

# Why I Can't Be A Referee

To save you the trouble of having to create an excuse of your own, we have listed the most of the common excuses for non-participation in this critical function in the AYSO program.

## **I Don't Know Anything (Enough) About the Game**

### **I Don't Have Time**

### **I'm Not the Right Kind of Person**

### **I'm a Woman - I Never See Them Referee**

### **I'd Look Silly in That Uniform**

### **I'm in too high a tax bracket to be able to handle the extra income**

### **I'd Be Embarrassed**

### **I can't afford the equipment**

### **I don't think I could keep up with the players. Some of them are pretty fast!**

## **I Don't Know Anything (Enough) About the Game**

Most of us knew little, or less than you, about soccer when we became referees. Not to worry... for the investment of a day (eight hours) we will train you with more knowledge of the Laws of the Game than most Americans ever possess.

## **I Don't Have Time**

Becoming a referee is the perfect slot for those AYSO parents who have crowded schedules. Referees are free to choose the games they can do, which can be scheduled at your convenience; possibly just before or after the game your child is playing. You may do as many or as few games as you choose.

## **I'm Not the Right Kind of Person**

Yes you are. You obviously care about your child. This is a youth development program run by volunteers. Would you want your child involved with someone who is not as good as you? Who would be better than a concerned parent like you?

## **I'm a Woman - I Never See Them Referee**

Wrong! We have many qualified women referees - and they are great! Last year in Region 1031, the top two referees with the most game count were women. We could use many more. Almost half of our players are girls and they love having women referees. They are comfortable with them and look up to them as role models. If you are a mom, you already are used to making quick decisions and multi-tasking. (If you are the mother of two or more children, you already know what it means to be a referee!) Don't worry, we will teach you and support you and start you off refereeing younger children. We will be there to mentor you until you feel comfortable and confident.

## **I'd Look Silly in That Uniform**

Good heavens... you obviously haven't seen the Referee Administrator.

**I'm in too high a tax bracket to be able to handle the extra income**

Not to worry. Satisfaction and enjoyment are not taxable. Since that will be your only compensation (AYSO is a volunteer organization) we suggest you collect as much as you can. Besides, you will not have to declare as income what you did not pay for all of the exercise which you did not have to go to an expensive gym to get.

**I'd Be Embarrassed**

Everyone makes mistakes (even those of us who have been officiating for years). The import thing is to approach the job with enthusiasm and enjoyment, because that will be passed on to the players and coaches (and we can team you up with an experienced referee to help you through the initial learning process).

**I can't afford the equipment**

Don't worry about expense, because the Region will provide you with the necessary equipment to get you started.

**I don't think I could keep up with the players. Some of them are pretty fast!**

Don't worry, most of us can't keep up with them either. We give the older age division games, with the faster players, to our fitter and more experienced referees. We still have plenty of younger division games on smaller fields where you would be able to keep up. You know, refereeing is also a good way to get a little exercise and to have fun at the same time.

Now that we've addressed all your concerns we can't wait to see you at referee training. We need you badly. And in return, we promise you:

- Enjoyment
- Exercise
- A sense of belonging
- A free uniform
- A small fan club of kids who think you're great and are thrilled to see you
- A great time - Like many before you, it may turn out to be the most fun you have had in a long time

*ONE FINAL NOTE: if you still don't think you are the right kind of person for this job, you took the time to read this whole flyer and that means you care. That means you are exactly the right kind of person.*