



Grand Valley Soccer Association

Game Day Procedures –Update 09/23/20

The Grand Valley Soccer Association (GVSA) is an affiliate of MSYSA, US Youth Soccer and USSF. Games in our league follow the *Laws of Soccer* (which may be found online at www.fifa.com), with modifications for youth, as players are seven to nineteen years old. GVSA is a competitive league. It is also intended to provide player development, and offer a safe, friendly atmosphere for playing and watching games. It is an objective of the League that all coaches, players and spectators will behave at the highest ethical level, and will respect officials and their decisions at all times.

As coaches it is important to realize that your role during a game of soccer is very limited – **the game belongs to the players**. During play you may only offer tactical advice to your team from the team area and may not enter the field at any time during the game, including half time, without the Referee's permission. The game and its rules must be respected at all times. In particular, **the officials are due your respect at all times**. There is no place in the game for dissent or verbal abuse of any sort from the coaches. No matter what you think of a call you are not the referee. Like the players, many of our referees are young and learning. They do not need abuse from spectators or coaches under any circumstance – you are not helping or teaching when you yell at an official. If there is an issue the players need to sort it themselves with the referee. A game of soccer is an opportunity for the kids to make their own decisions and learn how to deal with triumph and adversity.

You have an important responsibility to help insure the safety of the players by making sure they have proper equipment, at games and practices, especially a face covering, shin guards, and that all jewelry is removed before play commences. The referee should never have to remind the players of this. Unless your club has provided a trainer, the job of assessing injuries and treating injured players during a game will fall on your shoulders. Make sure you are prepared to do this when the occasion arises.

Remember that it's just a game. Please make sure your parent spectators remember this as well. Never do or say anything to the players or officials that you would not want them to hear from a teacher in the class room. Players will learn from everything you do and say, positive or negative.

Additionally, coaches are responsible for knowing and understanding the GVSA rules. A plea of ignorance to the bylaws, game day procedures or GVSA rules, regulations and policies is not sufficient, and violators may expect appropriate action by the board of directors of GVSA. Coaches are encouraged to download and print a copy of the GVSA rules for their reference from the GVSA website www.gvsoccer.org . Additionally, should you need to review rules at the field, you may go to the GVSA website, click on the GVSA rules tab. If you then press and hold on the rules page, a PDF will be created that you can then scroll through. If you do not press and hold on the document, you will only be able to view the first few pages.

Good luck to you and your team and may your players enjoy every game, win, lose or draw.



GVSA

Game Reporting Procedures Fall 2020

Updated 9/14/2020 and subject to change

Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order 176, there are many new Game Day Procedures that need to be followed this season to keep players, coaches and spectators safe as a result of COVID-19. GVSA will follow the processes that the MSYSA has mandated. These mandates have been included with the GVSA Procedures. Please review and become familiar with them. If you have questions, please reach out to your Club Representative for clarification.

Individual Responsibility

A. Coaches (and Managers)

- ***Wear face covering while at game facility (before, during, and after games while around others)***
- Remind players and the spectators about the face covering requirement
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone whenever possible (exception – see below for attending to an injured player)
- Conduct verbal health check of each player before each game – send anyone home who says they are not feeling well
- Monitor/ensure that players on the sidelines maintain 6 feet of physical distance from each other
- Do not provide shared food, water, and equipment (including team benches, shared goalie gloves, shared goalie jersey, etc.)
- Assist players with coming to the fields fully prepared. TIP: Arrange team colors with opponents in advance of the game to minimize the need to change clothes.
- Keep pre-game, halftime, and post-game team meetings brief, and maintain 6 feet of social distance throughout each meeting
- Do not allow group huddles, hugs, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, wrestling, etc.
- Limit, or prohibit, partner stretching during warm-ups
- Bring hand sanitizer to each game
- Bring multiple sanitized balls to each game (for use during game)
- As required for competition, bring photocopies of any/all pass cards and game sheet to be retained by referees. See Protocols, Section D for Pre and Post game processes.

B. Players

- ***Wear face covering while at game facility (before, during, and after games while around others)*** If players have 6 feet of social distance during the game they may, for a moment, to catch their breath, take down the mask.
- Stay home if not feeling well or displaying symptoms of COVID
- Arrive at field fully dressed (uniforms, shoes, shinguards, etc.)
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone whenever possible
- Bring sufficient hand sanitizer to game for repeated use

- Bring a sanitized ball to each game for warm-ups
- Do not share food, water, and equipment (including shared goalie gloves)
- No group huddles, cheers, high fives, chest bumps, etc.

C. Referees

- ***Wear face covering at game facility before and after games.***
- *Note: The role of referee is not to enforce these game day safety protocols. However, referees should note and report instances of non-compliance to the league administrator.*

D. Spectators

- ***Wear face coverings while at game facility***
- ***Spectators shall be limited to 2 persons per player***
- Take temperature prior to leaving for the game. Stay home if temperature is 100.4 degrees or higher. This includes players.
- Sit only in the area(s) designated for spectators. Do not encroach on space designated for referees or teams.
- Maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone not residing within same residence
- Do not go to the opponent's side of the field
- Some facilities may eliminate restrooms – be prepared for that possibility

Protocol

A. Injured Players

- Assessment/treatment of an injured player should not be delayed if game day protocols cannot be followed (i.e. do not delay attending to injured athlete because social distance cannot be maintained)
- Upon the referee signal, one coach (wearing a facial covering) enters the field to attend to an injured player
- Coach maintains 6 feet of physical distance as possible if/until it is determined if player needs assistance getting off the field
- If an injured player needs assistance getting off the field and a second person is needed, the coach first asks the player's parent(s). Player's parents must be wearing a face covering. If a player's parent is not on-site, the coach signals to another team member who must also wear a face covering.
- As soon as possible upon exiting the field, the injured player, coach, and additional person providing assistance must clean their hands with sanitizer.

B. Spectators at Games

- **Spectators shall be limited to 2 persons per player. This is up to the home club to maintain crowds of less than 100 people as stated in the EO 176 and 180**
- ***Spectators must wear face coverings while at game facility***
- Spectators must sit only in area designated for them.

- Spectators must maintain minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from everyone not residing within their same residence

C. Referee Payment

- The team responsible for referee payment should prepare payment at home in advance of the game.
- Wash hands with soap and water. While wearing a face covering, sort cash by referee position (Center, AR1, AR2, 4th) as applicable. Place cash payment for each referee position into their own separate clear Ziploc bag. Write the referee position name, cash amount, and team name on the bag (example: Center Referee, \$40, MSYSA United 09 Girls).
- At the field and when ready to pay referees, team coach or manager should clean hands with hand sanitizer and sanitize the Ziploc bags with sanitizing wipes. While wearing face covering, distribute Ziploc bags of cash to each referee individually. Maintain 6 feet of physical distance as much as possible. After distribution of Ziploc bags, clean hands again with hand sanitizer.

D. Pre-Game Check-In

- **Physical pass cards will not be given to the referee.** Instead, a legible copy of the pass card document printed from GotSoccer must be presented to the referee. Players/coaches must be identifiable in the photo. A black and white copy is acceptable. The document will not be returned to the team.
- Prior to team check-in, all participants clean hands with their personal sanitizer
- At team check-in, all participants, (players, team officials, referees) must wear face coverings and maintain 6 feet of physical distance between them.
- Give the referee the Game Report. **Cross out the names of any players and coaches who are not present or are fulfilling a suspension!** If a name is not crossed out it will be assumed that the player/coach participated in the game and could result in a forfeit for due to ineligible participants.
- Referees (wearing face coverings and with recently sanitized hands) check-in individual players. Each player/coach must be listed on the game sheet and have a GVSA pass card included on the sheet given to the referee for check-in.
- A maximum of 3 coaches/team officials may be on the sideline with the team during the game. All extras including managers must be crossed off and remain on parent side of the field.
- Under no circumstance may a player play for your team if he/she is not registered on your team through GVSA, other than Club Pass Card (CPC) Players to Elite Teams, U15 Boys Fall and U15 Girls Spring teams only. Using an ineligible player is a serious offense and any coach who does so will be subject to suspension and further disciplinary action.
- **If no pass card is available, the Referee cannot allow the player to participate.** However, if the if the Coach playing the player(s) with missing pass cards concedes the game as a forfeit the game is played as normal IF they can provide a photo of the pass card AND the official roster with the player listed (see GVSA rules section C 4). If this is

not presented, the player(s) may not participate in any way and teams may not scrimmage. The GVSA office will verify that the players are registered to the team. Unregistered players will result in additional fees and suspensions (see rules)

- **All adults present on the sideline must be in possession a GVSA Pass Card showing their Risk Management/SafeSport/CDC information.** The Risk Management cannot be expired (a valid pass card will be marked with SSC and CDC). The card is valid one year past the date listed). If an adult does not have this he or she will not be allowed to participate as a coach under any circumstance. **There must be at least one adult coach present during the game.** If not, the game shall not be played. The referees will be paid and the absence of a coach reported to GVSA. The use of just a risk management card is not allowed.
- If either team does not have seven (7) players available within fifteen minutes of the stated game time, the game will be forfeited to the other team, as long as they have seven (7) players available. In U11 and U12 games the minimum number of players needed is five (5); in U10 and younger games the minimum number of players needed is four (4). **GVSA will not forfeit games due teams experiencing shortages from COVID illnesses. However, every effort should be made to notify both the opposing team, GVSA and your assigner in advance.**
- If no referees show up for the game the home team should contact their assigner for assistance. If the assigner can't be reached, you may use a qualified referee from another field if possible. As a last resort, the coaches may agree to play the game with an agreed upon appointed referee. They must agree that the result of the game will stand and no reschedule will be allowed. If they choose to not play, a reschedule will be allowed.
- If a team is experiencing illnesses due to COVID. Games may be rescheduled to a later date without the game change fee. *This must be approved by GVSA before making arrangements.*
- Teams are asked to show extra sportsmanship if teams show up for the game and are very short on players. Running up the score will not do anyone any good. Consider playing down in numbers as well to allow for a more competitive game.
- **The home team must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope to the referee** (the envelopes are provided by GVSA – please put a stamp on them). Referees will mail the game sheets within 24 hour of completion of the game.
- Referees will not conduct a coin toss or captain's meeting. The 'Home team' is considered the 'winner' of the non-existent coin toss and therefore select their first-half option.
- No pre-game walkout of any kind

E. The Game

- It is recommended each team bring multiple sanitized balls for use during the game only. Sanitized balls are rotated in regularly. One team official from each team should sanitize their own teams' balls at halftime and after the game.
- Spectators should not handle a ball that leaves the field of play.
- Ball kids should not be utilized.

F. Post-Game Processes

- One coach, wearing a mask and after sanitizing their hands should meet with the referee to review the game report. Maintain 6 feet of distance.
- The referee will explain what has been written on the game report (score, cards given, score and any players or coaches crossed off of the report). The Coach

may ask the Referee change errant information. If the referee declines to make the requested changes, the coach should submit a written report to GVSA through their Club Representative within 24 hours of the game.

- For the Fall 2020 season, game reports will not be signed.
- **Each team is issued one Referee Observation Form.** Please complete for the game assigned and return in the blue envelope provided. They are very useful in identifying both good and bad officials. A self-addressed light blue envelope has been provided (please note the address is different on this envelope than it is for the game sheets. Please use the correct one). If you want better official, please do your part by returning this report.
- Each team's coach is responsible for making sure all player suspensions are served. While we try to notify each club of all suspensions **it is the responsibility of each coach to know the rules and enforce them!**

G. When You Get Home

- **Post the Result at once on the website-** www.gvsoccer.org! This is the responsibility of the winning team (Home Team in the event of a tie).
- Results posted on the website are immediately viewable. If you don't see the result of a game we did not receive it.

H. The Uniform

- Players must wear a facial covering during game and may wear gloves.
- See additional rules in the GVSA Rules. Section H, page 12.

I. Substitutions

- Upon entering and exiting the field as a substitute, players clean hands with sanitizer
- A player exiting a game via substitution goes directly to their team bench. No high-fives or exchanging of pinnies with player entering the game.
- The player entering the field via substitution puts pinnie in their own bag before waiting to substitute onto the field.
- The player exiting the field via substitution may put on their own pinnie from their own bag. The player must also clean hands with sanitizer and put on a facial covering.

J. Deliberate Coughing and Spitting

- Deliberate coughing at or spitting at an opponent, referee, or any other participant will result in an immediate red card. Suspension length is to be determined by competition.
- Spectators are held to the same standard and referees have the same authority to enforce as they do with all other spectator-related issues.

K. Team Benches

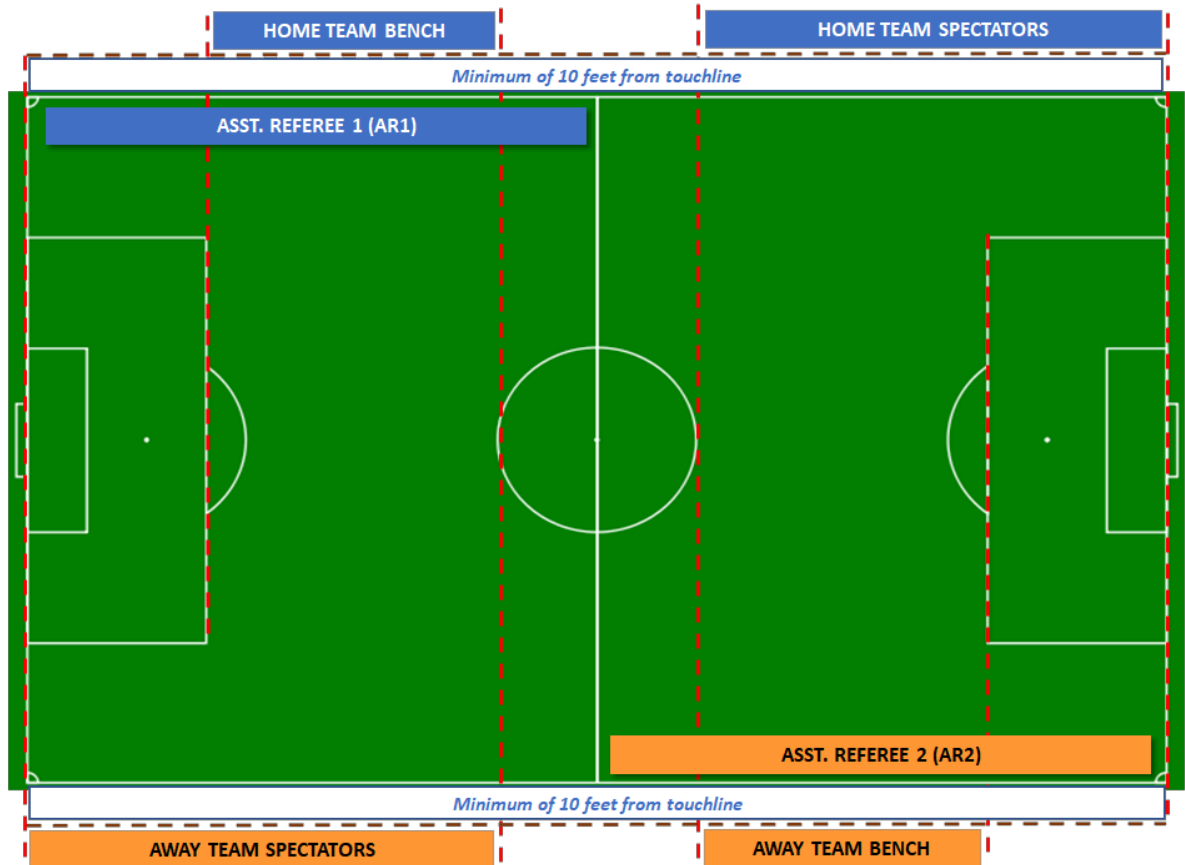
- If team benches are used, players must still maintain 6 feet of physical distance
- If team benches are used, the home team/club is responsible for sanitizing the team benches before and after every game

L. Facilities & Field Set-Up

- When possible, teams will be placed on opposite sides of the field, on the half of the field of which the assistant referee is positioned (see diagram below).
- When possible, a team's accompanying spectators will sit on the same side of the field as the team but on the other half (see diagram below).
- It is strongly recommended that team bench/technical areas and spectator areas are marked with paint

- When Possible, Spectators to be minimum of 10 feet back from the touchline.
- Team technical areas will be between the bottom of the center circle and the top penalty area (see diagram below).

M. Field Diagram



N.

Team/Club Process for Game Day Referee Follow-up

USSF certified referees working GVSA games receive up to 30 hours of training on techniques, mechanics and laws of the game by their second year of officiating. This training continues with every year and includes on field assessments, mentoring and season clinics as well as meetings to focus and improve skills. The objective of GVSA, GVSOA (Grand Valley Soccer Officials Association) and USSF is to have the best qualified officials possible. Specifically, West Michigan has one of the best referee programs in the state and Michigan stands out as one of the best programs in the nation – one which we are very proud of.

This investment in knowledge and skill development of referees is made because USSF and the Michigan Referee Committee realize the importance of quality referees. However, referees can and do make mistakes. Referee decisions are not disputable nor can they be the basis of a protest but should any club feel that one of their games was

officiated by an unqualified or inappropriately placed referee, GVSA would request that clubs follow the procedure below:

- Submit a written report to your Club's Board or Executive Director, detailing why you feel a follow-up with the referee is necessary.
- Within 24 hours after the game, the GVSA Club should report the issue in writing to the GVSA administrator with exact details and as much information as possible.
- If the GVSA league feels this complaint deserves further investigation then they will request that GVSOA looks into the situation.
- The administrators of GVSOA will follow established procedures to evaluate the situation and arrange any follow up needed.
- GVSA will be advised of the results of this evaluation and any action taken.
- GVSA will notify the Club of the results of the evaluation and any action taken.

**[A COMPLETE SET OF RULES CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.GVSOCCKER.ORG ON THE RULES TAB!](http://WWW.GVSOCCKER.ORG)**

**Please Remember at all times
FAIR PLAY!
It's FIFA's motto and GVSA's goal!**

