



# Forty-Four & 18

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## Special dates of interest:

- Start of WMYSA spring season: April 17
- Kingdom Crusader's Cup: April 23-25
- End of WMYSA spring season/SoccerFest: June 5 & 6
- Portage Soccer Classic: June 12 & 13

## WMYSA Launches Referee Newsletter

In an effort to keep referees up-to-date on topics, issues, and rules/regulation changes in WMYSA, I decided to start a newsletter targeted specifically at referees in southwest Michigan working WMYSA games.

It is my hope to publish this newsletter at least twice per playing season. Although the referee associations have well established continual training programs, a tool

like this newsletter can also cover information that may not have changed, but that younger referees may not know very well, or perhaps at all. As a referee myself, there were things that I just learned over time about how WMYSA operates or about WMYSA procedures. It's a little over used saying, but sometimes you don't know what you don't know.

More importantly, I hope

to use this newsletter to not only tell you what is new, different, or eliminated, but *why* a change was necessary to begin with. I think this type of format is more interesting to read than a long e-mail with paragraph after paragraph of rules/regulations. Sometimes those e-mails are needed, perhaps followed up by an article in this newsletter with more in-depth discussion or analysis.

Here's to a good spring!

## New Substitution Rules Adopted for U12 Elite Division

WMYSA teams playing in the U12 Elite Division will now follow the substitution rule from MSYSA. This change was adopted for the spring 2010 season to eliminate a difference in the substitution rules between WMYSA and GYSA.

### MSYSA Rule 4.5

The number of substitutions shall be unlimited. Substitutes may not enter the field of play until receiving a signal to do so by the referee and must do so at

the half line. Substitutions may be made by either team at the following times:

- Prior to a throw-in, with the following exception: If the team taking the throw-in does not substitute then substitution is prohibited.
- Prior to a goal kick
- After a goal is scored
- After an injury, when the referee stops play.
- At half time
- After a caution, the

carded player(s) may be substituted, and if substituted, the opposing team may substitute a like number of players.

The old substitution rule used by WMYSA stated "substitutions are allowed at any game stoppage and are unlimited." It can be found in the WMYSA Rules and Regulations, section F.2

**This substitution rule continues to be effect for all other WMYSA U9-U12 games.**

## WMYSA Updates the Game Report Form



WMYSA has an updated game report form for the spring 2010 season.

The changes were minor and were made to address some issues with the form suggested by the MSYSA Discipline and Appeals Committees, and by our two local referee associations.

The form now has a clear place for the referee team to indicate which players are present/absent for the

game, including the team officials.

The form also updated the codes that the referees use to indicate the reason(s) for issuing a caution (yellow card) or send off (red card). The codes are now consistent with the United States Soccer Federation codes used by referees throughout the country.

Referees should ensure a team official has

completed the entire top portion of the form and listed all players *and team officials* on the game report form before accepting the game report.

The referee team must *promptly* mail in the report to WMYSA in the envelope provided by the home team. WMYSA uses the completed game report forms for a variety of administrative tasks such as score verification.

## Study Says Taller Players Penalized for More Fouls

A recent study conducted by researchers at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, in the Netherlands says that an ambiguous foul in soccer is more likely to be attributed to the taller of two players. The study was published in the February 2010 issue of *Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*.

Dr. Niels van Quaquebeke and Dr. Steffen Giessner

compiled data from seven seasons of the German Bundesliga and the UEFA Champions League, as well as three World Cups. After looking at 123,844 fouls, the study showed that on average the perpetrators of the fouls were about one-third of an inch taller than the victims.

Study results indicated when the height difference between opposing players was less

than two inches, the smaller player got the call 52 percent of the time. But when one player had at least 3.9 inches of height advantage on the other, the taller one was whistled about 59 percent of the time.

*Credit to Source: Referee Magazine, May 2010*

*"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice.*

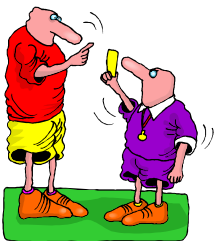
*In practice there is."*

*- Yogi Berra*

## Numbers from the Book: A Cautionary Tale

Reviewing the WMYSA records from spring of 2001 to 2009, here is the breakdown on cautions issued by WMYSA referees, by reason with the total number and overall percentage:

Unsporting behavior	1016	72%	Refusal of 10 yd distance	29	2%
Dissent by word or action	222	16%	Entering w/o permission	17	1%
Persistent infringement	87	6%	Exit w/o permission	1	0%
Delay of Restart	34	2%			



## No Player Card at Check-in? No Problem!

During the pre-game meeting with the team, the referee team discovers a player listed on the roster but no player card. Does that mean the player does not play? Here's how to handle this situation:

Should a player misplace their card, the player shall be permitted to play in the game provided their name appears on an official game roster issued by WMYSA. However, the

player shall be open to "Challenge" by the coach of the opposing team.

1. If a coach desires to challenge, the coach shall notify the referee and the opposing coach that the player is under "Challenge" (not to be confused with Protest) prior to the start of the game. The referee will note this on the *front* of the team's game report.

2. The player(s) being

challenged shall put their name, signature, and date of birth on the back of their team's official game report and return it to the referee. The referee shall make this information available to the coach making the challenge at the conclusion of the game.

Twice during the spring 2009 and fall 2009 seasons, teams played with illegal players that were discovered because

the referee team had the players without cards sign on the back of the game report. When the WMYSA Statistician received the game reports and compared them against the official WMYSA rosters, the discrepancy was discovered.

If a player does not have a valid player card and is not listed on the official roster, the player cannot participate in the match.

*See also WMYSA Rule D.5*

## U15-U19 Might Play Tuesday Evenings in Some Areas

In order to better utilize center referees who are rated for U15-U19 level matches, WMYSA is considering scheduling a select number of these games on Tuesday evenings starting Fall 2010 for games played with WMSRA officials.

According to Wayne Wilkinson, the USSF and MHSAA soccer assignor for WMSRA, having Tuesday evening WMYSA games would allow him to

assign the correct referees to U15-U19 matches because no high school games are played on Tuesday. Those referees who are busy with high school or college level games would be available Tuesday evenings.

WMYSA is considering piloting this for games between clubs in close proximity like Kalamazoo, Portage, Red Arrow, River

Oaks, and Sting. Although this would potentially overlap with a team's practice night, the advantage would be an open weekend without games.

WMYSA players in high school who are also USSF referees would benefit too, as they would have more flexibility to accept games on weekends without the conflict of a home or away game.

*"WMYSA players in high school who are also USSF referees would benefit too ..."*

## WMYSA Board Has Special Connection with Referee Community

Although the WMYSA board brings together members with varied soccer experience as coaches, club administrators, parents, and most importantly, soccer fans, there is a special connection with the referees who work

WMYSA games.

Currently, Ken Fouts, WMYSA Treasurer, is also a fellow referee and is currently serving on the board WMSRA. Scott Winegarden and Ron Warners are also active USSF referees.

David Gordon, WMYSA Secretary, is an active AYSO referee with Region 212 in River Oaks.

David Rice, WMYSA Vice President and Portage Soccer Club President, may have retired his whistle, but he was once a USSF/AYSO referee too.

Gil Urban, who recently stepped down from his position as the WMYSA Communications Director, is the assigner for SWMSRA and the State Director of Assignors for MSYSA.

**WMYSA**

1523 Edgeridge Cir.  
Kalamazoo, MI  
49008

Brian Kastman  
WMYSA Administrator  
WMYSAsoccer@aol.com

We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

**[www.wmysa.org](http://www.wmysa.org)**



## WMYSA Creates New "Severe Weather" Policy

At the winter WMYSA President & Community Reps meeting held in February, a new Severe Weather Policy was unveiled. The policy was approved at a WMYSA board meeting in September 2009. The entire policy is available on the WMYSA website under the "Forms" link.

The policy provides for venue management or either team's coach to reschedule a game without forfeiting or WMYSA fee on the day of the match if the following conditions are met:

(1) A severe weather "warning" or a tornado "warning" has been issued by the National Weather Service for the venue's area/county.

(2) The warning duration includes the scheduled game time, including 2 hours prior to or 1 hour after the scheduled game time.

Although both teams may

desire to play while a severe weather/tornado warning is in effect, the assigned referees also have to the option to not travel to the venue.

The venue management, coach or official that elects to cancel a game due to severe weather or tornado "warnings" must contact all other parties to inform them of their decision prior to game time.

For example, a U10 match is scheduled between Marshall and SW Michigan at the SWM fields at 3pm.

At 11:25AM the National Weather Service issues a tornado watch from 1:00PM until 5:45PM in Berrien County. At 12:30PM the watch is upgraded to a warning for 4:00PM to 5:45PM for Berrien County.

Although the Tornado Warning is not active until after the U10 game is complete, it does fall within an hour of the

scheduled game time. One or both coaches could contact the other and referees to indicate they would not attend the game once the Tornado warning was issued at 12:30PM but not while a Tornado watch was issued.

The home fields for the Michigan based teams are:

**Van Buren County:** Shoreline Breakers

**Berrien County:** Jaier, SW Michigan, Niles

**St. Joseph County:** Sturgis

**Kalamazoo County:** Kalamazoo, Portage, Red Arrow, Marauders, TKO Academy, Kingdom Select, River Oaks, Sting

**Allegan County:** Force

**Calhoun County:** BC Fire, Marshall

## 2009/2010 WMYSA Board Members

### President

Scott Winegarden

### Vice-President

David Rice

### Secretary

David Gordon

### Treasurer

Ken Fouts

### Statistician

William Rhodes

### Clinic Coordinator

Ron Warners

### At-Large

Michael Caywood

Gordon Miller

### Communications Director

*Open*

