

# Referee Guidelines

## BEFORE ACCEPTING ASSIGNMENT

### Assignments

- Accept or decline on timely basis
- Do not give up a game you have accepted to switch to a better one **unless both assignors** approve.

### Communication with other referees

- Are you going to the match together?
- What are you wearing to the game?
- Uniforms - what color and kind?
- Arrival - how soon before the game?

### Fitness

- Can you pass the test for your grade at any time throughout the year?
- Do you train on a regular basis?
- Can you give maximum effort for this game?
- Are you holding back for another game and thus not going all out?
- Do not accept other assignments that will leave you physically or mentally tired

### Information on teams

- Network with other referees
- Never allow yourself to be surprised
- You can never have too much information on teams

### Familiarize yourself with rules of competition and apply them properly

**Analyze your performance on a continuous basis and work on improving one aspect of your game during a given match.**

## PRE-GAME

**Be Prompt** (never arrive late for Pre-Game duties)!

### Appearance:

- Do not show up wearing anything that suggests you are not impartial (team logos).
- Appropriate for level of competition
  - Dress casual
  - Tracksuit
  - Uniform
- Clean and proper uniform
- Clean shoes
- Neatly groomed

### Conduct Pre-Game in timely manner:

- Inspection of field and equipment
- Rosters/ID cards checked for players and coaches/bench personnel

## **DURING THE GAME**

### **Respect for all participants:**

- Respect is a two way street--give some to get some
- Maintain Professional attitude at all times
- Character Counts

### **Do not show up players when disciplining them:**

- Avoid calling them like a dog and demanding that they come all the way to you.
- Do not hold card in player's face
- Do not hold card over injured player or one who is on the ground
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### **Enforce rules of competition:**

- Always remain impartial
- Do not let things go so that the next referee has to deal with them

### **Do not let your fellow referees down:**

- Protect your partners
- Have the courage to do what is necessary

### **Do not ease up if the score is lopsided!**

### **Do not engage in comments with fans, no matter how tempting:**

- You can not win this battle
- It will show you can be distracted
- Whatever you say can be misinterpreted or used against you

### **Do not have "rabbit ears":**

- Do not hear everything
- Hear only what you need to hear to preserve your authority or game control

### **Do your job well before worrying about some else's!**

## **AFTER THE GAME**

### **Complete reports in a timely fashion:**

- Use proper terminology
- Familiar with 7 + 7

### **Reports must be complete and accurate:**

- State only facts, not opinions.
- If you are the referee, check the report before it goes in because any mistakes will be your responsibility

### **Have a constructive discussion with the crew:**

- Honestly analyze how the game went. No one learns from always hearing that everything was fine
- Mistakes will happen. It is important that we learn from them and avoid repeating them
- What did you do well?
- What do you need to improve on for the next time?

### **Do not let your fellow referees down:**

- Protect your partners
- Have the courage to do what is necessary

### **Avoid unnecessary post game confrontations!**

### **Do not ask for game balls or other souvenirs!**

### **Do not argue with the assessor if one is present!**

## **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

**At tournaments, do not sit around wearing your referee uniform if you are not getting ready to referee:**

- Wear clean clothes that do not distinguish you as a referee

**When watching a game, do not make comments critical of the officiating!**

**Always, always, always think before saying something that could be considered critical or controversial:**

- Open and honest discussion of officiating has a proper time and place
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**Reports must be complete and accurate:**

- State only facts, not opinions.
- If you are the referee, check the report before it goes in because any mistakes will be your responsibility
- That time and place is not in a public setting where spectators can overhear

**Do not make sexist remarks!**

**Do not socialize with players!**

**Respect your fellow officials at all times!**

**When you travel to a clinic or tournament:**

- Do things as a group
- Appropriate behavior
- Be aware of public perception regarding alcohol
- On fitness tests, always support and encourage others
- You represent all U.S. Referees!!!!!!!!