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## EPSARC Update September 18, 2020

A huge thank you to everyone that refereed this past weekend! We received several compliments from Eastern PA Youth Soccer (EPYSA), leagues and assignors. A large majority of referees adhered to and enforced the COVID protocols.

Keep up the great work!

In this week's update we have information about:

- **COVID Protocols**
- **Let's Review: Law 5 - The Referee & Law 12 - Fouls & Misconduct**
- **Grassroots Advanced**

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### COVID Protocols

Flexibility, understanding, wear masks when not on the field, work with coaches to wear & get spectators to wear masks

Please remember to adhere to the published COVID Protocols at posted on our website. You can find them by clicking [here](http://www.epsarc.org/referees/risk-management-and-covid-19/) or going to the link - <http://www.epsarc.org/referees/risk-management-and-covid-19/>

A few reminders:

- Referees are to wear masks when not on the field refereeing a match. That includes walking to/from your car to the field, before the game, half time and after the match.
- Referees are to communicate with coaches directly to ensure compliance by all players, bench personal and spectators. Referees are encouraged to use "Ask, Tell, Dismiss" to have coaches adhere to COVID Protocols.
- Game Reports - If you must approach a coach ask for help in any of the COVID Protocols make sure you document it in your game report. Otherwise, the state or the league cannot act on it.

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### Let's Review: Law 5 - The Referee & Law 12 - Fouls & Misconduct

## Law 5, The Referee says

- “takes action against team officials who fail to act in a responsible manner and warns or shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the technical area; if the offender cannot be identified, the senior coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.”

## Law 12, Fouls and Misconduct, says

- “Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.
- The following offences should usually result in a warning; repeated or blatant offences should result in a caution or sending-off:
  - failing to cooperate with a match official e.g. ignoring an instruction/request from an assistant referee or the fourth official...”

Remember with the 2019 – 2020 FIFA Laws of the Game changes, referees now caution and show the yellow card or send-off and show the red card to coaches and team officials.

- Ask = Verbal
- Tell = Caution, show yellow card
- Dismiss = Send-Off, show red card

You can check out this presentation from the International Football Association Board (IFAB) regarding the law changes by clicking [here](#) or following this link -

<https://theifab.com/presentation-of-ifab-log-2019-20/>

While, Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer (EPYSA) is only in the second week of league play we ask that referees not ignore COVID related issues but work with coaches to become more compliant with COVID Protocols.

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## Grassroots Advanced

We have received a few requests from referees to upgrade to “Grassroots Advanced”.

This unofficial level was created when Grades 8 & 7 were combined into the new Grassroots Referee. At the time, EPSARC thought the additional distinction would be useful for assignors, game assignments and upgrades.

Unfortunately, there is no formal criteria to reach this level. EPSARC is considering creating an approved upgrade process for “Grassroots Advanced” for the 2022 registration year. Possibly similar to the criteria for the previous Grade 7.

This terminology and criteria would only be able to be used within Eastern Pennsylvania because it would not be an officially recognized grade within U.S. Soccer.

If you would like to work higher level games, please reach out to us at [EPSARCOffice@gmail.com](mailto:EPSARCOffice@gmail.com). We will connect you with an assignor for higher level matches as well as introduce you to our mentor program.

All EPSARC Update emails are archived as pdfs on our website by clicking [here](#) or visiting <http://www.epsarc.org/news/epsarc-update-emails/>

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For the Good of the Game.  
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Ian Bongaardt, SRA  
Eastern PA Soccer Association Referee Committee

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