



# The Back of the Net



## Soccer News from the Hagerstown Area Youth Soccer League

### To Whistle or Not to Whistle

Referees must make quick decisions, and the luxury of time to think it over, look it up or discuss it with someone is not an option during the game. Test your knowledge and see if you can answer the following questions:

1. From a throw-in, a player throws the ball directly at his own goalkeeper who misses the ball completely, and it goes into the thrower's own goal. What should the referee do and how is play restarted?
2. A defender unintentionally kicks the ball towards his own goal. The defender's goalkeeper catches the ball with his hands before it enters the goal. What should the referee do and how is play restarted?
3. From a throw-in for the red team, the thrower attempts to throw the ball to a teammate in an offside position. A blue team defender attempts to intercept the throw but nevertheless deflects the ball to the red team player in the offside position who shoots the ball into the blue team's goal. What should the referee do and how is play restarted?

*Look on page 4 for the answers to these questions. In upcoming editions of The Back of the Net we will have more of these tests of your knowledge of the game of soccer.*

**For all your HAYSL needs, check out our website...  
[www.haysl.org](http://www.haysl.org)**

### Why Sideline Screaming Stifles the Game

- Mike Voitalla

Mike Voitalla is the Executive Editor of Soccer America Magazine and is the co-author of former U.S. national team captain Claudio Reyna's book, "More Than Goals: The Journey from backyard games to World Cup competition."

Imagine you're undertaking a fairly difficult task: assembling a piece of furniture with hieroglyphic instructions, filling out IRS Form 4562 on April 14, or standing on the highest rungs of a ladder painting the crown molding in your living room with 14-foot ceilings. Think it would help if someone yelled at you during the process? Of course not.

Yet when a child tries to control a bouncing ball in a crowd of other kids, adults often believe it's perfectly acceptable to scream "advice." The shouting at America's soccer fields is so epidemic one wonders if adults ever reflect on their behavior. Adults, who would never shout at children while they're enjoying the playground, drawing in a coloring book, or rearranging their dollhouse, loudly instruct from the sidelines without hesitation.

When adults scream from the sidelines they're not just invading the children's playtime, they're preventing children from learning the game of soccer in a natural manner. The shouting is detrimental to the children's development as soccer players and at worst can turn them off to the sport entirely.

If parents want to help their children become better soccer players, they can offer to kick the ball around with them in the backyard. But sideline instructions deny children a chance to make their own decisions, it stifles their creative instincts, and all too often the instructions are misguided.

When a player has the ball there are generally three options: dribble, pass or shoot. In the long-term, the great players are the ones who choose wisely most of the time. But if, when they're first learning the sport, that decision is being made for them with a scream from the sideline, how can we expect them to develop the soccer instincts they'll need to make the split-second decisions that are so much a part of the game?

"We don't want to turn the children into parrots waiting for someone to tell them what to do," says John Ouellette, AYSO National Coach. "Soccer is a free-flowing game for children to enjoy and learn from playing. As an organization, we discourage

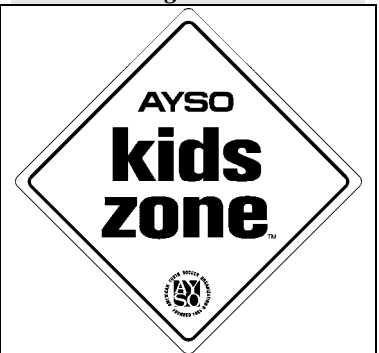
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### THE KIDS NEED YOU!

HAYSL is an all volunteer league from the coaches all the way to the regional commissioner.

Log on to [www.HAYSL.org](http://www.HAYSL.org) for information on current open positions within the league. You can also contact Lisa Johnson (haysl.cvpa@verizon.net) or Lynn Bowers (lbowers123@aol.com) for position descriptions and more information.

*Sign up today - YOU can help make HAYSL the best youth athletics league in the area!*



**WARNING:  
YOU HAVE ENTERED  
A KID'S ZONE!**

- \* Kids are #1
- \* Fun, not winning, is everything
- \* Fans only cheer and only coaches coach
- \* No yelling in anger
- \* Respect the volunteer referees
- \* No swearing
- \* No smoking
- \* Leave no trash behind
- \* Set a proper example for our kids
- \* NO PETS at the fields during games or practice



**Antietam Cup  
2009  
Let the Battle  
Continue!  
June 13 - 14, 2009**

HAYSL will again be hosting the Antietam Cup Invitational Tournament June 13 and 14, 2009 for the U10-U19 divisions. Last year we had over 400 participants!

Contact Sean Marriner at [tim.marriner@myactv.net](mailto:tim.marriner@myactv.net) or go to [www.antietamcup.com](http://www.antietamcup.com) for additional information

**SLOW DOWN!!!!**



Hagerstown's Fairground Park is an extremely busy place. With baseball, softball, and soccer fields, as well as the BMX track, skateboard park, ice rink and biking and walking trails, there are always lots of people out and about. And many of these folks are kids. As parents, we try to teach our kids not to run into traffic, but we all know that the excitement of the moment sometimes takes over. So when you are driving in the parking areas around the park, please slow down and watch for the little ones.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Jan. 3** - Registration 10am – 2pm Haven Lutheran Church

**Jan. 15** – Registration 6pm-8pm Haven Lutheran Church

**Jan. 24** – Registration 10am-2pm Funkstown Fire Hall

**July 2010** – AYSO National Games in Florida

**AYSO Principles**

- **Everybody Plays**
- **Open Registration**
- **Balanced Teams**
- **Positive Coaching**
- **Sportsmanship**

**Equal playing time:**

In HAYSL, no one can play four quarters unless *everyone* on the team has played three.

**IMPORTANT NEWS!!!!**

The HAYSL phone line is no longer in service. If you need to contact HAYSL or one of its board members, you can access our website, [www.HAYSL.org](http://www.HAYSL.org), or send us a letter to:

HAYSL  
P. O. Box 4962  
Hagerstown, MD 21742



**Dine In/Dine Out**

Mark your calendars for November 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and join your HAYSL friends at Cici's Pizza between 5 and 8 pm. When you order, mention HAYSL and 10% of the sales will be donated back to the league. It's a great way to help the league and a fun time for players and parents alike.

*See you at Cici's!!!*

**HAYSL CONTACTS**

[WWW.HAYSL.ORG](http://WWW.HAYSL.ORG)

**Regional Commissioner**

Lynn Bowers  
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**Regional Coach Administrator**

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**Safety Director**

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**Equipment/Field Coordinator**

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**Referee Administrator**

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**Sponsor Coordinator**

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**Team Parent Coordinator**

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**Concession Coordinator**

Missy Smith  
[Luckof3@myactv.com](mailto:Luckof3@myactv.com)

## HAYSL Sponsors

Our sponsors help to keep our registration fees low, purchase uniforms and soccer equipment, provide coach and referee training for our volunteers and maintain safe playing fields.

C & F Construction Trades, Inc.

Home Care Pharmacies  
[www.homecarepharm.com](http://www.homecarepharm.com)

Tim Winter, State Farm Insurance  
[www.TimWinter.biz](http://www.TimWinter.biz)

Allegheny Driving School  
[www.alleghenydriving.com](http://www.alleghenydriving.com)

Allegheny Benefits  
[www.alleghenybenefits.com](http://www.alleghenybenefits.com)

Aladdin Awards

Holcim US  
[www.holcim.com/us](http://www.holcim.com/us)

Chessie (Steve Moore)

Huntzberry Brothers

Dan-Lar Stairway Elevator Service

Harne Bowen Architects

The Jacques Family (Joseph H. Jacques)

Moore's Maniacs

Jerry's Sports & Designs Unlimited

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Dream Dinners  
[www.dreamdinners.com](http://www.dreamdinners.com)

Reliable Inc.

Drs. Toothman & Barra

Green Thumb Mowing

St. James School

The players, coaches, and referees want to thank our sponsors for their consideration to our organization.

Please show your appreciation to our sponsors by patronizing these organizations.

**If you or your company or business is interested in sponsoring a team please contact the Sponsor Coordinator.**

## HAYSL Divisional Coordinators

### U5 Coordinator

Jonathan McGreevy  
Finmcg1976@aol.com

### U6 Coordinator

Matt Butts  
Matt.butts@verizon.net

### Boys U8 Coordinator

vacant

### Girls U8 Coordinator

Michael Swope  
Amswope88@verizon.net

### Coed U10/Girls U10 Coordinator

Lynn Bowers  
Lbowers123@aol.com

### Coed U12/Girls U12 Coordinator

Rob Tagg  
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### Coed U15/Girls U15 Coordinator

Dave Long & Mark Barone  
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barone.mark@gmail.com

### U19 Coordinator

Maritza Montano  
montano@themontanofamily.us



**If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a board member. We are here to help. Can I Help???**

HAYSL is an all-volunteer organization. From the coaches to the referees to the board members in their bright green shirts, they all give their own time for our kids. But these folks can't do it all. HAYSL always has openings for help. Where will you fit in???

**Concessions:** Every Saturday during the season, our concession stand is open, serving drinks, hot foods, and snacks. If you are over 18 and have an hour to spare, stop by and sign up.

**Coaching:** Do you have a passion for teaching our youth the art of teamwork and sportsmanship? If so, talk to a board member today about joining our team of coaches.

**Refereeing:** By far, the best seat in the house is on the field. Referee classes are offered several times a year and previous experience is NOT required. To find out more, just ask your friendly referee how to join.

**Grounds:** From setting up nets to placing corner flags, the grounds always need attention. To find out how you can help, contact the Field Coordinator.

These are just a few of the areas that could use your talents. Our website, [www.HAYSL.org](http://www.HAYSL.org), has updated listings of other openings within HAYSL. Be a part of it!

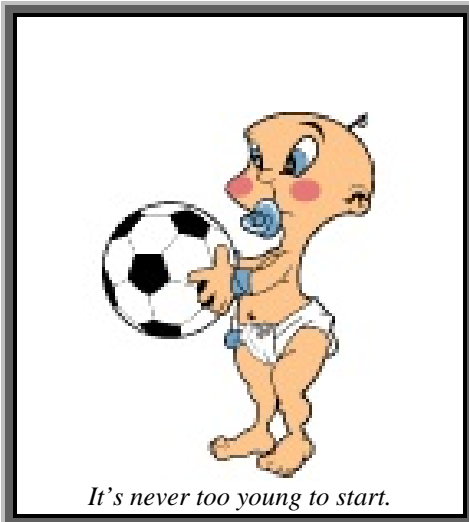


## To Whistle or Not to Whistle Answers

1. No goal. Restart with a corner kick for the opposing team. Law 15 specifies that "A goal cannot be scored directly from a throw-in."

2. No infraction has occurred because it was not a "deliberate" kick to the goalkeeper. The referee should allow play to continue.

3. Award a goal for the red team. The deflection by the opposing blue team player does not change the exemption from offside during a throw-in for the first player to receive the ball. Even if the blue team player had gained control of the ball and then inadvertently kicked the ball to the red team player in the offside position this would not be offside because the pass did not come from a teammate.



*It's never too young to start.*

## Why Sideline Screaming Stifles the Game

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sideline instruction not just from parents but also from coaches.”

During the first stage of soccer development it is essential that the children are allowed to discover the game on their own terms. High-level coaches constantly complain that players come through the ranks dependent on instructions because they've been bossed around in the early stages -- being told where to run and when to pass. They also cite a dearth of truly creative players -- the ones with the ability to make the unpredictable moves -- blaming the lack of freedom children are afforded during their early years.

Much of the sideline screaming comes from ignorance about the stages of development. While most parents would know that addition and subtraction must be mastered before algebra is introduced, at the soccer field they often expect children to perform maneuvers they are simply not capable of.

AYSO Hall of Famer Sigi Schmid is a former youth coach who coached UCLA to an NCAA title before entering the MLS ranks and winning a crown with the Los Angeles Galaxy. He stresses that coaches and parents must appreciate how young players learn the game.

Schmid says, “The first thing is, ‘It’s me and the ball.’ The second is, ‘It’s me and the ball and where’s the opponent?’ Then it’s, ‘It’s me and the ball, and where’s the opponent, where’s my teammate?’ He’s taking on more information. That’s how he develops.”

The screams from the sideline interfere with this process -- besides often being misguided and counterproductive. To take a few examples:

**“PASS IT! PASS IT!”** Discouraging dribbling in the early years is like telling toddlers to shut up when they’re learning to speak. Young players should be encouraged to dribble -- because dribbling is the first step to mastering all ball skills -- and there are far better ways to introduce a passing game when children are ready to comprehend teamwork. The passing game enters soccer at the later stages and one will notice that the children themselves will ask each other for the ball.

**SPREAD OUT!** Just because the first years of youth soccer look chaotic doesn’t mean the children aren’t learning. In fact, it’s perfectly fine that they all chase the ball in a swarm. Sooner or later they’ll figure out how to take advantage of time and space. They’ll comprehend positioning by exploring the field, not by being treated like chess pieces.

**SHOOT! SHOOT! SHOOT!** This usually comes from an ear-piercing parent-coach chorus as a child dribbles toward the goal and I have little doubt that were it eliminated from the soccer fields of America we’d see more goals in the youth game.

Even the youngest, most novice player knows they are supposed to shoot the ball to score. And can it possibly help a child perform the difficult task of striking the ball while running as fast as they can by being screamed at during the process?

Moreover, the “shoot” scream encourages players to pull the trigger earlier than they should. How do great players score on breakaways? They usually wait until they get close to the goalkeeper. It’s much harder for the keeper to save a shot from four yards away than from 15. There’s also the option of rounding the keeper, especially when a patient attacker forces the keeper to commit.

Shooting advice I often hear from high-level players is not to rush the shot -- that players often have a little more time than they realize. As young

players learn to cope with the high-pressure clear to young players which goal their team is aiming at. But what I’m talking about is the outrage that often greets a smart young player who retreats with the ball to move out of the bunch. Watch a game played by sophisticated players and you’ll find that they’re constantly moving the ball in all directions to find space and time.

Young players taking the ball away from the crowd are the clever ones. Will they sometimes put their team at risk? Maybe. But so what? Giving up a goal in a U-8 game isn’t nearly as important as allowing young players how to figure out how to keep possession.

**“ATTACK THE BALL!”** or **“GO GET HIM!”** is apparently meant to encourage a defending player to charge an opponent who has the ball at their feet. But in soccer, the defender wants to jockey into a good position to keep the attacker at bay. He wants to avoid over-committing and instead needs to figure out the right time to get a chance at the ball. It’s a matter of positioning and timing that players master by facing the situation over and over again -- not by taking cues from the sideline.

Perhaps the inclination to scream instructions comes from a well-intentioned desire to help children “learn.” But when does screaming at children help educate them? When a child wanders toward a busy street, moves too close to a hot oven, or starts beating on little brother -- OK, that might warrant a roar.

But does screaming at a child while you’re assisting him with math homework help? Very doubtful. And certainly children should be allowed to play soccer without getting yelled at. Then they’ll be able to pay attention to the best teacher of all: the game itself.

To submit articles or information to The Back of the Net, contact Charlie Keller at [kayman@mvactv.net](mailto:kayman@mvactv.net)

# Can you find all the words?

E S O C C E R O C S L M K  
T R G S K S R E Y A L P E  
U W O K E C O N F H Y R A  
T I F C H N I N I E E K Y  
I T C I O W L K E P R P S  
T L E K O G P K E E E E Y  
S Y O R A N G E W E D G E  
B M H E O I K H N R R H A  
U T H N R L W A A A U F C  
S I A R A D R Y E L L O W  
L M Y O N N N S N Y A T T  
E S G C B A W L W C L I Y  
E R O W P H S E H N R N Y

Coach  
handling  
penalty  
score  
yellow

corner kick  
haysl  
players  
soccer

free kick  
man on  
red  
substitute

goal keeper  
orange wedge  
referee  
throw in