner Kick: passes goal line (not a goal) last touched by defensive team. Kick from corner flag. Lower kicks from corner of penalty area. No offside on Corner kicks.
- e) Direct Kick: Handballs and some fouls. Can score directly off kick. Kicker cannot touch twice. Opponents 8 yds away (10 in upper).
- f) Indirect Kick: Other fouls and penalties. Cannot score directly off kick. Must be touched by two players. Kicker and goalie counts as two players. Kicker cannot touch twice. 8 (10) yds away.
- g) Penalty Kick: Form of Direct Kick. Goalie on line. Other players outside box, behind ball, and 8 (10) yds away.
- h) Drop Ball: Restarts for injury stop or unusual stop of play (outside interference, etc). Drop does not need to be "fair." Can give advantage to one team if appropriate.

V. FOULS RESULTING IN DIRECT KICKS: If these fouls occur in the penalty box, result is a penalty kick. Make sure of foul and location of foul before granting a penalty shot (opportunity to score?).

- a) Fouls against an opponent (push, trip, kick, push, charge, etc)
- b) Hand ball: Must be intentional (the hand plays the ball). Give benefit of doubt for body/face protection.
- c) NEW: Slide tackle: Any player creating contact on a slide tackle, which is a serious foul play offense in our league (red card offense), MUST BE SENT OFF for the remainder of the game.

ALL FOULS: Do not give advantage to offending team by blowing quick whistle. Let them "play on" (and indicate verbally to play on) if offended team has an advantage (trips, hold, hand ball, etc.). Can call foul later if advantage does not materialize.

## VI. TECHNICAL OFFENSES (fouls resulting in indirect kicks):

- a) Dangerous play (successful slide tackle, impeding progress, interfere w/keeper, intentional pass to goalie is picked up, goalie holds for more than six seconds (make sure to warn him first, not a good thing to call). Be sure to use "advantage" rule.
- b) NEW: Slide tackle: A player who slides tackles "clean" without making contact is still guilty of a dangerous play foul and could (should) be sent off (yellow card offense) until the next opportunity to sub.
- c) NEW: A player may be sent off for a period of time deemed necessary by the referee for a dangerous play or persistent fouling if the referee feels the player needs to learn proper sportsmanship.

VII. OFFSIDES: Must be two players from defending team (usually goalie + 1 defender) between goal line and an offensive player when the ball is kicked. It is not offside just to be in offside position. You must be actively involved in play. Let play continue if another offensive player in legal position is the one involved in the play or if defense not hampered. There is no offside if player is behind the ball, regardless of any defenders present. No offsides on corners, throw-ins or goal kicks.

(Revised 5/19/09)