

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!!!!!!!!