

Section 3. For international soccer competitions played in the United States involving at least one national team or promoted by the Federation, the Federation shall not pay any fees to the local State Association members.

Section 4. For international soccer competitions not included in Section 3 above, the State Adult and Youth Associations in the territory where the match is played shall receive a percentage of the net sanctioning fee received by the Federation equal to 2.5% of gross ticket sales to be divided equally between the Adult and Youth State Associations as compensation for assisting the Federation in enforcing its sanctioning requirements.

Section 5. Participation in Competitions in Other Territories

The Federation is only authorized to organize and coordinate competitions held within the United States. No Organization Member, league, club, or team may participate in a competition outside of the United States without the authorization and approval of the Federation and FIFA and/or Concacaf.

Policy 531-1—Referee Administration

Section 1. State Referee Administrator

The State Referee Administrator (SRA) shall be jointly appointed by the Adult and Youth State Associations within the State. (A mutually acceptable nominee will be selected by the Referee Committee and the Board of Directors when the State Associations cannot agree.) The SRA shall be appointed for a specified two (2) year term and may be reappointed. An interim SRA may be appointed, as provided in this section, to fill a vacancy during the specified two (2) year term. The SRA shall work in cooperation with the State Referee Committee in implementing and administering all Federation programs for officials, instructors, assignors, and assessors within the State that they are registered and shall serve as liaison between the State Associations. The SRA may be a member of the State Board or Executive Committee, but shall not be the President or Chief Officer of the State Association.

Section 2. State Youth Referee Administrator

State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) shall be appointed by the Youth State Association after consultation with the SRA. The SYRA shall be appointed for a specified (2) two year term. The SYRA may be reappointed. An interim SYRA may be appointed to fill a vacancy during the specified two (2) year term. At the discretion of the Youth State Association, the SYRA, or designee if there is no SYRA available, will be responsible for implementing and administering Federation programs specifically for Grade 9 Referees. The SYRA or designee will also serve as registrar for this grade level.

Section 3. Overseas Branch

All officials who reside, work, or do their primary refereeing outside of the United States shall register and be administered by the Federation Referee Staff in consultation with the Federation Referee Committee.

Section 4. State Referee Committee

The Adult and Youth State Associations within a State may jointly establish a State Referee Committee to administer the Federation Referee Program for their two (2) State Associations. If the two (2) State Associations cannot agree on establishing a State Referee Committee, the Federation Referee Committee may propose and the Board of Directors may establish such a committee after thirty (30) days' notice to the two State Associations of its intent to do so.

I. The State Referee Committee shall consist of at least the following positions: a Chairperson, the State Referee Administrator, the State Youth Referee Administrator, the State Director of Instruction, the State Director of Assessment, the State Director of Assignment, the President or a representative of the Youth State Association, and the President or representative of the Adult State Association. The positions of Chairperson and State Referee Administrator may be combined with the joint agreement of the two State Associations

II. Each State Referee Committee shall:

A. retain independent auditors to conduct either a financial review or audit each year of the financial records of the State Referee Committee;

B. promptly provide copies of each financial review or audit to the Federation and each of the two State Associations;

C. submit a semiannual report on the operations of the State Referee Committee for the prior six months, including financial statements; and

D. file with the Federation and each of the two State Associations copies of its governing documents and amendments to those documents.

(Subsection II of this section 4 only apply to a State Referee Committee that is organized independently of, and separate from, any youth or adult State Association, or both.)

III. The State Referee Committee shall oversee the administration of the Federation Referee Program within its respective State Association including the training, development, instruction, assignment, and assessment of referees for all forms of competition overseen by the Federation. The State Referee Committee shall develop the appropriate procedures and policies for oversight of referees, instructors, assessors, and assignors that perform their respective functions in competitions overseen by the State Associations. Such procedures and policies shall not conflict with the policies of the Federation Referee Program.

Section 5. Risk Management

The Federation Referee Program registration form shall contain the following statement for referees to sign when completing the form: “I agree to participate in, and comply with, the risk management program of the Organization Member through which I am participating.”

Section 6. Point of Contact

Each National Affiliate, National Association, National Member, and Other Affiliate shall designate to the Secretary General annually a specific point of contact (e.g. Director of Game Officials, Referee Committee Chairperson, etc.), and an alternate person responsible for matters related to game officiating, with contact information for both the director and alternate director. This point of contact shall be responsible for organizational compliance with Federation policies related to referees and for compliance with the provisions of Policy 531-9 – Misconduct Towards Game Officials and Policy 531-10 – Misconduct of Game Officials. The Referee Department Staff of the Federation shall insure that such contact information is provided to each SRA to facilitate reporting of referee abuse, assault, and misconduct of game officials.

Policy 531-2—Referee Registration Fee

Section 1. Setting the Fee and Use of Payment by the Federation

The registration fee for officials, instructors, assignors, and assessors shall be set by the Federation Referee Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. From the registration fee, fifty percent (50%) shall be paid to the Federation and used for the Federation Referee Program.

Section 2. Fee Payments Retained and Used by State Referee Committee

I. The other fifty percent (50%) shall be retained by the State Referee Committee or the SRA if there is no State Referee Committee. This amount is to be expended on referee development to include but not be limited to referee recruitment, instruction, assessment, assignment, and administration.

II. The State Referee Committee and/or the SRA shall provide for such fiscal control procedures necessary for proper fund accounting, prepare an annual budget, and prepare an annual written report of income and expenditures to the two (2) State Associations and the State Referee Committee.

Policy 531-3—Referee Registration Cards

All Federation Referee Program registration cards shall be issued by the Federation.

Policy 531-4—Referee Uniform

The official uniform for referees shall be set forth by the Board of Directors.

Policy 531-5—Referee Authority

The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness of the ground in all matches.

Policy 531-6—Restriction on Referee as a Player

A referee, when registered as such, shall not be eligible as a player in any competition in which he or she is a game official.

Policy 531-7—Federation FIFA Referee and Assistant Referee Qualifications

Referees and assistant referees appointed to the FIFA Panel must be United States citizens and must meet the requirements established by FIFA.

Policy 531-8—Assignment of Game Officials

Section 1. Registration Required Prior to Assignment

No one shall officiate in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the Federation who is not registered with the Federation for the current year, unless that person is a visiting foreign referee who has been properly accredited by his or her national association and approved by the Federation Referee Staff.

Section 2. Unregistered Referee in Emergency

If, because of unforeseen circumstances, a currently registered referee is unable to officiate or does not appear for an assigned match, a person may then be designated at match time to act as referee in the emergency for that one match.

Section 3. Use of Club Linesmen

When neutral assistant referees are not assigned or fail to appear for a match as assigned, the referee may seek the assistance of club linespersons whose duties shall be as delegated to them by the referee.

Section 4. Minimum Game Requirements

Each State Referee Committee and/or SRA, with the agreement of the two (2) State Associations is allowed to set a reasonable minimum number of games required by officials registering within its jurisdiction for Grade 6 State Referees, Grade 7 Referees, Grade 8 Referees, and/or Grade 9 Referees.

Section 5. Registered Assignors

No one shall assign any match under the sanction or jurisdiction of the Federation who is not registered as an assignor with the Federation for the current year. A State Association, league, tournament, or event may appoint an unregistered assignor in an emergency who may not serve past the end of the current fiscal year without becoming registered.

Section 6. Proper Assignment of Officials

Assignors are expected to assign officials in accordance with the level of training provided by the Federation Referee Program. Each State Referee Committee and/or SRA is empowered to take action against assignors who assign officials to games whose competitive levels are above and beyond the level of training provided. The level of training provided for an official is denoted by his or her referee grade.

Section 7. Registered Assignors

No one shall assign or appoint a referee, assistant referee or fourth official in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the Federation who is not registered as a Referee Assignor with the Federation for the current year. A state association, league or tournament may appoint an unregistered assignor in an emergency who may not serve past the end of the current Fiscal year without becoming registered. This section does not apply to an assignment to any youth recreational or house league match.

Policy 531-9—Misconduct Toward Game Officials

Section 1. General

Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to or from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.

Section 2. Rule Application

(A) This policy shall supersede any inconsistent rules of Organization Members that pertain to assaults or abuse upon Federation referees, assistant referees, the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and rehearings in matters pertaining thereto.

(B) Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/tournament or Organization Member from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section 4(a)(1) of this policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team).

(C) This policy shall not apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials while participating in Professional League Member activities.

Section 3. Terms and References

As used in this policy --

- (1) "Referee" includes the following:
 - (a) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - (b) any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (under Rule 3040).
 - (c) any club assistant referee.
- (2) "Hearing" means a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of whom is designated or elected to serve as chairperson. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the Organization Member.
- (3) (a) (i) Referee assault is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee.
(ii) For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
(b) Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.
- (4) (a) Referee abuse is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment.
(b) Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm; spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or spitting at (but not on) the referee.

Section 4. Jurisdiction and Hearings

(A) General

- (1) When any amateur or professional player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible Organization Member which is affiliated with the Federation.
- (2) When an allegation of assault is verified by the Organization Member the person is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault.
- (3) The Organization Member must hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification by the Member of the abuse or assault or, if applicable, the thirty-day period provided by subsection (B)(3) of this section. If the Member does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall

immediately vest in the Federation's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.

(4) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.

(B) Events and Tournaments

(1) In the event an assault or abuse of a referee occurs in an event outside the alleged offender's home state, the referee shall (A) immediately notify the Event/Tournament Chairperson, and (B) forward a copy of the game report and his/her comments on the incident to the Event/Tournament Chairman.

(2) The Event/Tournament Chairperson shall have the right to immediately convene a hearing at the site of the Event/Tournament, at which the alleged offender, the coach of the alleged offender when the offender is a player and the game official should be present. Information presented at this hearing shall promptly be relayed to the alleged offender's Organization Member President by the Event/Tournament Chairperson, both orally and in writing; however, failure to provide written information shall not restrict the offender's home Organization Member from taking action with regard to any referee abuse or assault.

(3) Final jurisdiction shall vest with the alleged offender's home Organization Member. A hearing shall be held by that Organization Member within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the initial report of the abuse or assault on a referee.

Section 5. Penalties and Suspensions

(A) Assault

(1) The person committing the referee assault must be suspended as follows:

(a) for a minor or slight touching of the referee or the referee's uniform or personal property, at least 3 months from the time of the assault;

(b) except as provided in clause (i) or (ii), for any other assault, at least 6 months from the time of the assault:

(i) for an assault committed by an adult and the referee is 17 years of age or younger, at least 3 years; or

(ii) for an assault when serious injuries are inflicted, at least 5 years.

(2) A State Association adjudicating the matter may not provide shorter period of suspension but, if circumstances warrant, may provide a longer period of suspension.

(B) Abuse

The minimum suspension period for referee abuse shall be at least three (3) scheduled matches within the rules of that competition. The Organization Member adjudicating the matter may provide a longer period of suspension when circumstances warrant (e.g., habitual offenders).

Section 6. Appeals

A person who is found to have committed abuse and/or assault may appeal to the Appeals Committee by following the procedures of Federation Bylaw 704 within ten (10) days from receipt of the decision of the Organization Member.

Section 7. Procedure for Reporting Assault and Abuse

- (A) Procedures for reporting of referee assault and/or abuse shall be developed and disseminated by the National Referee Committee to all Federation registered referees.
- (B) Referees shall transmit a written report of the alleged assault or abuse, or both, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the designee of the Organization Member and the State Referee Administrator. For tournaments or special events, the referee shall transmit a written report to the tournament director on the day of the incident and to his home state SRA within 10 days of the incident.

Policy 531-10—Misconduct of Game Officials

Section 1. Terms and References

- (A) “Game officials” includes the following:
 - (1) all currently registered USSF referees, assistant referees, fourth officials or others appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - (2) any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (under Rule 3040).
 - (3) any club assistant referee.
 - (4) any referee development program person performing any official function at a match.
- (B) “Referee development program person” includes any referee, referee administrator, referee assessor, referee instructor, referee assignor, or other person serving in such capacity in a line or supervisory position, including members of any referee committee appointed by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Association, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority.
- (C) “Hearing” means a meeting of at least five members, one of which is designated or elected to serve as Chairperson. The Chairperson of a hearing shall not vote except to break a tie vote. Such members, including the Chairperson, shall not be the State Referee Administrator, the State Director of Referee Instruction, the State Director of Referee Assessment, a Federation National or FIFA Referee, or any other member of the State Referee Administration.
- (D) “State Association” shall be that State Association through which the game official is registered or referee development is appointed. Where a state has both Amateur and Youth National State Associations, the reference shall mean that State Association which

has legal authority within its state to administer the registration of the referee or the appointment of the referee development program person charged.

Section 2. Procedures

(A) Misconduct at a Match

When any game official is accused of having committed misconduct toward another game official, participant, or spectator at a match, or of having a conflict of interest, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the State Association or Organization Member through which the accused game official is registered. In the situation where Amateur and Youth State Associations exist in a state, and the incident of alleged misconduct occurred at a match sanctioned by one State Association, jurisdiction shall vest with the State Association sanctioning the match in question.

(B) Misconduct Away From a Match

When any game official, referee, referee assistant or referee development program person is accused of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest in any matter in the pursuit of or may affect the individual's official dealings within and as authorized by the Federation, its Divisions, Affiliates or Associates, a State Association or Organization Member, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority, the matter shall vest immediately in the State Association through which the accused game official is registered or through which the referee development program person is appointed.

(C) Any allegation of misconduct or of conflict of interest by a game official as described by subsection (A) of this section, or of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest as described by subsection (B) of this section, shall be made in writing to the State Referee Administrator or to the State Association(s) or Organization Member that shall report all such allegations including any allegations against the State Referee Administrator, to the State Association(s) or Organization Members through which the accused game official is registered or through which the accused referee development program person is appointed.

(D) Upon receipt by the appropriate Organization Member of a verified written complaint, a hearing shall be conducted within thirty (30) days from verification pursuant to guidelines established by the Organization Member having jurisdiction as provided by subsection (A) or (B) of this section. The guidelines may include referring the complaint to the State Referee Committee for the hearing. The hearings and appeal process shall provide for adequate due process for the accused person including proper notice of charges, the right to bring witnesses in defense, and the right to confront and to cross-examine the accusers.

(E) The Chairman of the hearing committee shall transmit the findings of the committee in writing to all parties concerned including the accused and the accusers and to the State Association(s) or Organization Member within seven (7) days of the hearing.

(F) Any party subject to penalties shall receive, at the time of notification of the decision, a notice of the rights of appeal and a copy of the procedures and deadline dates required for such an appeal to be properly considered. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date of official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

Section 3. Penalties

(A) The severity of the penalty imposed upon an individual shall be determined by the decision-making body having jurisdiction.

(B) Penalties may be among the following:

- (1) letter of reprimand;
- (2) a fine;
- (3) suspension from all active participation as a Federation-sanctioned referee for a fixed period of time;
- (4) suspension from all active participation in the Federation for a fixed period of time;
- (5) any combination of clauses (1), (2), (3) or (4) of this subsection; and
- (6) dismissal from the Federation.

(C) Any individual while under suspension from all Federation activity may not take part in any activity sponsored by the Federation or its members.

Section 4. Appeals

(A) Any game official who is found guilty of misconduct as defined in this rule may appeal the decision of the hearing committee as follows:

- (1) to a Referee Disciplinary Committee jointly appointed by the Amateur and Youth State Associations.
- (2) to the Federation Appeals Committee as provided under Federation Bylaw 704.

(B) The party appealing the decision of a committee shall have ten (10) days to file the notice of appeal of a decision. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date of official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

Policy 531-11—National Referee Development Program

Section 1. Vision

Provide an environment where officials of all levels have access to training and resources that will help them to develop to the best of their abilities so they can service and support the growth of soccer by promoting the safety, equality, and enjoyment of the game

Section 2. Mission

Commit to and display excellence in the areas of governance, administration, development, and leadership throughout all levels of the program.

Section 3. Standards of Conduct

The standards of conduct established by the Federation serve to define general guidelines used in determining whether members of the Federation Referee Program act within acceptable limits so far as ethical conduct or conflicts of interest are reflected in their actions. Membership is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably as officials, instructors, assignors, assessors, and administrators during sanctioned Federation Referee Program activities. Membership 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 that is considered unethical or a conflict of interest shall be subject to possible disciplinary actions.

Section 4. Code of Ethics for the Federation Referee Program

All members of the Federation Referee Program are expected to:

- I. Consider it a privilege to be part of the Federation Referee Program and use actions that will reflect credit upon that organization and its affiliates
- II. Maintain the dignity of the position
- III. Conduct themselves ethically and honorably
- IV. Treat themselves and others respectfully and honestly
- V. Perform duties knowledgably and in accordance with the Laws of the Game
- VI. Adhere to all policies and requirements of the Federation Referee Program
- VII. Safeguard confidential registration and performance information
- VIII. Give priority to all Federation affiliated assignments and programs
- IX. Honor all Federation affiliated assignments and obligations
- X. Not discriminate against or take advantage of any individual or group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin

Failure to follow this Code may result in disciplinary sanctions or decertification.

Policy 532-1—Referee Registration

The State Referee Committee shall submit registrations for their officials, instructors, assignors and assessors within thirty (30) days to the Federation. The thirty (30) days is from when the individual completes their last requirement for their selected registration type and grade.

Policy 543-1—Special Youth Player Privileges

Registered youth players shall be allowed admission at half-price to all Open Cup games and to games played by visiting foreign teams when such games are staged under the direct organization of the United States Soccer Federation.

Policy 601-1—Player Status—Adult or Professional

Section 1.

Under the policies rules of this Federation, players are either amateur or professional as defined in this policy.

Section 2.

A professional player is a person who receives or has received payment for playing or who signs a professional form of this Federation.

Section 3.

An amateur player is any person other than a professional player. An amateur player may not receive and retain any remuneration for playing except expenses directly related to a game or games which have actually been incurred by the player.

Section 4.

This Federation recognizes the definition of an amateur player of the International Olympic Committee in regard to the selection of the United States Olympic Soccer Teams.

Policy 601-2—Registration of Professional Players--Registration Procedures

Section 1. Registration Required

Every professional player shall be registered on a Federation professional player registration form. The fee for registration, release, transfer, or notice of loan of a professional player under this rule shall be determined by the Board of Directors. A professional player is not a member of a club and may not play for a club until he has been registered with the Secretary General of this Federation under this rule except as further provided in this rule.

Section 2. Clubs Eligible to Register Professional Players

Any club which is a member of an association or league affiliated with this Federation may register a professional player, except no professional player may be registered to compete on a youth team (u-19 or younger) which is a member of an Organization Member.

Section 3. Registration Procedure

- (A) A properly completed professional form and a photocopy of the player's contract