

Referee Reminders – 31 August 2025

Last week a coach asked me for clarification on using tape over earrings. He has had some referees allow it and some that did not. After taking a breath and thinking what would Kipp do, I told him - No, Never, Not On My Pitch is any jewelry allowed. With or without tape. I do not care what YouTube says. The coach was good with that.

Reminder #1

Rule 4-4-2 states Jewelry shall **NOT** be worn except for religious or medical reasons. Thus, tape over earrings or nose ring, etc. is **NOT** permitted. This is not a grey area. This is a player safety issue that must be enforced.

I do not understand why some referees would ignore this rule, making it more difficult for the next set of referees that team meets. Those that do not enforce this rule are not helping the players, but are hurting their fellow referees who do enforce the player safety rules.

Reminder #2

On restarts, the default position for the referee is to allow a quick restart when possible. If the play results in a simple foul, the attacking team can set the ball and play. The attacking team can ask for 10 yards and a ceremonial restart. The defending team does not have any privilege for a restart delay to set up a wall, etc.

Reminder #3

In the two-man referee system, the trail's "territory" does not stop at the half way line. For free kicks on the trail referee's side of the pitch but past the half way line, the trail referee should help set up the ceremonial free kick if necessary. The same goes for corner kicks. The trail referee should "cheat" in 30+ yards or so to help manage the penalty area during the corner kick.

Reminder #4

Please email the school a day or two before your match to confirm date/time/location. I just had a match that was not at the normal field used by the school due to construction.

Reminder #5 - Who gets the whistle in a 2-man system.

Responsibility for Declaring the Ball "Ready-for-Play" when a RESTART Whistle is Required:

Situation	Official
Start of each half	Trail
Kickoff after goal	Trail
Drop Ball	Trail
Goal Kick	Trail
Corner Kick	Lead
Penalty Kick	Lead
Free Kick	Lead
Throw-in	Official responsible for ruling on the legality of the throw.

George J. Balasko
GCSOA - Secretary
www.gcsoa.org