



OHIO SOUTH STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

OSSRC Assignment Program

Guidelines for Game Assignments within Ohio South	Revision	Revised	Page No.	Adopted	Policy No.
	4	04/12/15	1 of 4	7/29/08	5.2

A. Assignment Guidelines

This document contains recommended guidelines that an assignor should use for games under the jurisdiction of Ohio South State Referee Committee (OSSRC). These guidelines will help assignors make the proper assignments benefiting the game and the referee in most cases. There will always be some exceptions, but using some common sense will help apply these guidelines to them as well.

1. Assignors can find the list of currently registered referees at www.ossrc.com. Other sources of referee information include:
 - a) The District Referee Administrator (DRA) for the referee's home district
 - b) Assessors, including the District Director of Assessment (see website for contact information) for the referee's home district or the State Director of Assessment (SDA).
 - c) Experienced referees
 - d) Other assignors, both within your district and outside your district.
 - e) For referees outside of Ohio South, recommended first contact is their State Referee Administrator (SRA).
2. Assignors must verify the official's USSF referee grade level and that the official is certified and registered with USSF for the current year.
3. Assignors have the responsibility to ensure that all referees they assign are current with their concussion training. All Ohio South registered referees have completed proper concussion training as a requirement for becoming a referee as well as recertification every three years. For out of state referees, assignors must obtain and keep on file written confirmation of the concussion training prior to making any assignment.
4. In accordance with the USSF *Code of Ethics*, an assignor will make assignments based on what is "good for the game and what is good for the referee".
 - a) It is an individual assignor's responsibility to determine the qualifications of the officials that are assigned to a particular match.
 - b) The quality and age of teams playing, the relative quality and ability of the official (not age limited), the availability of other qualified officials and any conflicts of interest that may be involved all must be considered and taken into account.
5. USSF badges with the current year on them must be worn by referees at all USSF-sanctioned tournament games.
6. At no time is a two-whistle, system to be used. Note that some small sided games, i.e. 7 vs. 7 player count and lower are permitted to use a single referee with no Assistant Referees or Club Linesmen. Assignor should confirm prior to start of tournament.

B. Match Officials

1. All matches must be officiated using the three-person (one whistle) Diagonal System of Control, i.e. one Referee and two Assistant Referees. For 7 vs. 7 or lower player count, the assignment of a single referee is allowed, but a three-person system is preferred. Only certified and currently registered USSF officials may be assigned to a match.
2. The USSF/OSSRC guidelines for use of referees of the various grades are:

- a)** Grade 9 (USSF Referee) – Qualified Assignment Level:
As a Referee or as an Assistant Referee on any Youth Recreational or Youth Small-Sided game.
 - b)** Grade 8 (USSF Referee) –Qualified Assignment Level:
As a Referee or as an Assistant Referee on any U-19 and younger youth games, i.e. competitive, recreational, full-sided and small-sided.
 - c)** Grade 7 (USSF Referee) –Qualified Assignment Level:
 - 1)** As a Referee or as an Assistant Referee on all any youth games
 - 2)** As an Assistant Referee on any adult amateur game.
 - 3)** As a Referee on any adult amateur game below Division 1.
 - 4)** As a Referee on any Division 1 adult amateur game only if the OSSRC certification criteria for Division 1 competition has been met.
 - d)** Grade 6 (USSF State Referee) –Qualified Assignment Level:
As a Referee or as an Assistant Referee for the most competitive games in the State or Region, i.e. any youth game and any adult amateur game including the top adult divisions and Amateur Cup matches.
 - e)** Grade 5 (USSF National Candidate) –Qualified Assignment Level:
 - 1)** As designated by USSF.
 - 2)** As a Referee or as an Assistant Referee for the most competitive games in the State or Region, i.e. any youth game and any adult amateur game including the top adult divisions and Amateur Cup matches.
 - f)** Grades 13, 14 (National Emeritus Referee) and 15, 16 (State Emeritus Referee) – Authorized Assignment Level:
 - 1)** As a Referee or Assistant Referee on any youth games and any adult games for which they qualify.
 - 2)** These officials have “retired” from their top level of competition that they were officiating. Each individual must qualify each year for the level of competition in which they wish to officiate.
- 3.** In the event that the assigned Referee fails to appear (within 10 minutes after the scheduled start of the match) every effort should be made to find a certified official to referee the match (whether it is one of the two assigned Assistant Referees or not).
In lieu of that possibility, then any person approved by both coaches may be designated to act as the Referee in an emergency for that one match, but if either coach is not in agreement then the match shall be cancelled.
- 4.** In the event that the assigned Assistant Referee(s) fails to appear, the Referee shall appoint a replacement(s):
- a)** If any certified and currently registered USSF official is available and appointed as a replacement, then that official shall be considered to be and treated as a neutral Assistant Referee and accorded all the amenities and fees due that position.
 - b)** If any other individual, i.e. anyone who is not currently a registered USSF official, is appointed as a replacement, then that person shall be considered to be a Club Linesman.
 - 1)** A Club Linesman’s duties are limited to indicating when the ball has gone completely over the touch-line or the goal-line.
 - 2)** A Club Linesman shall not signal to indicate offside or to indicate fouls.

C. League Games

- 1.** Generally, youth referees should be at least two (2) years older than the age group they are officiating.
 - a)** For those exceptional referees, this can be bypassed, but they should either be assessed beforehand to be sure they can handle the competition level, and/or they should be assigned with some seasoned veterans, as assistant referees, in case support is needed. See Guidelines and Points of Emphasis for Assignors section for more details on assessment of referees.
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- b)** Assignors should not stretch a younger assistant referee's boundaries beyond two (2) years over their age. If a younger assistant referee is being used, then the other assistant referee should be qualified to take over for the referee in the case where the referee is unable to continue. This also allows the referee to adjust his game as needed.

D. Tournament Games

The goal is to create as safe an environment as possible for all participants involved, i.e. players and officials.

- 1.** Generally, youth referees should be at least two (2) years older than the age group they are officiating.
 - For those exceptional referees, this can be bypassed, but they should either be assessed beforehand to be sure they can handle the competition level, and/or they should be assigned with some seasoned veterans, as assistant referees, in case support is needed. See Guidelines and Points of Emphasis for Assignors section for more details on assessment of referees.
- 2.** Since tournament games are typically at a higher level of play than regular in-season games, it is a good "rule-of-thumb" for referees to be scheduled to matches which are two (2) years younger than the level of competition that the referee normally officiates.
- 3.** Consistent with the concept that tournament games are at a higher level of play, then Assistant Referees, generally, should not be scheduled on matches beyond their own age.
 - If a younger assistant referee is being used, then the other assistant referee should be of the age (and/or experience level) to be able to referee the match in the case where the referee is unable to continue. This also allows a referee to adjust their game as needed.

E. Guidelines and Points of Emphasis for Assignors

- 1.** It is an assignor's prerogative to determine the constraints within which they may be willing to work both with regard to newly scheduled or rescheduled matches and/or with regard to game officials.
- 2.** Each assignor should formally notify the leagues(s), club(s), team(s) or tournament(s) for which they are assigning that it is the assignor who is responsible for scheduling officials in accordance with the assignor's particular time constraints and requirements.
- 3.** Assignors should also formally notify any assigned official with regard to their policy for rescheduled or postponed games and for any turn-backs or missed assignments.
- 4.** Referee development is a key part of an assignor's job. A referee must officiate at the next-higher level to accumulate experience to be "certified" competent at that level. Assignors must exercise care when increasing the difficulty level of the game assignments for a referee. This must be done in a way that meets the referee's needs without compromising game safety or bringing heavy abuse from coaches or parents. Recommended ways to safely increase the game level difficulty for referee include:
 - a)** Request an Informational or Developmental & Guidance evaluation through the OSSRC on-line website. When the assignor makes the request, the OSSRC will pay the assessor, not the referee. This could apply to either league or tournament games. Such requests must be coordinated with the DDA and SDA to get the appropriate assessor. Questions on assessment should be directed to the SDA at SDA@OSSRC.com. (See E.6 below when the referee initiates the assessment request.)
 - b)** Pairing the less experienced referee with referees who have proven themselves at or above the assigned game level.
 - c)** Personal observation, particularly if the assignor has refereed at or above the assigned game level.

5. Assignors are encouraged to retain a record of all referees that they have assigned for a least two years for the following reasons:
 - a) Referee game count for verification purposes. Referees are often required to have refereed a certain number of games either at center or a total number of games at a given level. Usually, this is for referees who are upgrading to a higher level.
 - b) To maintain a referee ranking system, both personal and an Ohio South wide referee ranking database.
6. Referees that desire to upgrade must formally request an upgrade assessment by accessing the www.ossrc.com website. This online request will state what level of game that they are required to do and an assessor will be assigned by the DDA or SDA.
 - a) The referee is required to contact an assignor seeking a game assignment to meet the upgrade requirements.
 - b) The assignor should make every reasonable effort to schedule the official on an appropriate competitive level match and to also schedule competent Assistant Referees to best support the referee's efforts.
 - c) It is the referee's responsibility, not the assignor's responsibility, to contact the DDA, the SDA or the assessor regarding the time and place of the match being assessed.
7. If it is decided there is a referee competency issue then an evaluation by an assessor should be requested.
 - a) The assignor, DRA or DDA should request an Informational or Developmental & Guidance evaluation. Such requests are to be coordinated with the DDA and SDA to get the appropriate assessor for the game. Assessors used in this situation will be paid by the OSSRC.
 - b) At no time should an official be deemed not competent for a particular competitive level without being seen by a trained assessor/mentor to make that determination.
8. An official, who is also a player, may not be assigned to officiate in any competition in which he is a player, i.e. same league and/or tournament division of play.
9. Assignors should avoid scheduling officials where immediate family relationships with coaches and players exist.
10. Assignors should limit the number of times that a referee officiates for any one team.
11. If an assignor is also a certified official, then the assignment of oneself should be made with discretion and within the parameters of USSF Code of Ethics.

F. REVISION RECORD

Revision	Date of Revision	Revision By:
Adopted	7/29/2008	C. Keaney
General revision	4/29/2012	C. Keaney
Re-numbered to section 5.0	11/29/2012	M. Goenner
Revised to include Concussion law and referee grade changes.	4/12/15	K. Kronberg