WHAT TO DO IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CENTRE REFEREE OR ASSISTANT REFEREES FOR YOUR GAME

You may have experienced that the soccer community is short of referees this year. We are doing our best to train and develop new referees. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a referee, please send them our way (NSYSARefAssignor@gmail.com).

If you are short one or two Assistant Referees (Linespersons) a parent(s) should be assigned to take on the role with the instruction to only indicate when the whole of the ball has gone out and not to indicate offsides.

If you have no Centre Referee, coaches should consider the following:

- If you do not have a qualified Centre Referee, the League Rules say that the two team coaches should designate a person (coach or assistant coach) to each officiate one half of the game.
- If you have Assistant Referees who are rated appropriately for the game (their badge will say "CANADA" if they are rated for full field), one of them can accept the role of Centre Referee. A parent will need to fill the Club Linesperson role.
- If the Assistant Referee's badge says "Small Sided" they may be considered for a U13 or U14 game if they are confident and willing. A Small Sided referee may not Centre Referee a game of U16 or older age groups. Coaches must take on the referee duty if that is the case.
- When coaches referee the game, the score stands as recorded. The only exception are Cup games where a certified referee must officiate.
- While a non-certified referee (coach) cannot issue cards, a "Sending Off" offence should still be managed as such, and the player removed from further participation in the game.

If you do have an Assistant Referee who is willing to be the Centre Referee, understand and support them in this challenging task:

- Control your players – dial back the physical intensity, talk to players before tensions rise, work on possession skills and reducing challenges on the ball. It is a great training opportunity.
- If after some time in the game the referee recognizes that they are not comfortable continuing as the Centre Referee, accept their decision with grace and offer to take on the referee role.

<u>HOW TO CHECK IF A REFEREE IS ASSIGNED TO YOUR GAME:</u>

Go to http://www.scheduler.ca/gamestatus_v2.aspx?id=610 . If your game is green, there is a referee assigned, grey means no referee assigned.