



## NATIONAL LEAGUE CONFERENCES REFEREE INFORMATION

(as of 8/24/2021)

This document summarizes the Referee information and procedures that are standard across all 13 Conferences within the US Youth Soccer National League. In addition to this document, each Conference may have Information and instructions specific to their Conference Operating Procedures. Such information may include and not be limited to Referee Fees, Pre and Post Match administrative instructions (submitting scores, filing of match reports and incident reports).

### ***LAWS CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS***

In June 2021, U.S. Soccer distributed the following to its Member State Associations and State Referee Committees that includes the changes to the Laws of the Game: [International Football Association Board | Laws of the Game | IFAB | IFAB \(theifab.com\)](#)

#### **Regarding Law 12 – Please note that there has been a clarification regarding handball decisions:**

For the purposes of determining handball offences, the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit. Not every touch of a player's hand/arm with the ball is an offence.

#### **It is an offence if a player:**

- Deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- Touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body unnaturally bigger. A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized
- Scores in the opponents' goal:
  - Directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper
  - Immediately after the ball has touched their hand/arm, even if accidental

#### **Please note the Law 11 – Offside has added the verbiage to further define that the upper boundary of the arm is in line with the bottom of the armpit.**

Dropped ball procedure – (changed 2019/20): The ball will be dropped to a member of the team who last touched the ball. If the dropped ball occurs in the penalty area, the ball will be dropped to the goalkeeper.

### ***SPECIFIC CONFERENCE REFEREE INSTRUCTIONS***

In addition, each National League Conference may also provide Match Officials with additional Instructions specific to their Conference Operating Procedures.

Any questions should be directed to your local Conference Referee Assignor or the League Manager of your specific Conference.