

# PCJSL Newsletter



**From the President | Ted Schmidt**

[pcjsl.pres@gmail.com](mailto:pcjsl.pres@gmail.com)

## Players, Coaches and Parents Commit to Being the Solution

*As the clock expires a mother charges onto the field and pushes the referee to the ground. Police are called. Deportation in the works...*

*A 16 year old boy curses at the referee, receives two yellow cards and then after the game pushes the referee...*

*A coach, players and parents curse the referee and wrongfully accuse him of having a relative on the opposing team. A parent assaults the referee, verbally assaults the field marshal and is arrested.*

These are only three of the documented incidents of bad behavior in Arizona in the last 6 months. Referees are fed up with the abuse and are quitting. We don't have enough referees anymore and the ones we have are required to officiate way too many games in a day.

PCJSL and Tucson are acting aggressively to stop this bad behavior and the rest of the state watches intently to see if we can do it. Bad behavior in youth sports is spiraling out of control and Tucson is the first to stand up and say this can be changed.

If PCJSL's new "Respect the Game" program works it will be enacted statewide and likely beyond. After months of study and development the program has just launched. It's a practical approach:

- Players, spectators and coaches agree to be bound by a Code of Conduct [http://pcjsl.com/Forms/2014\\_PCJSL\\_CODE\\_OF\\_CONDUCT.pdf](http://pcjsl.com/Forms/2014_PCJSL_CODE_OF_CONDUCT.pdf)
- Violation of the code of conduct results in suspension, education and fines
- Refereeing is evaluated every game, while mentoring and ref education is established to improve officiating

We are serious about this problem and we will show the state that it can be stopped. You can be a part of the Southern Arizona movement by doing your part to remember

- Players play
- Coaches coach
- Parents cheer and do NOT coach
- Nobody, not player, coach nor parent, ever yells at belittles or abuses the referee

And, in the car on the way home after the game, remember the six most important words your kid wants to hear from you—just these six, nothing more, nothing less: "I really enjoyed watching you play."

Let's all be part of the solution by respecting the game Southern Arizona style.

**Questions or Comments?**

Contact PCJSL at [PCJSLCommunications@gmail.com](mailto:PCJSLCommunications@gmail.com)



# Lord Have Mercy! No More Blowouts

Nobody benefits from a blowout. Not the winners; not the losers, not the coaches, not the fans. It is not in keeping with the sportsmanship and respect for others and the game which we are trying to teach our kids.

We do our best to match teams according to ability but despite all efforts the mismatch will occur. In PCJSL we have a Mercy Rule: *“For U11 teams and above, after the completion of the first half of play, if there becomes a goal differential of 8 goals, the game/match will be halted. The leading team at that time will be declared the winner of the completed game/match. If not 8 at half, intent would be to stop game when it reaches 8. If both coaches agree then game can continue.”*

However, a blowout in any age group should be avoided at all reasonable costs. But how? What is a coach to do? Tell his players not to play hard? Not to try? Not to compete? No, that is not the answer. Instead, make the game even more challenging for your team—impose requirements that demand even more of their skill, patience and hard work. Here are just a few strategies to consider to avoid the blowout:



**Kadar Hamilton**  
PCJSL VP  
Competition

- Instruct players they can only shoot with their weaker foot.
- Tell players they can only score from inside the goal area, also known as the six-yard box.
- Put your least successful shooters up front.
- Set a mid-field boundary – Tell your offensive players they can’t cross mid-field to help the defense (lets the opposing team have a numbers advantage). Tell your defense the same thing, not to cross midfield to help the offense score.
- Set a number of passes before a shot – Tell your players they must have a set number of passes or touches before anyone can take a shot and you’ve got to start over at 1 every time the opposing team touches the ball. But, please don’t chant out the number from the sidelines as this is sometimes demeaning to the opposing team.
- Play short – Start pulling players off the field as the lead becomes insurmountable.

These are just a few. I am sure you can think of others. The key is to keep it interesting and challenging while not demeaning to your opponent. Respect the Game and your opponent.

## Be Kind, Respect the Game and Be Knowledgeable

Part of changing the culture to one of kindness and respect for the officials, other players and coaches includes education. The best coaches and parents want to know how they can best succeed in supporting their kids, their players, in the soccer program. PCJSL recommends the following courses, one for coaches and one for parents so we can all give the best effort in supporting the kids just as we expect them to give their best effort on the pitch.

Parents: <http://www.positivecoach.org/our-work/online-courses/>  
Coaches: <http://www.positivecoach.org/our-work/online-courses/second-goal-parent-developing-winners-in-life-through-sport/>

## Poaching—What is it? How do I avoid it?

No, we are not talking about a favorite breakfast meal nor taking game out of season. What we are talking about is trying out for teams, switching teams and recruiting players. It’s all covered in AYSA Bylaw 812. Here it is plain and simple:

- Players are free to try out for any team they like and coaches can recruit players from May 1 to July 1 of each year.
- From July 2 to April 30 neither a club nor its coaches, players and parents may INITIATE contact with a player in another club to discuss switching clubs.
- A player or parent who wants to discuss switching clubs may do so but must first obtain written permission from his or her current club to discuss a switch with another club (club means any coach, player, parent or representative of a club).
- A player can simply switch clubs by asking for a written release from her or his existing club.



**Ted Schmdit**  
PCJSL President

So, plain and simple, outside the May 1 to July 1 tryout period only a player or her parents may INITIATE contact regarding switching clubs with a new club and then only after obtaining written permission from his current club.

Finally, don’t forget, that after November 1, any player that changes clubs is prohibited from playing in State Cup the following year with the new club.

# THANK YOU

## Jack Furrier Tire & Auto Care

15 Years of Soccer Support | You Could Win \$10,000

Jack Furrier Tire and Auto Care has been supporting our league and youth soccer for 15 years! Now, you can return that support and save money! Just go to <http://www.jackfurriers.com/soccer.htm> and you can download coupons for a \$70 master card with the purchase of 4 Michelin or BF Goodrich tires or 25% off any \$50 or larger auto repair good through December 31, 2014. So now's the time to save.

Additionally, while you are on the soccer page at JackFurriers.com - you can enter a fun photo of your family for a **chance to win \$10,000 and 4 free light truck or passenger tires from Michelin!**

So, if you need tires or an auto repair – save money and support Jack Furrier Tire and Auto Care. Say thank you for all they have done for PCJSL!

The advertisement features the Jack Furrier Tire & Auto Care logo at the top, with the tagline "Soccer Season, Service, & Support". Below this, a banner reads "SOCCER SEASON IS HERE!" and "Help us celebrate 15 years of soccer with Jack Furrier". A red starburst graphic with the word "PLUS" is prominent, indicating an additional offer. Text on the right states: "Jack Furrier Auto and Tire Care is now giving you even more savings to enjoy with our 15th year celebration of family fun in the Tucson and Sierra Vista area." Below this, it says: "Go online to JackFurriers.com today and download your coupons. Get up to \$70 off our best Total Tire Price deals. Not ready for tires just yet? Then save up to 25% on your next oil change or other repair services (up to \$20)." A red starburst graphic with the text "Click to get instant savings" is also present. At the bottom, there is a photo of four young soccer players in blue jerseys, and the JackFurriers.com logo with the text "Find the 14 locations, savings and Tuffy Ties to some you best."

## “Oh NO!!! My kid just got a Red Card.”

*What to do After the Infraction*

Your kid just got a red card – what do you do now? There are a few things that coaches and team administrators must do after the game is over. Your assigned Center Ref will take the player card. Your kid cannot play in at least the next game and depending on severity of the infraction, the player may be sitting out more games.

Over the next week here are some things that will be happening:

- The Center Ref and Coach will ensure that the correct player is marked on the game card for that game. Form will be mailed or emailed (scanned copy) to the PCJSL VP (D&R) for processing.
- The Player Card will be mailed to the VP.
- The Coach/Team Administrator will evaluate the Center Ref in the Rate-a-Ref section on the PCJSL website.
- The Center Ref will fill out the Red Card suspension form on the PCJSL site which also is tracked by the PCJSL VP (D&R).
- Team responsibility: Print the Suspension Fulfillment Form as soon as possible for your next game. It can be as soon as later the same day. (The Center Ref will need to sign the form that the kid did not play in that game.)



**Mark Hamilton**  
PCJSL Vice President

To stay one step ahead, you should email the PCJSL VP and give him a heads up about the red card. This may speed up the process of getting suspension fulfillment done as quickly as possible. This will also help the VP know a card is coming and proactively get in touch with the Center Ref to remind him to send that player card as soon as possible. The VP will not give back the card until the requirements are fulfilled or other arrangements are made with him/her in a timely manner.

Example: if the red card is given during a PCJSL game, and you are scheduled for a tournament the following weekend, you can get that card back for your games before the suspension is fulfilled if it is a one game suspension and you have three games.

Reasons for not getting the card back in a timely manner include:

- Center Ref not sending the player card to VP in a timely manner.
- Center Ref not filling out the form within Got Soccer. This is needed so the VP can assess the severity of infraction based on the report the Center Ref makes.
- Team not getting the Suspension Fulfillment form back to VP in a timely manner. Contacting the VP on Friday night/Saturday morning for a game that afternoon will not work. Your emergency is not the VP's emergency. Especially if the game was played on the previous Saturday.

If there are ever any questions, email the PCJSL Vice President at [pcjsl.vp@gmail.com](mailto:pcjsl.vp@gmail.com).

# Tucson NEEDS Referees

Thanks to the efforts of individuals and clubs like yours, Tucson soccer is growing at an unprecedented rate. However, the burgeoning number of both leagues and games is putting a strain on the city's referees. With our human resources spread thin, PCJSL and referee leadership have come to a conclusion: Tucson needs referees.

Over the past year, PCJSL has developed a program with this goal in mind. "Respect the Game" is aimed at both the retention and recruitment of soccer referees in the Tucson area. However, with no USSF sponsored referee certification classes on the horizon our recruitment efforts may be all for naught. In order to secure enough referees to keep Tucson soccer running smoothly we are reaching out to you for support.

Sponsoring a certification class comes at no cost to those putting it on. We will contact and supply the instructors, who are even paid through the course's registration fees. All that we need from you is a venue. The course consists of a series of on-line modules completed prior to a total of 8 classroom hours with instructors. The 8-hour live classroom session can be spread out over several days or can be held on one single date – time for breaks is not included in the required 8 hours. Previous classes have been held anywhere from high schools to hotel conference rooms, and even police stations. Whether by renting or reaching out to your membership to secure a location, sponsoring a class is a cheap and easy way to ensure that Tucson soccer can continue to grow. Should you choose to sponsor a class we even have no problem with advertising your future events, such as tournaments, to the incoming group of officials.

With the 2015 USSF certification cutoff coming up on March 31, 2015, a swift push is necessary to ensure that Tucson has a healthy number of referees. We implore you to consider sponsoring a certification class - a quick and cost-effective way to aid the community and ensure that Tucson soccer has the resources to sustain the growth of the sport.



**Maggie Barton**  
PCJSL Referee  
Assignor

## 2015 Pima Cup Tournament

Pima County Junior Soccer League will host the Pima Cup Tournament 2015 on March 6th, 7th and 8th 2015 in Tucson Arizona. The Pima Cup is the Regional Championship for Region II of Arizona which includes Pima and Santa Cruz Counties. Registration will open on December 1st 2014 and team entry deadline is February 18th 2015. The tournament is open to boys and girls teams in the under-8 through under -19 age groups. This year has seen changes to number of players on field for league play. Pima Cup will have the following number of players on field per age group:

| Age Group | Number of players on Field | Entry fees for this year's tournament are: |       |
|-----------|----------------------------|--|-------|
| U8        | 4                          | U8-U9                                      | \$300 |
| U9-U10    | 6                          | U10  | \$400 |
| U11       | 8                          | U11-U14                                    | \$425 |
| U12       | 8 or 11                    | U15-U19                                    | \$450 |
| U13-U19   | 11                         |  |       |

Tournament officials wish to make this year's tournament a collaborative effort with all PCJSL member clubs to celebrate our communities youth soccer players. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the tournament, please contact us or your club president.



**Mack Romero**  
AYSA Region II  
Commissioner

Advertising opportunities are available for companies to show support for youth sports in Southern Arizona. Banners at tournament fields or company booths are available. For more information, see tournament web page.



For more information see tournament website at [www.pcjsl.com/pimacup](http://www.pcjsl.com/pimacup) or contact tournament director at [azdistrict2@gmail.com](mailto:azdistrict2@gmail.com).

## SUPPORT NEEDED FOR TRANSFORMATION OF RILLITO TO MORE SOCCER FIELDS

The Bond Advisory Commission will hold a hearing at 8 a.m. on November 21, 2014 at the Arizona River Park Inn (350 S. Freeway) to discuss the advisability of building more soccer fields at Rillito as part of an upcoming bond package. It is VERY important that we have a good turnout of soccer field supporters at this meeting to show the commission members how important more soccer fields are to Tucson, especially at a central location such as Rillito. Please attend and help our voice be heard!





...on the sidelines!



## RESPECT THE GAME

PCJSL launched its innovative *Respect the Game Program* in September with the idea of improving both the behavior at youth soccer games and the quality of officiating. The multifaceted program includes several initiatives including referee ratings, recruiting and mentoring referees, and field marshals.

Perhaps the lynchpin of this endeavor is the Rate-A-Ref program. With the new requirement that coaches must file brief reports on the center referee for each PCJSL game, the league now has hundreds of evaluations and comments, a useful tool in improving refereeing standards. The ease with which the ratings system was implemented is primarily attributable to referee Matt Jacob, who has graciously devoted his spare time to develop the necessary software. PCJSL and the *Respect the Game Committee* want to extend their very sincere thanks to Matt for the time and effort he has put into developing PCJSL's Rate-A-Ref application. In addition to creating this evaluation platform, which is providing great information, he continues to work with us to improve this tool that will help us develop a stronger and more experienced referee pool.

Thus far, overall compliance with the Rate-a-Ref program has exceeded expectations. Coaches of PCJSL teams have done an excellent job of submitting their reports in a timely fashion. In the coming months, PCJSL hopes to extend the referee rating program to include assistant referees, too.

PCJSL also appreciates the efforts of Danny McDermott, who has been instrumental in advancing the referee recruitment initiative. According to Danny, 200 referee recruiting brochures have been distributed to high school counselors and soccer teams. Additional brochures will be distributed when the high school season gets underway in November.

PCJSL's efforts to increase the pool of referees and mentors are already seeing positive results. The pool of referee mentors has doubled and an AYSA mentor training session was scheduled for October 29 in Tucson. And the referee ranks have swelled by 86 new Grade 8 and Grade 9 referees. PCJSL plans to sponsor at least two more "entry level" referee classes before the end of 2014.

With your support, these initiatives will enhance the soccer experience for everyone. If you have suggestions or concerns, please direct them to the PCJSL board or the *Respect the Game Committee*.

Maggie Barton [cactusmouse@comcast.net](mailto:cactusmouse@comcast.net) | Larry Luckett [refcoordffc@yahoo.com](mailto:refcoordffc@yahoo.com) | Charlie MacCabe [charliemacc2@msn.com](mailto:charliemacc2@msn.com)

- **The spectator's job is to enjoy the game!** Keep comments positive and general, rather than directed at individual players. Be supportive of both teams.
- **The coach's job is to coach the players.** Additional coaching from the sidelines distracts players and may affect their performance.
- **The referee's job is to officiate the game.** Respect the difficulty of this position by allowing the refs to work without interruption.
- **The soccer field is a learning environment** for the players. Spectators serve as powerful role models for good sportsmanship.

## Have fun and be kind!



# COACHING EDUCATION

PCJSL believes that continuing coaching education is a key component to being a successful coach. Coaches have a crucial role in the player development process. There are a number of courses and programs designed to reach coaches of all levels. The ultimate goal is to make the game better for all involved.

Coaching education begins at the state level with The 4 hour introductory "Youth Modules" Level I (U6-U8) and II (U10-12), and the 18 hour "E" License courses. These courses cover elementary principles of coaching and have been provided FREE of charge to PCJSL members.

The 18 hour "E" License prepares interested coaches for the 36 hour "D" License . Successful completion of the "D" course certifies coaches with either a State or National License. These courses have been subsidized at 1/2 the cost by PCJSL to those coaches coaching within PCJSL.

Candidates wishing to attend a US Soccer National Coaching School to take the "C" License course must have earned and held a National "D" License for a minimum of 12 months. Those holding a State "D" license may upgrade their State Pass to a National Pass through an upgrade course under the direction of the State Technical Director.

The diagram to the right shows the current U.S. Soccer National License progression.

PCJSL will be scheduling new courses soon. Please refer to the following links for details and if you have any questions please contact Ricardo Hinds, PCJSL Director of Coaching PCJSL.DOC@gmail.com or Austin Daniels, AYSA Technical Director [aysatd@aol.com](mailto:aysatd@aol.com)



## PCJSL

<http://pcjssl.com/coach-education/>

## AZ Youth Soccer

<http://www.azyouthsoccer.org/default.aspx>

Look under "coaching education".

## US Youth Soccer

<http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/coaches/NatYouthLicense/>

## US Soccer

<http://www.ussoccer.com/coaching-education/licenses>

## PCJSL 2015 Winter/Spring Schedule of Events

Dec 10 – Registration Closes for U9-14

Dec 17 – Flight and Coaches Meeting for U9-14

Dec 31 – Final Schedule Released U9-14

Jan 10 – U9-14 Game Day 1

Jan 17 – NO GAMES – Shootout Tourney

Jan 24 – U9-14 Game Day 2

Jan 30 – U15-19 Registration Closes

Jan 31 – U9-14 Game Day 3

Feb 4 – Flight and Coaches Meeting U15-19

Feb 7 – NO GAMES – Jacobs Tourney

Feb 14 – U9-14 Game Day 4

Feb 18 – Final Schedule Released U15-19

Feb 21 – U9-14 Game Day 5 (Final Game Day for U9-14 Rec)

Feb 28 – U12-14 Gold Game Day 6, U15-19 Game Day 1

Mar 7 – NO GAMES – Pima Tourney

Mar 14 – U12-14 Gold Game Day 7 (Final Game Day for U12-14 Gold), U15-19 Game Day 2

Mar 21 – U15-19 Game Day 3

Mar 28 – U15-19 Game Day 4

April 4 – U15-19 Game Day 5

April 11 – NO GAMES – CDO Tourney

April 18 – U15-19 Game Day 6

April 25 – U15-19 Game Day 7 (Final Game Day)

# “Hand Ball!!” Stop Saying That!

By: Victor  
Matheson  
12/31/2005

Referee Discretion required to correctly call hand ball.

OK, I simply cannot stand it anymore. One cannot go to a game anywhere in the US without someone yelling for a "hand ball" every five minutes. Listen up folks, players, coaches, referees and fans have gotten this rule wrong all of these years, and it's got to stop. Furthermore, it's not just beginning players who get the call wrong. Even top-level professional players want referees to call a foul every time a ball hits a player's hand. In this week's article we all need to have a little talk about the "hand ball" and what this rule really entails.

To learn more about the "hand ball," we need to begin by looking inside our FIFA Laws of the Game to see what the rules really are. First of all, unbeknownst to many, there is no such rule as "hand ball." In reality, Law XII states that is illegal if a player "handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area)" This means that is not, I repeat not, a foul if the ball touches a player's hand. It is only a foul if the player intentionally handles the ball. Therefore, all of those times that a defender kicks the ball right into a player's hand or the ball bounces up and hits an arm, these are not fouls and should not be called.

Let me also emphasize that nowhere does the rule book say anything about whether or not the player gains an advantage by the ball hitting his or her hand. In other words, even if the ball were to hit a player's arm and drop right at his feet or even were to go directly into his opponents' goal, these are not fouls if they were unintentional acts. Apparently, I am not the only one whose feathers have been ruffled by years of bad calls by referees and undeserved abuse from fans. As recently as 1996 FIFA specifically changed the laws to make it very clear that it is only a foul if the player handles the ball deliberately.

So how can one tell if a hand ball is intentional or not? First, if a ball, such as a clearance out of the defense, hits a player so fast that they have no time to react then this cannot be a hand ball. Likewise, bouncing balls that come up and hit a player's arm or balls that hit a player's arm when his or her back is turned are generally not fouls. On the other hand, when a player uses her hand at her side to control a ball that comes in at waist level or has time to reach out and touch a ball, then these clearly should be called. A good rule-of-thumb to use is if the player's hand comes to the ball, it is a foul. If the ball comes to the hand, it is not a foul.

Now to all of you parents, coaches, players, and fans who incessantly yell for the referee to call these infractions: you need to sit down and be quiet. There is nothing that makes you look more ignorant of the game than crying for a foul every time the ball touches an arm. Unintentional hand balls are not fouls. Period.

Finally, to all you referees out there, I know that it is easier to simply call every ball that hits a player's hand a foul rather than having to make a difficult decision regarding a player's intent and having to face the wrath of angry (although incorrect) fans. However, you must resist the temptation of making the easy call and have the courage to make the correct call. Calling unintentional hand balls will only make it more difficult in the future for the minority of referees who choose to call the fouls correctly. Remember, no intent, no foul! Let's start playing and calling the game the way it is meant to be played.

This article and others like it appear in our AskTheRef.com newsletters. To sign up for the newsletter simply email us at [newsletters@asktheref.com](mailto:newsletters@asktheref.com)

What do you think? Hand Ball? Comments and suggestions regarding this article are appreciated please email [suggestions@asktheref.com](mailto:suggestions@asktheref.com).

*Victor Matheson is a USSF National Referee as well as a certified assessor and instructor. In his 15 years as a referee he has officiated over 1,600 games including A-League matches as referee and MLS matches as a 4th official and assistant referee. He has refereed in USSF amateur or youth regional competitions thirteen times and in national competitions five times. He currently serves as the State Director of Instruction for Illinois. When he is not on the field, he is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics and Business at Lake Forest College in the northern Chicago suburbs. He has authored or co-authored numerous publications dealing with the economics of large sporting events, state lotteries, and tax policy.*