



TRI-COUNTY SOCCER REFEREE COMMITMENT

Adopted by vote of the Tri-County Soccer (AYSO Region 417)
Board of Directors on August 17, 2009



Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self control.

The Referee Commitment (USSF)

The U.S. Soccer Federation National Program for Referee Development, through the involvement of each referee, is recognized by players, coaches and administrators as a program which consistently provides excellence in officiating and displays the highest level of professionalism through service and dedication.

To accomplish this, I, as a referee, am committed to:

1. Officiating matches in a fair and safe manner that ensures player and spectator enjoyment.
2. Maintaining my physical fitness for peak performance.
3. Faithfully keeping all appointments assigned to and accepted by me.
4. Supporting my fellow officials with loyalty, pride and dignity.
5. Conducting myself in a way to be ethically and morally beyond reproach.
6. Granting players and coaches dignity and self-respect.
7. Set aside any prior perceptions of teams, coaches and players from prior refereeing engagements.
8. Contributing to the overall development of the National Program for Referee Development (Policy 531-11 Attached)
9. Remaining committed to continuous learning and an improvement process that enables me to perform to my full potential.
10. Clarify Application of Laws and Mentor other referees for the development of the overall growth of the program.

I understand there will be ZERO TOLERANCE for failure to abide by the above Referee Commitment.

Referee's Signature and Number

Date

Attachment for Referee Commitment -- Policy 531-11 - National Referee Development Program

Part I - Referee Program Vision

The vision of the U.S. Soccer Referee Program is to lead and guide the development of referees at all levels.

Part II - Referee Program Mission

The mission of the U.S. Soccer Referee Program is to:

- aid the development of the sport
- aid the development of referees
- have a service mentality
- be efficient, accountable and responsible

Part III - Standards of Conduct

(A) - Purpose

To define general guidelines to determine whether members of the National Referee Development Program act within acceptable limits so far as ethical conduct or conflict of interest are reflected in their conduct as soccer officials and members of the U.S. Soccer Federation.

(B) - Policy

Membership as a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably as State Referee Administrators, referees, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors during U.S. Soccer Federation sanctioned activities. It carries with it an obligation for each individual member to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives of the Federation and do nothing to bring the Federation into disrepute or work against its goals and objectives. Any conduct which is considered unethical or as a conflict of interest shall be subject to possible disciplinary actions.

(C) - Code of Ethics for Referees

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

(D) - Code of Ethics for Assignors

1. I will maintain the utmost respect for referees and other officials of the game and I will conduct myself honorably at all times.
2. I will make the assignments based on what is good for the game and what is good for the referee.
3. As a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation, my actions will reflect credit upon the organization.
4. I will contribute to the continuous development of referees in the National Referee Development Program.
5. I will conduct myself ethically and professionally in the assignment process.
6. I will respect the rights and dignity of all the referees and I will not criticize them unless it is in private, constructive, and for their benefit.
7. I will offer equal opportunity to all qualify referees and I will not discriminate against or take undue advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.
8. I will cooperate fully in the timely resolution of any grievance hearing or complaint.
9. I consider it a privilege to be a part of the U.S. Soccer Federation and my actions will reflect credit upon that organization or its affiliates.
10. I will safeguard the confidentiality of the U.S. Soccer registered referee list.
11. I will give priority to U.S. Soccer affiliated games when assigning games.
12. The use of U.S. Soccer affiliated game assignments shall not be used to persuade U.S. Soccer registered referees to accept game assignments for non-members of U.S. Soccer.