



2026-2027 BLUE RIDGE UNITED
RECREATIONAL REFEREE GUIDELINES

2026-2027 PAY SCALE

U7, U8 (1 st / 2nd Grade)	\$25 per game
U10 (3 rd / 4 th Grade)	\$30 per game
U12 (5 th / 6 th Grade)	\$32 – Center per game \$25- AR per game
U15/HS (7 th / 8th Grade) (9 th -12 th Grade)	\$32 – Center per game \$25-AR per game

*Pay will be monthly now (about 2x during the season)

*Pay will be sent via direct deposit

*Make sure Bank Account is linked to Assignor Account

*GAME REPORTS **MUST BE** completed for the month prior in order to get paid.

GAMES:

*Cancellations will be announced by the League by 7am Saturday. Please check Assignor and the BRYSA page to confirm. I will send out messages too. Frederick County and the City of Winchester are responsible for making these decisions, it does not fall on BRU.

*If inclement weather is coming, it is your responsibility to delay or cancel. Please speak with the Coaches to determine what is best.

*You are responsible for the players' safety. Please document red/yellow cards or other issues in the Game report. ANY PARENT OR COACHING BEHAVIOR TOO!

*Please try to cap your game requests at 3 per day to give others a chance. The self-assigning will remain for now. As the game date gets nearer and spots are not filled, I will be assigning Referee's to these games.

*As the Assignor, I reserve the right to adjust your schedule, however I will let you know if I need a change from you first!

*Canceled Games will not be PAID. If they are rescheduled, I will make note of who had it and offer it to them first when the new date is issued.

UPDATE AVAILABILITY WEEKLY

EQUIPMENT:

*Please make sure you have all items needed. For example:

1. Red/Yellow cards
2. Pen/Pencil
3. Paper to keep score and notes of cards etc.
4. Coin (if you do not have one, rock/paper/scissors or guess number)
5. AR Flags (if needed)
6. Whistle
7. Watch or Cell phone as timer. I will allow the use of Cell phones to be used as time keeping for games.

UNIFORMS:

For the 2027 season, USSF will be issuing green patches to new and recertifying youth referees. These patches are to designate referees that are under 18 years old. With the recent changes to the rules against referee abuse it will allow coaches/parents to be more careful with their behavior.

FOR ALL GAMES YOU MUST HAVE THE PROPER UNIFORM.

Please have your patch on your shirt.

Shirts TUCKED IN and socks shin height.

*For cooler weather games, the use of dark colored pants and under shirt/hooded sweatshirts will be allowed.

Please look PROFESSIONAL. I cannot stress this enough, please follow the uniform code.

Notable Rule Changes:

8 second rule for Goal Keepers

- Once control is established inside the penalty area and controls it with their arms/hands for more than 8 seconds before releasing it, it is a violation.
- After 3 seconds, A five second countdown will be conducted with a raised hand (visually) by the referee.
- If the Goalkeeper handles the ball for more than 8 seconds a foul is called, and the proper re-start is a corner kick for the opposing team.
- If opponent impedes or prevents the keeper an INDIRECT FREE KICK is awarded.
- Wait till the Goalie has full possession of the ball and other players have cleared the box.

BE MINDFUL OF THEIR AGES AND DECISION MAKING, VERBAL COUNTDOWNS MAY ASSIST THE YOUTH BETTER

***5 Second Rule for Throw Ins / Corner & Goal Kicks**

As of July 2026, these new rules were implemented. Please count out loud, if the count has got to 5, then it will be awarded to the other teams.

Example: Goal Kick takes too long it will be given as a corner kick and vice versa

Example: Throw in takes too long, it will be awarded to the other team.

*****Be mindful of the ages and their decision making, older groups should be more enforceable. The younger groups please remind them prior to enforcing. ******

MERCY RULE

BRU has a mercy rule in effect. It is as follows:

3rd & 4th Grade and Below – **8 goals** – have the winning team remove a player.

5th & 6th Grade and above – **6 goals** – have the winning team remove a player.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Reminders –

- No punting the ball until 9v9 fields
- Buildout lines for 3rd and 4th grade
- Have subs line up at mid field
- Parents on one side and coaches/players on the other
- No one behind goals or unauthorized people on sidelines.
- Have parents at least 3-5 yards away from sidelines

Whatever the call is, please be confident in your decisions. **Blow the whistle with authority** and be **verbal with your decisions**. The more experience you get this will become easier but remember you are in charge out there. You dictate the game not the parents or coaches. This was my number 1 complaint this past season!

Explain to the youth (if possible) why you made the call and educate them on what they did wrong, especially at the younger ages.

Do not engage with the parents. Please go to the coaches first to address any issues with sideline etiquette and make note of such interactions. DOCUMENT ANY INTERACTIONS ON THE GAME REPORT.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Below is the link for new referees to register under Blue Ridge United.

<https://app.assignr.com/q/site/97dc95ac8464ed9c0f221132cd6971eb-blue-ridge-united>

If you know any adults or youth that are interested, please send them my information. My contact information is below:

Eric White

Cell- (412) 657-7521

Email – Soccerassignorbru@gmail.com

1st & 2nd Grade Rules

Dimensions	Number of Players on the field	5 vs. 5; no goalkeeper
	Field Size	25 x 20 yards
	Goal Size	3 x 5 ft
Game Day Rules	Game Duration	Four 10-minute quarters
	Offside Penalty	No
	Penalty Kick	No
	Throw in / Kick in	Kick in
	Substitutions	At anytime
	Slide Tackling / Heading	Not allowed, will be called a foul
	Buildout line (opposing team goal kick)	Midfield Line
	Referee	YES

3rd & 4th Grade Rules

Dimensions	Number of Players on the field	7 v 7; (6 field players and a goalkeeper)
	Field Size	60 x 40 yards
	Goal Size	6-7 ft x 18-21
	Penalty Area	26 x 12
Game Day Rules	Game Duration	Two 25-Minute Halves
	Offside Penalty	Yes
	Penalty Kick	Yes
	Throw in / Kick in	Throw in
	Substitutions	At anytime
	Slide Tackling / Heading	Not allowed, will be called a foul *Proper restart will be a drop ball*
	Buildout line (opposing team goal kick)	Build out line - Dotted line, between the box and the half line
	Referee	Yes

5th & 6th Grade Rules

Dimensions	Number of Players on the field	9 v 9; (8 field players and a goalkeeper)
	Field Size	80 x 50 yards
	Goal Size	6 x 21 ft
	Penalty Area	34 x 14 yards
Game Day Rules	Game Duration	Two 30-Minute Halves
	Offside Penalty	Yes
	Penalty Kick	Yes
	Throw in / Kick in	Throw in
	Substitutions	At anytime
	Heading	Not allowed, will be called a foul *Proper restart is a drop ball*
	Slide Tackling	Yes
	Buildout line (opposing team goal kick)	The opposing team can't be in the penalty box
	Referee	Yes

7th & 8th Grade Rules

Dimensions	Number of Players on the field	11v11; (10 field players and a goalkeeper)
	Field Size	110 x 70-55 yards
	Goal Size	8 x 24 ft
	Penalty Area	44 x 18
Game Day Rules	Game Duration	Two 35-Minute Halves
	Offside Penalty	Yes
	Penalty Kick	Yes
	Throw in / Kick in	Throw in
	Substitutions	At anytime
	Slide Tackling / Heading	Yes
	Buildout line (opposing team goal kick)	The opposing team can't be in the penalty box
	Referee	Yes

High School Game Rules

Dimension s	Number of Players on the field	11v11; (10 field players and a goalkeeper)
	Field Size	110 x 70-55 yards
	Goal Size	8 x 24 ft
	Penalty Area	44 x 18
Game Day Rules	Game Duration	Two 40-Minute Halves
	Offside Penalty	Yes
	Penalty Kick	Yes
	Throw in / Kick in	Throw in
	Substitutions	At anytime
	Slide Tackling / Heading	Yes
	Buildout line (opposing team goal kick)	The opposing team can't be in the penalty box
	Referee	Yes