



OHIO SOUTH STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

OSSRC Assignment Program

Guidelines for Game Assignments within Ohio South	Revision	Revised	Page No.	Adopted	Policy No.
	4	3/15/2025	1 of 4	7/29/08	5.2

A. Assignment Guidelines 5.2

This document contains guidelines an assignor should use for games under the jurisdiction of Ohio South State Referee Committee (OSSRC). In most cases, these guidelines should help assignors make proper assignments to benefit the game and the referee. There will be some exceptions, so one should use common sense in conjunction with these guidelines.

1. Assignors can find the list of currently registered referees and grade level at www.ossrc.com. Other sources of referee information include:
 - a. The District Director of Referee Development (DDRD) of the referee's home district.
 - b. State Director of Referee Development (SDRD).
 - c. Referee Mentors and/or Referee Coaches in the referee's home district.
 - d. Experienced referees
 - e. Referee Mentors and/or Referee Coaches from outside the referee's home district.
 - f. For referees from outside Ohio South, recommended first contact is their State Referee Administrator (SRA).
2. Assignors have the responsibility to ensure all officials they assign have completed NFHS concussion training or renewed said training within two years of the current registration year. For referees not registered in Ohio South, assignors must obtain and have on file written confirmation of the concussion training before making an assignment.
3. In accordance with the US Soccer 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 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 possible conflicts of interest must be considered and taken into account.
4. US Soccer badges with the properly licensed year must be worn by referees on all US Soccer sanctioned games.

B. Match Officials

1. All 11 aside matches must be officiated using the three-person (one whistle) Diagonal System of Control (one Referee and Two Assistant Referees). At no time is a two-whistle system to be used on 11 aside games. For nine aside or less, a three-person system is preferred, but the assignment of a single referee is allowed, or a

two-whistle system. Only currently registered US Soccer officials may be assigned to a match. Assignors should confirm rules of competition to the referees prior to the game

2. US Soccer/OSSRC assignment level guidelines for use of referees at various grades are:
 - a. Referee
 - i. Referee or Assistant Referee on any youth game.(includes competitive, recreational, full-sided, small-sided)
 - b. Regional Candidate
 - i. Referee or Assistant Referee on any youth game.
 - ii. Assistant Referee on any adult amateur game.
 - iii. Referee on any adult amateur game below Division 1.
 - c. Regional Referee
 - i. All games a Regional Candidate is qualified to officiate.
 - ii. Referee or Assistant Referee for the most competitive games in the Region (includes top adult divisions and Adult Cup matches).
 - iii. Higher level games as assigned by US Soccer
 - d. National Emeritus Referee and Regional Emeritus Referee
 - i. Referee or Assistant Referee on any youth or adult games for which they qualify (e.g. fitness tests, etc.)
 - ii. These officials have 'retired' from the top level of competition they were officiating. They must qualify each year for the level of competition at which they wish to officiate.
3. In the event the assigned Referee fails to appear (within ten minutes after the scheduled start of the match) every effort should be made to find a certified official to referee the match (whether one of the assigned Assistant Referees or not). In lieu of that possibility, then any person approved by both teams' coaches may be designated to act as Referee for that one match only. If either teams' coach is not in agreement, the match shall be canceled.
4. In the event the assigned Assistant Referee(s) fails to appear (within ten minutes after the scheduled start of the match), the Referee shall appoint a replacement(s).
 - a. A certified and currently registered US Soccer official appointed as a replacement shall be considered to be, and treated as, a neutral Assistant Referee and accord all the amenities and fees due that position.
 - b. A person not currently a registered US Soccer official appointed as a replacement shall be considered a Club Linesman.
 - i. Club Linesman's duties are limited to indicating when the ball has gone completely over the touch-line or goal-line.
 - ii. A Club Linesman shall not signal to indicate offside or fouls.

C. League Games

1. Generally, a youth Referee should be at least two (2) years older than the age group they are officiating.
 - a. This guideline may be bypassed for exceptional referees. However, these referees should be evaluated beforehand to ensure they can handle the competition level, and/or assigned with more experienced Assistant Referees to provide support. See Guidelines and Points of Emphasis for Assignors policy for more details.
-

- b. Assignors should not assign a youth Assistant Referee beyond two (2) years over the official's age. If a younger Assistant Referee is being used, the other Assistant Referee should be qualified to replace the Referee in the event the Referee is unable to continue.

D. Tournament Games

1. The goal is to create as safe an environment as possible for all participants.
2. Generally, youth referees should be at least two (2) years older than the age group they are officiating.
 - a. This guideline may be bypassed for exceptional referees. However, these referees should be evaluated beforehand to ensure they can handle the competition level, and/or assigned with more experienced Assistant Referees to provide support. See Assignment Guidelines policy for more details.
 - b. Assignors should not assign a youth Assistant Referee beyond two (2) years over the official's age. If a younger Assistant Referee is being used, the other Assistant Referee should be qualified to replace the Referee in the event the Referee is unable to continue.
3. As tournament games are typically a higher level of play than regular-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.
4. Accepting that tournament games are a higher level of play than regular-season games, Assistant Referees should generally not be scheduled on matches beyond their own age. If a younger Assistant Referee is being used, the other Assistant Referee should be qualified to replace the Referee in the event the Referee is unable to continue.

E. Guidelines and Points of Emphasis for Assignors

1. It is assignors' 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 formally notify any assigned official regarding 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, accumulating experience to be deemed 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. Requesting an Informational or Developmental & Guidance evaluation through the SDRD or DDRD. Whoever (assignor, league, tournament, etc.) requests the evaluation is responsible for payment of the assessor.
 - b. Pairing the less experienced referee with referees who have proven themselves at or above the assigned game level.
 - c. Personal observation by the assignor, 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. Verification of referee game count. Referees are often required to have officiated a certain number of games, either as a Referee or any position at a given level. Usually, this is for referees who wish to upgrade to a higher level.
 - b. Maintaining 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 emailing the SDRD. This email will state the details of the match (date, time, site, level of match, etc.). The SDRD will then assign a Mentor or Coach to assess the match.
 - a. The referee is required to contact an assignor in 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, to contact the SDRD, the DDRD, and/or the assessor regarding the time and place of the match.
7. If it is decided there is a referee competency issue, then an evaluation by an assessor should be requested.
 - a. The assignor, SDRD or DDRD should request an Informational or Developmental & Guidance evaluation. Such requests are to be coordinated with the SDRD and DDRD to get the appropriate assessor for the game. Assessors used in this situation will be paid by whoever requests the evaluation.
 - b. At no time should an official be deemed not competent for a particular competitive level without being seen by a trained mentor/coach to make that determination.
8. Officials may not be assigned to officiate in any competition in which they are also Players, 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.

A. 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
Revision of document to correct language.	3/15/2025	D. Zeh