

## The Referee & Assistant Referee Commitment

- Officiating matches in a fair and safe manner that ensures player and spectator enjoyment.
- Maintaining physical fitness for peak performance.
- Faithfully keeping all appointments assigned to and accepted by you.
- Supporting my fellow officials with loyalty, pride and dignity.
- Conducting myself in a way to be ethically and morally beyond reproach.
- Granting players and coaches dignity and self-respect.
- Contributing to the overall development of the Program for Referee Development.
- Remaining committed to continuous learning and an improvement process that enables me to perform to my full potential.

### Code of Ethics for Referees

- I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
- I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.
- I will always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
- I will attend training meetings and clinics so as to know the Laws of the Game, their proper interpretation and their application.
- I will always strive to achieve maximum team work with my fellow officials.
- I will be loyal to my fellow officials and never knowingly promote criticism of them.
- I will be in good physical condition.
- I will control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- I will do my utmost to assist my fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- I will not make statements about any games except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- I will not discriminate against nor take undue advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
- I consider it a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates.

### Information for all referees

- All gear needs to be ready before you arrive including (shoes must be cleaned and shined. Solid black shoes are preferred)
- Practice your skills before you arrive
- Show up at least 30 minutes before assignments (at referee headquarters)
- Bring all colors and sleeve lengths that you have, as well as both types of socks
- Be relaxed and confident, you were selected because of your qualities
- Greet everyone with a smile
- First things people look for: Appearance & Confidence and then Match Performance
- Walk on the field and off the field together as a team with the referee in the center and ARs on either side holding furled flags facing outside of their body. While examining the field determine if you may have to do a reverse diagonal for the good of the game (safety of your ARs and their performance). Be mentally prepared to do this. It takes your AR 5-10 minutes to adjust, however the referee may take him an entire game to re-adjust.

- During the player's equipment check, have a game plan as how you would like this done. Go over it with your ARs (get them involved).
- Bring clothing to wear when you are not on the field, do not walk around in your uniform
- Use only USSF approved signals, no negative signals.
- Do not make any negative comments about your fellow referees. Bottom line: keep it to yourself.
- When recording, any items that pertain to the game, trail assistant referee goes first, then the lead assistant referee and then the referee (think before you act)
- You must have two pen/pencils and report pad to record all scores and cards
- Identify the assessors and mentors. They are there to help, ask those questions, treat them with respect and listen to them
- Have a post game conference; sell your referee team decisions

### Referee

- Take time for the pre-game, cover all the expectations and responsibilities including overtime and kicks from the mark. Make sure you include assistant referees, support each other and there is no game you cannot handle. Let the AR's know that they might be waved down and why they might be
- Know the time frame of your game and discuss this with your ARs (ask ARs to back you with time) and the coaches.
- Stay close to play (10-15 yards). During dynamic play, stay to the left and slightly behind the ball.
- On goal kicks/punts stay left of the ball and read the game so that you are near where the ball will likely be played.
- Keep eye contact with AR's/4<sup>th</sup> officials. Look at all assistants at every stoppage of play. During dynamic play, look at lead AR at least every 4<sup>th</sup> step
- Signals should follow USSF standards making sure you stop when signaling when possible.
- Run to injuries or point of foul if necessary to prevent retaliation or misconduct. Don't touch players. If coach is called to field, get away from that area. The player must be removed if the coach comes on.
- Don't allow a restart, until all players are off and on the field. This includes coaches leaving the field.
- Substitution must be made with all off-going players completely off the field and then allowing the substitutes to enter the field of play.
- Follow USSF procedures when dealing with misconduct.
- When dealing with misconduct draw the offending player to you, making sure that you position yourself so as to have the majority of players in your sight. You do not always talk to the player before a card
- The same applies to injuries, when you beckon the coach onto the field, move away and into a position where you have the majority of players in view.
- Add lost time (if needed).
- Make sound use of "advantage". (If play does not end up with a shot on goal, question yourself whether it was sound judgment).
- There are only 7 reasons to caution or send off a player. Do not create additional reasons.
- Be proactive and enforce the 10 yards for free kicks. (Don't accept delaying tactics).
- Review USSF recommended positions in Guide to Procedure for Ref/ARs/4<sup>th</sup> officials

## Assistant Referee

- Pre-game instruction, if you have any doubts about how the referee wants to handle something that s/he did not go over, ask them about it (better to have all doubt extinguished before a game than during play, when it can appear that you are not on the same page.)
- Follow ball to goal line for all corner kick and goal kick signals.
- Off Side and Goal Kick signals should be given with right hand
- On goal kick taken by the goal keeper; ensure proper placement of the ball within the goal area and then sprint to the 2nd to the last defender. In case of a defender taking the goal kick then stay with that defender (if he happens to be the 2nd to the last defender).
- Mark the defender or ball at all times. If keeper has the ball, then stay with keeper or defender. This includes when the ball is at other end of the field.
- Don't signal for balls that go out in referee's quadrant unless requested until he has given the signal. Signal only if ball is out and then back in. Decide in pre-game what the signal will be used.
- Be square to the field any time you stop for any length of time. Be square for ALL signals.
- Side step as much as you can until it is not possible to keep up with the play and then sprint or run. Staying even when the second to last defender while moving.
- Good eye contact with Referee, AR's and 4<sup>th</sup> official. Run with your eyes on the field. Don't ball watch.
- Stay at least 18 inches off the touchline
- At the end of each ½, SPRINT to referee or to pick up the replacement ball.
- Upon a GOOD goal scored; make an eye contact with the center referee and then sprint 10 yards (fast) towards the half way line. There is no flag signal for this procedure when the ball is in the back of the net.
- GK and CK signals should only be given to at the corner flag.
- Control subs, entering players are not to enter the field until the replaced players have left the field.

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