



## Referee Manual

1. **General Philosophy for Active Referees**
  - a. Referees are neutral arbiters and enforcers of policy and rules, who report to the Tournament Director, and abide by the below philosophies. A referee shouldn't intervene in a game unless he or she believes a rules violation has occurred, a player with a concern or question requests assistance, or the referee wishes to prevent a situation from escalating. Referees don't stop play errors from occurring, but instead deal with errors that have occurred, penalize those who violate rules or policy, and promote fair play and sporting conduct by example and diplomacy.
  - b. Referees may intervene to prevent or preempt errors occurring outside of a game, during warm-ups, or during non-tournament play (friendlies). Any information provided will be shared with both teams to promote fairness in knowledge transfer. Never should a referee provide information to one team and not the other.

- c. Knowledge of a player's history, abilities, or skill will not alter an infraction, but it may be taken into account during any exploration of an issue that requires adjudication.
- d. The purpose of a penalty is to educate the player not to make similar mistakes in the future. This is done through both an explanation of where the rules or policies were violated and a penalty to reinforce the education. Penalties are also for the deterrence and education of every other player in the tournament.
- e. If a violation is quickly handled by the players to the mutual satisfaction of the referee and all players, with little disruption to the flow of the game, a referee does not need to intervene, and a penalty will not be communicated. This is to encourage the players violating rules to call the violation, mutually agree and enforce the appropriate penalty, and to keep the game from being disrupted.
- f. If a violation is witnessed by the referee, and the player committing the violation does not resolve the violation following 1.e., the penalty will be communicated, and the referee will enforce the appropriate penalty.

**Note:** In both 1.e. and 1.f, the referee will ensure that the game progresses normally.

- g. More significant violations are addressed by first identifying what infraction applies, then proceeding with the corresponding instructions. Only the Tournament Director is authorized to issue penalties that deviate from these guidelines. The Tournament Director may not deviate from this manual's procedures except in significant and exceptional circumstances or a situation that has no applicable philosophy for guidance. Significant and exceptional circumstances are rare, such as game pieces are hit by a soccer ball, or a player suffers an injury, for example.

- h. The tournament size, round of the tournament, age or experience-level of the player, desire to educate the player, and certification level of the referee are NOT exceptional circumstances to deviate from these procedures. If a referee feels deviation is appropriate, he or she must consult with the Tournament Director.
- i. Referees are human and make mistakes. When a referee makes a mistake, he or she should acknowledge the mistake, apologize to the players, and fix it if it is not too late. If a member of the tournament staff or another team gives a player erroneous information that causes them to commit a penalty, the Tournament Director is authorized to downgrade the penalty.
- j. Errors made in previous games, matches, or turns should not be rectified if the outcome would impact other teams or would require changes to round matchups. In this case the referee will provide the rules to be followed going forward.

## 2. Rules enforcement levels (REL)

- a. Enforcement levels are a means to communicate the expectations in terms of rigidity of rules and penalties. The intention is that REL's are communicated before a player commits to attending a tournament.
- b. The REL is decided by the tournament director at all sanctioned Kubb United tournaments, or tournaments utilizing Kubb United rulesets and/or referees.
  - i. Recreational – events focused on fun and social aspects; depending on various factors this can be from no enforcement to passive referees.
  - ii. Competitive – larger events focused on players demonstrating the skills and abilities with active referees enforcing the rules.

### 3. Referee Level Guidelines

- a. There are four levels of referee. Levels should align with referee understanding of the rules, their comfort making difficult calls, and the rules they are able to enforce.

#### **Level 1 – Basic understanding of the game and rules required.**

Level 1 referees are approved by the tournament director and head referee of a Kubb United Sanctioned Event. Level 1 referees will know enough about the game to monitor for foot faults, determine whether a kubb is in or out, and are instructed to signal a higher level referee if there is a need during a game.

**Level 2** – Level 1 referees may submit for an L2 application to complete a written test, and must have worked as a Level 1 referee in at least 2 Kubb United Sanctioned Competitive REL tournaments, and played in at least 1 Kubb United Sanctioned tournament (or similar experience). A written reference from a higher level referee is not required, but recommended.

Level 2 referees should have more than a basic understanding of the game, are comfortable enforcing foot faults and illegal throws, and are instructed to signal a higher level referee if there is a need during a game.

**Level 3** – Level 2 referees may submit for an L3 application after they have worked as a Level 2 referee in at least 2 Kubb United Sanctioned Competitive REL tournaments (or similar experience). A written reference from a higher level referee is not required, but recommended. A panel interview will be conducted.

Level 3 referees should have more than a basic understanding of the game, and are comfortable enforcing foot faults, illegal throws, and advanced kubb raising techniques.

**Level 4** – Level 3 referees may submit for an L4 application, and must have worked as a Level 3 referee at the US Open (or similar experience). A panel interview will be conducted.

Level 3 and Level 4 referees are considered leaders in the kubb community and have a passion for the game. They mentor lower level referees, and provide feedback on other referees in a constructive manner. Level 4 referees may act in a Head Referee role, and take accountability for all other referees and enforcement calls made during the tournament.

Fig. 1 – Referee progression and pre-requisites

Example Requirements:	Referee Progression
Basic understanding of the game and rules; able to call foot faults and in/out	Level 1
Meets all L1 requirements. Fundamental experience, such as reffing as an L1 in a KU tournament. Has played in a KU tournament. Enforces illegal throws. Passes basic test.	Level 2
Meets all L2 requirements. High level of experience, such as reffing as L2 in two KU tournaments. Able to adjudicate kubb raising. Panel interview required.	Level 3
Meets all L3 requirements. Advanced level of experience, such as reffing as L3 at the U.S. Kubb Open. Comfortable will all facets of gameplay and rules enforcement. Written recommendation from head ref. Panel interview required.	Level 4 (head ref)

#### 4. Maintenance Requirements

Level 1 – There are no maintenance requirements for this level. Communication to Kubb United with your intent to referee, and approval by tournament director and head referee.

Level 2+ - Referee at least one sanctioned Kubb United tournament annually, and communicate to Kubb United your intent to maintain referee level.

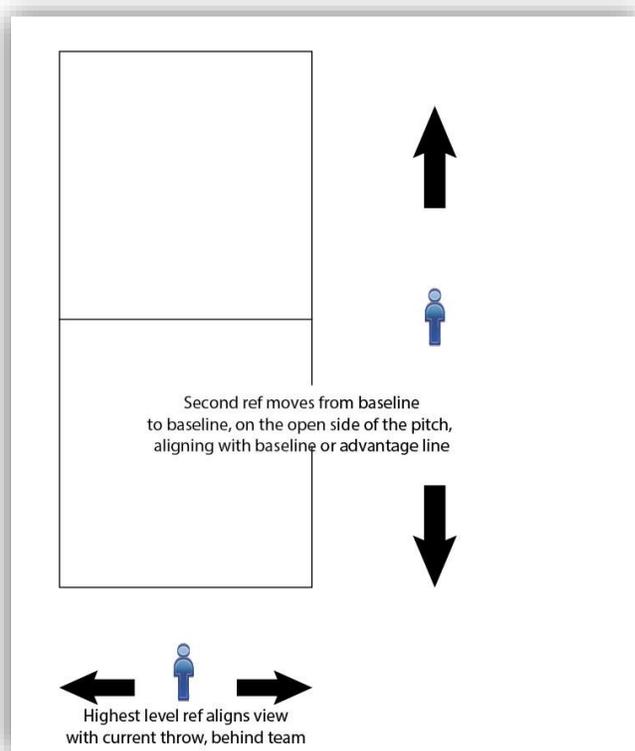
## 5. Official Placement Guidelines

- a. Semifinals and finals games should institute a 2 referee system.
- b. The highest level referee (ex. Head Referee) should watch offensive throws for infractions, and will adjudicate kubb raising.

Other referees should watch for foot faults and adjudicate in/out kubbs.

- c. When only one referee is judging a game, they will default to standing behind the offense and watching for foot faults and illegal throws.

Fig. 2 – Two referee system



## 6. Official Dress Code

- a. For Kubb United sanctioned events, the tournament director and head referee should wear an approved Kubb United branded shirt, with their titles clearly presented. The head referee and referees should have their name and referee level clearly presented. Kubb United will have badge templates for print/use at KU sanctioned tournaments.

Fig. 2 - Example



referee badge