



Referee Procedures for Regular Season Competition

ECNL Club Competition and ECNL Regional League Games

Elite Clubs National League (“ECNL”) is the country’s top youth soccer league, including two levels of competition, the ECNL Club Competition and ECNL Regional League, for the country’s best clubs, teams, and players. As the top competition platform in the country, ECNL requires the top referees in the country.

Thank you for accepting the assignment to referee in the ECNL.

Every game played in the ECNL impacts competition standings and postseason qualification - there are no “friendly” games or “meaningless” games. Below is general information and rules applicable to all ECNL competition:

Game Ball:

U13-U18/U19 - Size 5 (provided by the home team)

U11-U12 - Size 4 (provided by the home team)

- Game ball should be Nike for all ECNL Girls competitions
- Game ball should be PUMA for all ECNL Boys competitions
 - COVID Protocol: The home team should sanitize the match balls before and after each match.

Game Length:

- U11, U12: 30 minute halves (10 minute halftime)
- U13: 35 minute halves (10 minute halftime)
- U14, U15 & U16: 40 minute halves (10 minute halftime)
- U17 & U18/U19: 45 minute halves (15 minute halftime)
- **Referees should provide appropriate stoppage time in every game.**

Substitutions, Check In & Passcard Handling:

- Each player, coach and staff on the bench must have an ECNL passcard that is verified during the team check-in process
- Players designated as “Discovery Players” are tied to the age group in which they are carded and are only permitted to play for the team listed on the passcard.
- The ECNL allows up to two (2) U15 Trapped Players to participate in U14 ECNL Competition during their sanctioned high school season. Please reference ECNL Competition Rule 2.9.2 for more information.
- U13-U18/U19: seven (7) substitutions maximum are allowed per half. Players may not re-enter in the same half.

- In the event of a head injury, the injured player may be substituted in order to be evaluated without counting toward the team's substitution count, as long as the team has an available substitute at that time. If the team does not have an available substitute at that time, the team must play short-handed through the evaluation period.
- U11-U12: unlimited substitutions.
- COVID Protocol:
 - Referees **must** check in players prior to the match, with the coach showing the passes to the referee for check in. While the referee **should not** handle the player or staff passes at any time pre-, during, or post-game, it is necessary that the passcards are shown to the referee during team check-in.
 - Substitution records should be recorded by each referee in their book according to ECNL substitution rules. Referees should not collect passcards for substitutions.
- Below is a template of the ECNL passcard (**the only passcard acceptable for ECNL competition**):



Elite Clubs National League

CLUB:
TEAM NAME:
PLAYER NAME:
PLAYER ID: **DISCOVERY PLAYER**
DOB: Expiration: 7/31/2022



A player signature is not required.

We Are More Than A League. **TGS**
TOTAL GLOBAL SPORTS



Elite Clubs National League

CLUB:
TEAM NAME:
PLAYER NAME:
PLAYER ID:
DOB: Expiration: 7/31/2022



A player signature is not required.

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TOTAL GLOBAL SPORTS

Rosters, Reports and Passcards:

- The home team should provide an ECNL Match Report to the referee. Only eighteen (18) players are eligible for the match. These 18 must be indicated on the Match Report. Age-appropriate players that are not pre-printed on the roster may be hand-written on the roster so long as they have a valid ECNL passcard. All active players should have a check mark. Players listed on the Match Report who will not be active in the match should be 'crossed out'.
- At the conclusion of the game, after the match report has been completed and signed by the referee, the referee should give the game report back to the home team. The home team is responsible for uploading the match report and reporting the score in TGS.
 - Items to be completed by the referee:
 - First half score, Second half score, Final score

- Goal scorers w/minute marks
- Yellow and Red Cards (see below for Red Cards), with brief description of red card and red card coding noted
- Signature from Center Referee to authorize all information contained in Match Report is accurate

COVID RECOMMENDATIONS

- Each referee should bring **their own equipment (flags, uniforms, etc.)**. Please do not share equipment.
- Hydration Breaks: Should your match have a hydration break due to temperature index, players may leave the field to collect their personal water bottle for hydration. Substitutes/Coaches **should not** share or handoff water bottles.
 - Referees should bring their own hydration. There will be no Gatorade coolers with water or Gatorade on the sidelines.
- All referees should perform a self-temperature check prior to leaving for the match.
 - If a referee has a temperature over 100 degrees, they should not referee the match
 - If a referee feels sick or has any symptoms of COVID-19, they should not referee the match
 - If a referee has had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, the referee should not referee the match
- There should be no international walkouts. Players, staff, and referees should maintain social distancing on the bench or whenever not participating in the game.
- If a referee has contact with someone who has COVID-19, they should report that to their assignor (league).

Miscellaneous:

- Referees should arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to scheduled kick off time.
- Game fees should be paid to referees no later than immediately after the game. The home team is responsible for payment:
 - U17 & U18/U19 Fees: \$75 to referee and \$50 to each assistant referee, and
 - U14, U15, & U16: \$65 to referee and \$40 to each assistant referee.
 - U13: \$60 to referee and \$40 to each assistant referee.
 - U12: \$40 to referee and \$30 to each assistant referee.
 - U11: \$40 to referee and \$22 to each assistant referee.
- Uniforms: In a one-game weekend (teams will confirm uniform colors with each other)
 - Home Team - light shirt, light socks, any short | Away Team: dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts
 - Uniforms: In a two-game weekend (teams will confirm uniform colors with each other)
 - Game #1 - Home Team - light shirt, light socks, any short | Away: dark shirt, dark socks, any shorts
 - Game #2 - Home Team: dark shirt, dark socks, any short | Away: light shirt, dark socks, any shorts

Red Cards:

- The referee reports all red cards with corresponding documentation immediately following the game to schedule@theecn1.com. The report should include age group, teams, player(s) sent off, the offense, and referee's name, email and phone number. Referees should not keep player passes for players that are sent off, they should be returned to the team manager.

Should you have any **urgent** game-day questions, direct them to:

- **Kristin Brunner** at kristin@theecn1.com or (571) 435-4916