

TIPP CITY YOUTH SOCCER, INC.

2026 REFEREE PROGRAM REPORT

Mike Mahan, Director of Officiating

Oct 26, 2026

Regular Season Summary:

- Number of teams = 28 (^ 3, ranks 10th since 2002, most since 2017 = 30)
- Number of games played = 126 games (^ 16) > most since 2017 = 130)
- Number of referee slots = 153 referee slots (^ 18)
- Number of referee slots filled = 152 filled
- Average number of games per Referee = 6.3 (+ 0.4)
- Number of referees used = 24 (+ 1) 18 youth, 6 adults
 - 1. USSF licensed = 5
 - 2. Qualified = 19
 - 3. Probationary Status = 0 (test score below 70)
- Number of referees who returned this year = 10
- Number of new referees = 14 (12 took test + 2 refs who returned after absence)
- Number of referees who did not return this year = 12
- Net loss/gain of referees = + 2

Referee Fees for 28 Teams playing 126 matches (BK 636 was cancelled)

- 08U Passers 7v7 16 teams 64 games @ \$30 ea = \$1,920
- 10U Wings 7v7 7 teams 35 games @ \$40 ea = \$1,440
- 12U Boys Strikers 9v9 1 team 5 games @ \$84 ea = \$ 420
- 12U Girls Strikers 9v9 2 teams 10 games @ \$84 ea = \$ 840
- 14U Boys Kickers 9v9 1 team 6 games @ \$88 ea = \$ 528
- 14U Girls Kickers 9v9 1 team 6 games @ \$88 ea = \$ 528
- 19U Minors/Seniors 0 teams

TOTAL COST = \$5,696
An increase of \$686
(13.7%)

- Oct 3-4: U8 Mini Mum Cup Tournament → 16 teams played 26 games @ \$30 ea = \$780 (^ \$180)
- Oct 10-11: MVESA Fun Tournament → 45 teams played 39 games (no Forfeits)
- Referee fees were the same as in 2024, 2025 → \$40 - \$42 - \$44 = Total pmt of = \$2,428

Discipline Issued:

	CAUTIONS	EJECTIONS
By TCYS Referees or Board members		
To players	None reported	None reported
To coaches	None reported	None reported
By Other Clubs' Referees		
To TCYS players	None reported	None reported
To TCYS coaches	None reported	None reported

Ongoing Goals:

1. Fill all referee slots
 - a. **All but 1 of 153 slots were filled.**
2. Offer training to new and veteran referees from TCYS and the other MVESA clubs that is somewhat flexible, current, and encompasses not only the LOTG, but also some of the historical, organizational, and philosophical aspects of TCYS, INC and its relationship with the OSYSA and MVESA
 - a. The 6-hr Introductory Clinic was held indoors at the Tipp Center by Mike Mahan on Saturday, Aug 2. Due to the lower number of registrants (29 in 2025), a smaller room was reserved
 - i. **TC > 9 Candidates attended the Intro Clinic + 1 veteran; 4 did Self-Study**
 - ii. **GR > 3 did Self-Study**
 - iii. **ME > 5 attended Intro Clinic + 8 did Self-Study**
 - iv. **NW > 1 attended Intro Clinic + 2 did Self-Study**
 - b. The 2-hr Outdoor Practicum was held at Kyle Park on Sunday. Candidates attending:
 - i. **TC > 13 Candidates attended the Outdoor Practicum**
 - ii. **GR > 0**
 - iii. **ME > 10**
 - iv. **NW > 4**
 - c. One Refresher session for returning Referees was held at Tipp Tool Testing Lab by Mike Mahan
 - i. **TC > 4**
 - ii. **Other Clubs > 0**
 - d. Applicants and Testing
 - i. 27 people representing all MVESA Clubs completed the online Referee Application
 - ii. 33 people representing all MVESA Clubs took the test
 - iii. 6 of the 33 (from the other Clubs) did not complete the Referee Application
3. Continue to offer a 2-hr Refresher Clinic intended primarily for TCYS REC (non-USSF) referees. This training can also be used to acquaint newly trained USF referees to the TCYS & MVESA Special Rules
4. Continue to monitor TCYS referee pay for competitiveness with other area leagues
 - a. The TCYS Board approved a rate increase for 3 of the 5 Divisions in 2024
 - i. 10U \$35 > \$40 12U \$40 > \$42 14U \$40 > \$44 19U > no decision made
5. Work with the other MVESA clubs to assure all Referee Coordinators have a mutual understanding of any LOTG changes imposed by the OSYSA and are prepared to implement them during the season following the effective date. Modifications to the LOTG were reviewed at one of the League meetings
 - a. There is still some inconsistencies noted among the Clubs re application of some Laws
 - b. Goal and field sizes seem to also vary among the Clubs for the 10U Wings Division, due primarily to lack of available space.
 - c. Offside in 10U Wings is called more strictly by some Clubs, particularly those who still use 2 refs
6. Maintain a roster of at least 16-20 referees
 - a. Over 25 refs are generally maintained in a pool of contacts of which 16-20 usually request matches
 - b. Continue recruiting new youth, coaches, and parents, etc to referee or at least attend the Intro Clinic
7. Continue updating the resources and information on the Referees page in Demosphere (OTTO SPORT)
8. Continue to offer classroom instruction 2 weeks prior to the start of the season to those who want it
9. Review and revise the MVESA Referee test annually to reflect changes to the LOTG and the MVESA Special Rules or to improve and clarify current test questions
10. Review the MVESA Special Rules with the MVESA Board annually for edification and to discuss if any changes, clarifications, or improvements are needed
11. Continue to require that all Referee Candidates attend an on-field practicum prior to the start of the season at either Kyle Park or at the Home venue of the applicant's District of residence

Review of 2026 Goals:

1. Revise the Match Incident Report Form utilizing Google Forms
 - a. This form needs to be more user-friendly and applicable to all Clubs in the MEYSA***** Ongoing – Through a recent internet search, an online form developed by New Jersey Soccer was found and judged to be very appropriate for MVESA incident reporting if it can be customized to our organization**
2. Working in conjunction with the MVEYSA Board, review and revise as necessary the Disciplinary Process for reporting Match Incidents and Ethics Violations committed by coaches, players, and spectators
 - a. Clarify the requirements for Match Incidents to be reported by the Referees and to whom they are sent
 - b. Clarify with whom Reports are shared
 - c. Clarify the punishments for reported incidents and ethics violations
 - d. Develop a monitoring and reporting system among the Clubs so that violations that result in a suspension of a coach or player at the next match are made known to the hosting Club***** Ongoing**
3. Working in conjunction with the MEYSA, review, clarify, and revise as necessary the age requirements and any other criteria for youth referees assigned to all age groups
***** Ongoing – A draft section of the Area by-laws clarifying the minimum age to referee and the age limitations for refereeing the various age divisions was submitted but not formally approved yet.**
4. Review the liability issues surrounding the training and assigning of non-USSF licensed referees to MEYSA matches.
 - a. Explore training processes that would allow our Rec Referees to become “registered” or “licensed”
 - b. Compare the training programs of other USYS Leagues/Clubs in the surrounding area***** Ongoing**
5. Clarify the Guest Player policy and process for its application during both the regular season and for the Fun Tournament.
 - a. Define the category and eligibility of a Guest Player
 - b. Identify all possible scenarios for when the use of a Guest Player would be appropriate
 - c. Outline the recruiting and assigning process for Guest Players***** Accomplished – Guest Player procedures were revised for the 2026 Fun Tournament Instructions to Coaches**

New Goals for 2027:

1. Meet with MVESA Board to review the current status of the Fun Tournament and to discuss suggested revisions of the calendar, format, seeding of teams, rules, instructions, etc
 - a. Continuation of a consolidated tournament at a single venue
 - b. Commitment deadline for participation
 - c. Seeding date
 - d. Club Admin representation during the tournament
 - e. Assigning of Field Marshalls
 - f. Referee pay rate, pmt for forfeits
 - g. Roster verification, checking in
 - h. Use of Guest Players
 - i. Handling of tied matches, i.e. overtime periods vs Shootout
 - j. Responsibilities for team color conflicts
 - k. Match intervals and rest periods
 - l. Presence of dogs