



CENTRAL LANCASHIRE JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Referees' Guide – 2025/26

Before the Game

- Availability is submitted through the Centre Circle App. You will always be classed as 'unavailable', unless you manually add 'open dates'. To do so, use the calendar tab within the app, and click edit calendar. From here, add all of the dates/times you're available. Rejecting fixtures is an absolute last resort, as is not a feature that should be used regularly.
- Managers must have contacted the referee by 8pm on the Thursday prior to a Sunday game, or 8pm Sunday for a midweek game. If they fail to do so, we ask that you are proactive and reach out to the manager. However, if this is unsuccessful, please notify the Referee Secretary by email to referee@cljfl.co.uk.
- We ask that where possible, referees arrive 30 minutes prior to kick off. However, we appreciate there can be some incredibly busy schedules. If you plan to arrive less than 15 minutes before kick-off, please notify the manager when confirming the fixture.

During the Game

- As per the Club Assistant Referee Guidance, your decision is final.
- Match length is as follows: U11/U12 (9v9) – 30mins E/W, U13/U14 (11v11) – 35mins E/W, U15/U16 (11v11) – 40mins E/W.
- Normal laws of the game apply. The sinbin rule is in use for dissent, and players should stay in the sinbin for 8 minutes. It is the duty of the referee to time this and call the player back on to the field of play when the ball is out of play.
 - Offsides are in use for all CLJFL games, and you should provide each team with a flag.
- All cup ties that are a draw at the end of normal time, are decided by kicks from the penalty mark. There should be 5 takers from each team, with the shootout to be carried out in accordance with Law 10.3.

After the game

- Match fees are as follows: U11/U12 – £27, U13/U14 – £30, U15/U16 – £35. Where appointed, Assistant Referees receive £20 at all ages. Total fee should be split by home and away team. No travel expenses are paid in any CLJFL League/Cup games.
- Ideally, your fee should be paid upon arrival, if not, immediately after the game. You should not wait around for your fee. If the manager delays payment in anyway, you should leave and inform the Referee Secretary by email to referee@cljfl.co.uk. The league will then make payment, and chase the club for the fee, along with a fine.
 - Any cautions (dissent included), sending offs or other/extraordinary misconduct should be reported on referees.thefa.com.
- **ALL REFEREES** should complete a short match report after **EVERY GAME**. This should be done using the Centre-Circle App, and as mentioned above, any misconduct should also be reported through Referees Portal.