



# GREATER EDMONTON SOCCER LEAGUE

## REFEREE LIAISON POLICY



It is a requirement of **every** team registering with, or under the auspices of, the GESL League to designate an individual to act as a **referee liaison**. The **referee liaison** of each team shall be a person who is not an official of that team and their main role will be to act as a deterrent to possible acts of misbehaviour by spectators or team officials. The **referee liaison** will also be available to the referee should a request to do so be made or if a potential problem exists. Teams should recruit 2 or 3 candidates from their team who can share the responsibility, as no games will be played without an RL on each team's spectator bench.

Each team shall provide a **referee liaison** that shall:

1. Be identified with a **referee liaison lanyard**, which is clearly visible and hanging around their neck (tags to be provided by G.E.S.L. to teams at beginning of each season).
2. Be clearly identified on the game sheet, prior to start of game, as the **referee liaison**.
3. Introduce him or herself to the referee prior to the start of the game.
4. Locate themselves on the spectator side of the field.
5. Monitor the behaviour and deal with inappropriate comments, gestures and /or general unsporting behaviour directed at the referee, players or any other individual by **their** teams' spectators.
6. Quickly diffuse problems before they arise by being visible or calmly speaking with the individual(s) involved.
7. Be visible and available to assist the referee at **any time**.
8. Submit a brief report in writing to the EIYSA office, with a copy to their own club, of any incident with **any** individual they feel should be reported.

Non compliance of the Referee Liaison Policy shall result in a \$25.00 fine for first violation, and \$35.00 each subsequent violation (per season)

### Instructions to referees:

1. A referee **will not** start a match until both teams have identified their referee liaison (RL). Teams are required to identify their RL to the referee prior to or at the same time they are doing player card checks.
2. Teams have up to five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled kick-off time to provide a referee liaison.
3. If any team does not provide a referee liaison within the stipulated time allowed, the referee will appoint one from amongst the team's coaching staff. This person will be required to sit on their team's spectator side of the field. They will not be permitted to stay on the coaching bench. If a team only has one team official present at the game and no ref liaison, they cannot be both the team official and the ref liaison so the game will be defaulted.
4. Playing time will not be extended in order to acquire referee liaisons.