

# Shelburne Soccer Club

## 2018 CLUB HOUSE-LEAGUE Match Official GUIDE

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### 1. Match official Equipment

The following items are considered normal match official equipment and you should be certain to bring them to *ALL* games.

1. Your uniform (and badge, if you have one)
2. A whistle
3. A watch or other reliable timekeeping device
4. A coin to take the coin-toss at the beginning of the game
5. Suitable footwear: Soccer shoes are preferred
6. Your match official notebook with red & yellow cards and a game sheet.
7. A pen or pencil

Experienced match officials will often carry the following items in addition to the above:

1. Twine for net-mending
2. A second timekeeping device (in case the first one fails)
3. A ball pressure gauge.
4. A clip board and paper in case notes are needed to assist with report writing after the game

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## 2. CODE OF CONDUCT

To ensure a safe environment for all Soccer participants, match officials have been given special responsibilities and are therefore expected to act with professionalism and courtesy at all times. The following Code of Conduct must be observed by all Shelburne match officials, both in House League and "Rep team" games.

1. Match officials having certain privileges conferred on them by the Club, with respect to the game, shall realize and respect their responsibilities and duties to The Shelburne Soccer Club and the game of Soccer.
2. Match officials should always be neat in appearance and maintain a high level of physical and mental fitness.
3. Match officials shall conduct themselves with calm and dignity at all times.
4. Use of foul or profane language by match officials will not be tolerated.
5. Match officials shall study the Laws of the game and shall enforce all said Laws and changes to the Laws, as they are made aware of them.
6. Match officials shall honour all appointments made for and accepted by them unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency. If a match official is unable to fulfill their game commitment, they must advise the Club Head match official or other responsible Club Official immediately (see contact list).
7. All match officials must arrive at their games properly equipped and attired, at least ten minutes prior to kick-off in the case of Under-6, Under-8, Under-10 and Under-12/14 games, and at least 15 minutes prior to kick off for all games involving travel or "Rep" teams, in order to complete their pre-game duties.
8. All match officials shall complete a game record for each game in which they officiate, clearly indicating the participants in the game and the final score and scorers of the game, in addition to any disciplinary actions which may have been taken during the game. This record must be submitted to the Shelburne Soccer Club upon demand.
9. All match officials, while in uniform, shall be responsible for their conduct to the designated Club Head match official.

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## 3. OFFICIATING INSTRUCTIONS

Games at different age-groups are played with different or reduced Laws.

The following guidelines should be followed:

### Under-4 Games

Mini-Field – 5 players per side

Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at any time.

Games will last 20 minutes with no half-time break.

Under-4 players have a very limited understanding of and ability to play the game and this is taken into account when officiating. The player's enjoyment of the game in a disciplined environment is always to be considered.

Coaches and parents are allowed onto the field of play.

The offside rule will not be enforced.

Balls going out-of-bounds will be kicked in from the touch line.

Violent play should be discouraged by prompt use of the whistle and the assistance of the coach, if necessary – cards will not be used – infractions should be punished with free kicks. Hand-balls should not be penalized.

Corner kicks and goal-kicks will be called when appropriate.

### Under-6 Games

Mini-Field – 5V5 (including a GK)

Unlimited substitutions will be allowed at any time.

Games will consist of 2x15 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time break.

Under-6 players have a limited understanding of and ability to play the game and this is taken into account when officiating. The player's enjoyment of the game in a disciplined environment is always to be considered.

Coaches are allowed onto the field of play.

The offside rule will not be enforced.

Balls going out-of-bounds will be kicked in from the touch line.

Violent play should be discouraged by prompt use of the whistle and the assistance of the coach, if necessary – cards will not be used – infractions should be punished with free kicks. Hand-balls should not be penalized.

Corner kicks and goal-kicks will be called when appropriate.

### Under-8 Games

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Mini-Field – 7V7 (including GK)

Games will consist of 2x20 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time break.

Unlimited substitutions are permitted on throw-ins; goals and goal-kicks, and at half-time.

Under-8 players have a greater ability to play the game and understand the purpose of play and this is taken into account when officiating. Again, the player's enjoyment of the game in a disciplined environment must be considered.

Coaches will not be allowed onto the field of play unless invited by the match official.

If a coach should stray onto the field, the game should be stopped and the coach politely advised that this is not permitted under the Laws of the game. The game should be restarted with a dropped ball at the location where play was stopped.

The offside rule will not be enforced.

Balls going out-of-bounds will be kicked in from the touch line.

Corner kicks and goal-kicks will be called when appropriate.

Violent or reckless play must be discouraged by prompt use of the whistle and the assistance of the coach, if necessary – cards will not be used.

If a player need to be removed from the field of play, politely request that the coach substitute that player.

Goals must be scored from outside the goal area, but may be scored from within the penalty area.

In all instances the match officials decisions shall be final.

## Under-10 Games

Mini-Field – 7V7 (including GK)

Games will consist of 2x30 minute halves with a 5 minute half-time break.

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Unlimited substitutions are permitted on throw-ins; goals and goal-kicks, and at half-time.

Under-10 players may have a good ability to play the game and will understand the purpose of play and this is taken into account when refereeing.

Coaches will not be allowed onto the field of play unless invited by the match official.

If a coach should stray onto the field, the game should be stopped and the coach politely advised that this is not permitted under the Laws of the game. The game should be restarted with a dropped ball at the location where play was stopped.

The offside rule will not be enforced.

Balls going out-of-bounds will be kicked in from the touch line.

Corner kicks and goal-kicks will be called when appropriate.

Violent or reckless play must be discouraged by prompt use of the whistle and the assistance of the coach, if necessary – cards will not be used.

If a player need to be removed from the field of play, politely request that the coach substitute that player.

Goals must be scored from outside the goal area, but may be scored from within the penalty area.

In all instances the match officials decisions shall be final.



## Under-12 and Under 14/16 Games

Mini-Field – 9V9 (including GK)

Games will consist of 2x35 minute halves with a 10 minute half-time break.

Unlimited substitutions are permitted on throw-ins; goals and goal-kicks, and at half-time.

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Under-12/14 players may have a good ability to play the game and will understand the purpose of play and this is taken into account when officiating.

Coaches will not be allowed onto the field of play unless invited by the match official.

If a coach should stray onto the field, the game should be stopped and the coach politely advised that this is not permitted under the Laws of the game. The game should be restarted with a dropped ball at the location where play was stopped.

The offside rule will be enforced.

Throw-ins will be taken per FIFA Law #15.

Corner kicks and goal-kicks will be called when appropriate.

Offside will be enforced per FIFA Law #11.

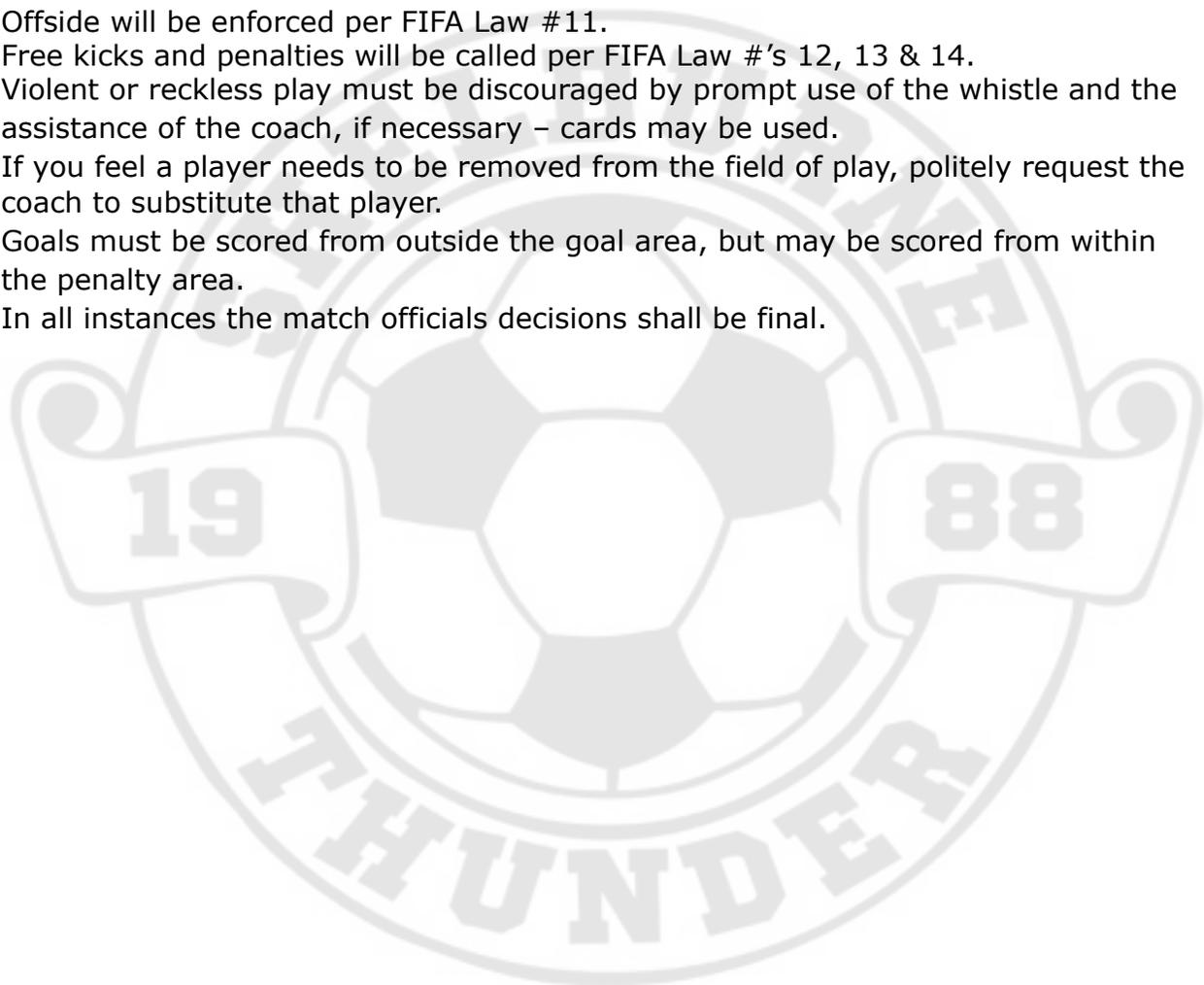
Free kicks and penalties will be called per FIFA Law #'s 12, 13 & 14.

Violent or reckless play must be discouraged by prompt use of the whistle and the assistance of the coach, if necessary – cards may be used.

If you feel a player needs to be removed from the field of play, politely request the coach to substitute that player.

Goals must be scored from outside the goal area, but may be scored from within the penalty area.

In all instances the match officials decisions shall be final.



## 4. CANCELLING OR ABANDONING GAMES

Games may be cancelled or abandoned under the following circumstances:

1. When either team has fewer than the minimum number of players required.
2. When in the match official's opinion the pitch is unsafe: i.e. waterlogged; covered in debris; pitted or grossly uneven, etc.

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3. Persistent or intolerable interference in the match by spectators or coaching staff. (If this happens contact The Head match official as soon as it is safe to do so)
4. Persistent and intolerable bad behaviour by players resulting in disruption of the match such that, in the match official's opinion, the match cannot be safely continued. (If this happens contact The Head match official as soon as it is safe to do so)
5. When the weather conditions are considered dangerous: i.e. lightning or thunderstorm, tornado, etc.

***If you hear thunder, or see lightning, the match cannot be continued until 30 minutes have elapsed subsequent to the last time you heard or saw the storm.***

6. A match is not usually cancelled or abandoned for rain unless the conditions are severe or unsafe, or the pitch becomes waterlogged
7. If a game must be abandoned after it has begun, the match official will note the minute at which the game was halted and the score at that time and submit the game record to the Club.

All of the above decisions will be taken at the match officials or Club Head Match Officials sole discretion, although advice may be sought from coaches or Club officials who may be present.

## 5. DEALING WITH PARENTS AND COACHES

*The Authority of the Match Official:*

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*A match official placed in charge of a game has full authority in matters regarding the enforcement of the Laws of the Game.*

From time to time every match official will be challenged in their calls by spectators or a coach. This is best ignored unless it becomes disruptive to the play, the players or the normal continuation of the game. In the case of misconduct or abuse by spectators, the referee should quietly request the appropriate coach to control their supporters.

In the case of a persistently abusive or disrespectful coach the match official may wish to point out to them that the matter will be reported to the Club Head Referee for further action. If the match official is not comfortable with these actions, the matter may nevertheless be reported to the Head Match official after the game.

If the game has been stopped to deal with these matters, the restart should take place with a dropped ball at the place where play was stopped.

In extreme cases, where the above suggestions are not effective, the match official is threatened or feels themselves unable to control the match, they should politely advise the coaches that they are unable to continue the game and make appropriate notes as to the circumstances on the game record. The match official must also record the minute at which the game was stopped and the score at the time.

The matter should then be referred to the Club Head Match Official within 24 hours.

## 6. HINTS & TIPS

1. If you have a badge, wear it at all games – this is the source of your authority!

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2. Many match officials find it useful to carry two whistles with different tones in case the players are unable to distinguish the between the match officials of two adjacent games.
3. Do not run with your whistle in your mouth – this can lead to painful dental surgery!
4. If you have a badge consider attaching it to your shirt with velcro so that it can be removed for washing – always sew the soft half of the velcro to the shirt to avoid damage during washing.
5. Prior to the start of the game, always check the pitch for garbage, broken glass or other debris that may cause injury.
6. Prior to the start of the game check the nets for holes – you may have difficulty deciding if a goal was scored because it went straight through the netting!
7. Carry some twine with you for repairing the nets, if necessary.
8. Carry a ball pressure gauge in your bag so that you can test the game ball for the correct inflation.
9. Make sure that the spectators do not park their chairs or set up camp too close to the touch line – they will impede the throw-ins and it's easier to move them before the game than during it.
10. Bring your Law book to your games, you can consult it at half-time or after the game if you are in doubt about a call you made. This is a good way to reinforce your knowledge of the Laws.
11. Match officials face many situations where it is actually impossible to make the correct call! You may not have seen the play or the actual play itself may be confusing. In these cases, make the call you feel is right without hesitation and get the play moving again. Many match officials give the defending team the benefit of the doubt when they are unsure and this is in the sporting tradition of the game.
12. Once you have made your decision do not stop the game to debate it with the players or coaches. Your decisions are final and the players and coaches must accept that.
13. Introduce yourself to and shake hands with the captains of each team before the coin-toss. You may use this opportunity to give them advice about the behaviour expected from their teams during the game.
14. Watch soccer on TV – observe the match officials conduct during the game and how they handle the various situations that arise.
15. If you have access to the internet, visit the FIFA and OSA websites:  
<http://www.fifa.com/en/> and <http://www.ontariosoccer.net/>  
The most up-to-date editions of the Laws of the Game can be obtained at the FIFA website and there are many excellent resources for match officials at both sites.

## 8. CONTACTS.

The following Club officials may be contacted at need:

Mail: P.O. Box 823 Shelburne, ON, L9V3M1 Tel: 519-925-8558  
E-mail: [info@shelburnesoccer.com](mailto:info@shelburnesoccer.com) Web: [www.shelburnesoccer.com](http://www.shelburnesoccer.com)

# Shelburne Soccer Club

Neil Nicholson	Head Referee	905-510-4200
Dan Sample	House League Convenor	H: 705-333-3482
Shelburne Soccer Club	Phone: 519-925-8558	
	Email: info@shelburnesoccer.com	

