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. A penalty kick is awarded to the red team. A red player takes the kick and the ball is going towards the goal. Just before the ball crosses the goal line between the goal posts and under the crossbar, a teammate of the red player, who ran into the penalty area after the ball was kicked, trips a blue player?

2. With about one minute left to play in the game, a direct free kick is awarded to the red team. One of the blue team defenders picks up the ball and, although he is carrying it generally toward the location of the restart, he resists having the ball taken from him by a player on the red team.

3. An attacking player, Blue #11, with an obvious goal scoring opportunity, advances with the ball into the opponent's penalty area and a defensive player, White #3, throws one of his shoes at the ball, deflecting the ball wide of the goal.

Look on page 3 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.

Youth Referees
- Warren Johnson, Referee Administrator

The fall season has started! As you walk the fields at the Fairgrounds you will notice a number of youth performing duties on the fields as referees or assistant referees. All of our youth referees have taken a minimum of 8 hours of referee training and have been certified to perform their duties. They are performing tasks that most adults won’t perform. These young men and women volunteer their time for training and to come to the fields on the weekends to referee. High School students may earn Service Learning Hours for their efforts. Please take time to encourage and thank them for the effort they are putting into your child’s soccer program.

To submit articles or information to The Back of the Net, contact Charlie Keller at kayman@myactv.net

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 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
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.

AYSO Philosophies

- Everybody Plays
- Open Registration
- Balanced Teams
- Positive Coaching
- Sportsmanship
- Player Development

Equal playing time:
In HAYSL, no one can play four quarters unless everyone on the team has played three.
To Whistle or Not to Whistle Answers

1. At the taking of the penalty kick, once the ball is kicked forward, the ball is in play. In the situation described, the tripping offence occurs before the goal is scored. Even though there was a great chance for a goal to be scored, in this case there is no advantage to consider as the player committing the tripping foul is a teammate of the attacker taking the penalty kick.

   It may also be that this player is also guilty of unsporting behavior if, in the opinion of the referee, he was not challenging for the ball when he tripped the opponent.

   Depending on the age of players, in situations where players are guilty of fouls or misconduct away from the ball, the referee must be very aware of possible escalation of frustration and/or physical retaliation. Therefore, if in his opinion, the player needs to be cautioned for unsporting behavior, the referee should stop the game, and consider if he needs to project a sense of urgency and show the yellow card immediately. In either case the proper restart is a direct free kick in favor of the blue team.

2. Once the direct free kick is indicated by the referee, the red team has the right to take the kick immediately. The blue team player has the obligation to leave the ball alone or pick it up and give it to the red team.

   The blue team player carrying the ball is guilty of delaying the restart of the game because his actions could be denying the red team its right to a quick restart.

   In addition, by resisting to give the ball to the red team immediately, the blue team player may cause the red team player (and others) to get frustrated.

   A frustrated red team player may take physical action against the player with the ball and you may end up with several players involved in a "group-hug" (melee where several players may shout, push, etc.).

   To avoid the potential player frustration and possible melee, quickly approach the blue team player with the ball, verbalize to the blue team player, "Give me the ball. Thank you," show the yellow card to the blue team player carrying the ball, caution him for delaying the restart of play, and restart the game with the direct free kick in favor of the red team.

3. In this case, the shoe is considered an extension of the player's hand; therefore, White #3 has deliberately handled the ball inside the penalty area.

   Show the red card to White #3 for denying the opposing team an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball and send him off.

   Restart the game with a penalty kick against the white team for the handball offense.

Swap Shop

Do you have a closet full of soccer equipment laying unused and forgotten? The equipment exchange program is here to rescue those items! You can now donate soccer equipment that you are no longer using; cleats, shin guards, socks (clean), shorts, soccer balls, and anything else related to the game. Just bring the items to the fairgrounds on Saturdays and put them in the designated box at the concession area.

Did your kids grow out of their cleats again?? If you need any items stop by the fairgrounds and check out the donation box to give those items a second chance!

**AYSO Referee Program**
- Warren Johnson, Referee Administrator

The Hagerstown Area Youth Soccer League (HAYSL) is affiliated with the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). HAYSL is an all-volunteer organization, this includes referees as well.

As with most volunteer organizations help is always needed. AYSO has an in depth training program for its referees. This consists of multiple levels of training, certifications, mentoring and experience. You get to pick game times that work with your schedule.

For more information about our referee program, schedules, or training opportunities visit the HAYSL referee website at www.refonline.info or contact me at warren@refonline.info.

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**SILENT SATURDAY**

Our much loved Silent Saturday this year will be October 3. It's that special day that coaches live for every season! Coaches are reduced to holding a clipboard and gritting their teeth in stone cold silence! They relish feeling their heart drop as their best defender forgets everything they taught him and dribbles the ball across their own goal....and they can't say a word...**and neither can you!**

While it is a frustrating day, try to have some fun with it. Bring some duct tape. Come dressed in a strap jacket! Ok, maybe it isn't that bad. You can at least clap. The coaches can instruct the players when they come off the field. Bring a cowbell or one of those plastic horns you often hear at professional soccer games. **No air horns or whistles though.**

Just don't forget and start instructing or cheering while they are on the field. Good luck, and remember, it's only once a season!

Oh, if for some reason it rains and we can't play on October 3, whatever day your game is played will still be silent.

All kidding aside, this is one day we are sparing the kids from excessive cheering and instruction. We also want to see what the players have learned. We are not leaving them totally in the dark. While we can't talk, **they can!** You should hear them talking on the field. Coaches are encouraged to assign a captain (or captains) and have those players work with the players that do need a little instruction. It's a great exercise in team work and leadership.

While in the younger divisions, we give the coaches a little flexibility regarding instructing players, in the upper divisions we encourage the coaches to even allow players to be the coach while on the sidelines. While we can’t instruct and cheer.....the players on the sidelines can.

- Lynn Bowers, Regional Commissioner

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**Chow Time!**

The HAYSL Concession stand is open for business!

Our staff of volunteers is ready to help you satisfy your hunger and thirst each and every Saturday during the season. Our menu includes hamburgers, hot dogs, chips & snacks, candy, and plenty of hot and cold drinks.

So, on those days when it seems like there’s just no time to fix a meal before the game, don’t worry. We’ve got you covered. Stop by today and grab a bite to eat.

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For all your HAYSL needs, check out our website...

www.haysl.org
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.

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