

First and foremost, we want to thank you for your continued efforts in organizing and assigning referees for ECNL and ECNL Regional League matches! Your hard work and diligence in facilitating this process for our players, teams, clubs, and coaches is critical, much appreciated, and our league could not operate without you.

In preparation for the 2022-23 ECNL season, we have been working to educate all new (and returning) ECNL Directors to guide them through pre- and post-game responsibilities, gameday standards, and reporting procedures. Our efforts are intended to help provide the best possible game day environment for everyone, to help in coordination with referees, and to minimize any mistakes, confusion or miscommunication between clubs, coaches, and referees.

In the ECNL Resource Center, available through our ECNL Girls and ECNL Boys websites, we provide access to a document that overviews many of the processes and standards associated with ECNL Competitions. The [Referee Procedures for Regular Season Competition Form](#) should be reviewed by all referees assigned to ECNL matches. This document includes information relevant to officiating at ECNL regular season matches, including items such as check-in procedures, match report completion, red card reporting, game lengths, injury time, etc. We would ask you to provide this link to all officials working ECNL matches if possible.

Please review the following key points which can be used to educate the referees you assign to manage ECNL league fixtures in the 2022-23 season. All of this information is contained within the linked document:

PRE-GAME:

1. Clubs should each provide a Match Report to the referee and have him/her check both teams in using the Match Report and player and staff passcards. This check-in process is vital and no ECNL games should commence without completion of this step.
2. Referee should place a check in the box to indicate the player is playing in this particular match and is wearing the appropriate jersey number. Any notable alterations to uniform numbers should be denoted on the Match Report.
3. Referee and/or Team representative should cross off (strike through) any players not participating in the match who are listed on the Match Report, for suspension, injury, or other. If players are on the roster but not struck through, they will count toward the 18 player maximum.

POST-GAME:

1. Referee should be given time and space to completely fill in the Match Report at the completion of the game. **IMPORTANT:** please include printed names of center referee and both A/Rs
2. Referee should fill in:
 - Match Score (goals in first half, second half, and final score)
 - Goals (player number and minute-mark for each goal scored)
 - Yellow and/or Red cards in the game (player number and minute-mark for each issued card)
 - Brief incident report if double yellow or red card is given (this can be done on the Game Notes section of the form or on the back of the form). For any serious matters, or incidents that require additional discussion, please email schedule@theecnl.com

- Any incident involving discriminatory language or actions must be reported immediately. Write up the details on the game report (using exact words and description of action / language). Please follow up with an email to schedule@theecnl.com
3. Home Team should keep the Match Report and/or Incident Report upon completion by Referee - it is their responsibility to submit to the ECNL

OTHER NOTABLE POINTS

- **Substitutions:** Substitutions in all ECNL regular season conference matches, Under-13 through Under-18/19, all follow the same procedures. There is no re-entry per half.
- **Head Injuries:** In the case of head injuries, a player deemed to require evaluation for a potential head injury or concussion may be removed from the game and temporarily replaced by a player during the evaluation period as long as the club has an available sub at that time, and it is an available sub that checks-in for the evaluated player. If the team does not have an available sub, the team must play down a player during the evaluation period. Clearance for the player to return to the match is at the discretion of the Certified Athletic Trainer.
- **Game Durations:** Generally, Under-13 matches have 35 minute halves, Under-14, Under-15 and Under-16 matches have 40 minute halves, and Under-17 and Under-18/19 matches have 45 minute halves. The only exception to this rule is in the Texas Conference, where Under-13 conference matches involve 40 minute halves in the ECNL Boys only. Appropriate injury time should be added to every game in the ECNL – as these games all impact standings and qualifications.
- **Arrival Times:** It is asked that all referees arrive at matches no later than 30 minutes prior to kick off for ECNL matches in order to properly facilitate team check-in processes. All matches must include three (3) sanctioned referees.
- **Experience:** The ECNL is the highest level of youth soccer competition. We ask that every possible effort be made to get the most experienced referees in the area for these games, especially for the older age groups.

Thank you again for your work and support of the ECNL and ECNL clubs in the Club Competition and the Regional League. If there is anything we can do to help you in your work, or can do to make the ECNL the best possible experience for referees, please let us know.