



PROFILE OF THE REGIONAL REFEREE

GENERAL INFORMATION



CONTEXT OF THE PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENT

THE REGIONAL REFEREE:

- Officiates games (youth and adult competitions) in 11v11 outdoor fields
- Works primarily with Grassroots Referees and Regional (new or experienced), may include National Referees
- Facilitates games for grassroots players (youth and adult)
- Works in regional and national adult competitions, including NPSL, USL-2, & Lamar Hunt Open Cup
- Collaborates with coaches with diverse backgrounds (new and experienced coaches, volunteers, etc.) to ensure player safety and responsible spectator behavior
- Works together with other match officials in a referee team
- Final decision-making authority on matters that apply to the Laws of the Game
- Accountable to the competition authority (youth or adult league, U.S. Soccer)

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

THE REGIONAL REFEREE

- Facilitates a fair and safe game for the players by enforcing/applying the Laws of the Game
- Clearly communicates decisions based on perception and interpretation of player's actions
- Facilitates understanding and application of the Laws of the Game for players, coaches, and spectators
- Keeps an accurate record of the game (goals scored, misconduct, injuries, etc.)

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

THE REGIONAL REFEREE

- Prepares prior to the game, manages post-game responsibilities, and reflects on the performance after the game
- Demonstrates leadership characteristics before, during, and after the game
- Assumes ownership of self-development through on-line, in person, and field session opportunities offered by U.S. Soccer
- Accepts or declines games in a timely manner and maintains updated availability calendar
- Ensures that the field conditions are safe for play
- Officiates and maintains control of the game

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

PREPARING FOR A GAME

- Navigate the game assignment process
- Understand the game
- Maintain physical aptitude
- Perform pre-game activities

OFFICIATING A GAME

- Understand the dynamics of the modern game
- Make decisions that impact the game
- Use personality to control the game and manage players
- Demonstrate physical aptitude
- Communicate decisions clearly and confidently
- Lead the referee team

MANAGING POST-GAME ACTIVITIES

- Conclude the game
- Complete the game report(s)

REFLECTING ON THE PERFORMANCE

- Reflect on and evaluate key moments and decisions in the match

PREPARING FOR A GAME



The Regional Referee is able to prepare for a game and is competent in the below.

NAVIGATING THE GAME ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Honor all accepted assignments
- Invest in technical equipment (uniform, whistle, cards, flags, etc.)
- Connect with assignor(s)
- Use assigning platforms/applications
- Communicate availability to work games
- Gain knowledge about the game assignment process
- Accept or decline games within 72 hours
- Connect with referee team
- Connect with referee coach(es)/mentor(s)

OUTCOMES:

- Professional look with appropriate attire & equipment
- Game opportunities to apply knowledge about preparation for games in various competitions
- Line of communication with assignor(s) and referee colleagues
- Availability of the referee to accept appropriate level games
- Resource for advice about game assignments
- Positive good impression that typically earns respect from players & coaches

UNDERSTANDING THE GAME

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Gain knowledge about team tactics that teams may use during the game
- Understand the FIFA Laws of the Game and Rules of Competition
- Understand the level of match management involved in various grassroots, adult, regional, and national competitions
- Understand performance environment applicable to a team(s) or club(s), or league (safe, development, winning at all cost, etc.)

OUTCOMES:

- Game plan that addresses:
 - the expectations from players and coaches
 - positioning and movement adjusted to team tactics
 - signals, mechanics, and decision making
 - attacking to defending
 - defending to attacking
 - increasing football understanding
- Preparing for decision making to promote a fair and safe environment
- Preparing for decision making to maintain control of the game
- Understanding the meaning of reading the game

PREPARING FOR A GAME



MAINTAINING PHYSICAL APTITUDE

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Enhance their knowledge about optimal physical fitness
- Understand the physical demands of the game
- Successfully pass fitness test
- Integrate information about nutrition, rest, and recovery, and their relation to fitness
- Integrate information about warm up & cool down drills before and after the game
- Attend referee field sessions in their local area and/or competitions (youth & adult, US Soccer, etc.)
- Evaluate the environmental considerations (weather) surrounding outdoor training sessions (hydration, equipment, etc.) and adjust as needed

OUTCOMES:

- A training plan to reach personal goals related to optimal fitness
- Understanding of fitness for the performance environments in grassroots and adult, regional, and national competitions
- Performing a warmup and cool down routine before and after the game, respectively
- Self-comfort and self-confidence to lead the accepted game at current level of fitness
- Use of injury prevention approaches to prepare for the performance environment

PERFORMING PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Actively lead the referee team in a pre-game conference and in conducting pre-game inspections (the field of play, the game ball, and the player's equipment)
- Actively participate with the referee team in checking the rosters and checking-in players and coaches
- Connect with coaches & players via check-in, pre-game conference, and/or coin toss
- Actively participate with the referee team in a group and individual warmup prior to the game

OUTCOMES:

- Ensured safety prior to the game in collaboration with players & coaches
- Creating an environment of cooperation prior to the game to promote positive sporting behavior
- Minimizing risk of injury during a game for the referee team
- Promoting positive relationship with referee team during pre-game activities and preparing to work as a team during the game

OFFICIATING A GAME



The Regional Referee is able to officiate games and is competent in the below.

MAKING DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THE GAME

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Perceive, interpret, and make decisions on the field of play (including fouls)
- Make split-second decisions based on the collected information
- Scan & use position of players and movement of players as cues for taking optimal position
- Use the Laws of the Game to interpret players' actions (challenges, handball, penalty area incidents, tactical fouls, and offside offenses)
- Collaborate with the referee team to make decisions during the game
- Make decisions based on the current & relevant Laws of the Game and Rules of Competition

OUTCOMES:

- Application of decision-making process for the match official
- Consistency of decisions during a match
- Optimal position to witness the action (1st step of decision-making process)
- Increased consistency and accuracy of decision on the field
- Clear and confident communication with players, coaches, others in the field
- Teamwork
- Application of the FIFA Laws of the Game
- Accurate decisions
- Safety and control of the game
- Safe and fair environment

UNDERSTANDING THE GAME

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Understand team tactics
- Read the game by recognizing each team's general style of play
- Recognize key players (by technical skill, position, speed, behavior, etc.)
- Recognize potential conflicts
- Apply the Laws of the Game based on observed players' actions and FIFA Considerations for interpretation
- Apply knowledge about advantage, offside, fouls & misconduct, restarts, etc.
- Understand the role of the coach & team officials and recognize responsible & irresponsible behavior

OUTCOMES:

- Adapting decision-making to fit the game and players' needs for fair and safe environment
- Optimal positioning and movement to witness the action (1st step of making decision)
- Facilitation of a safe and fair environment for players
- Positively managing game for players, coaches, spectators, & referee team
- Improved management of coaches and technical area, where appropriate
- Building relationships that help manage players' behavior, emotions, etc.
- Recognizing and anticipating actions to prevent escalation between opponents
- Clear and confident communication with players and coaches
- Recognizing and anticipating where to move for the next phase of play

OFFICIATING A GAME



DEMONSTRATING PHYSICAL APTITUDE

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Keep up with the pace of the game
- Apply various speeds (jog/run/sprint) and directional changes based on level of play and teams' tactics

COMMUNICATION CLEARLY AND CONFIDENTLY

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate calm, confident body language when communicating public decisions
- Manage player and coach behavior with verbal and non-verbal communication
- Communicate decisions using signals, body language, and tools (flags, whistle, etc.)
- Manage player and coach behavior

LEADING THE REFEREE TEAM

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Establish the standard for foul selection on the field
- Establish the standard for misconduct
- Collaborate with colleagues to make decisions that are out of the view of the referee
- Take initiative to make decisions that contribute to overall game management (whether Referee, AR, or 4th Official)
- Keep an accurate record of the game (goals, cards, injuries, etc.) in conjunction with the referee team

OUTCOMES:

- Improved positioning and movement to optimize vision of players
- Proximity and angle of view to active play
- Proximity to manage players' emotions, when needed

OUTCOMES:

- Display of confidence in decision and clarity of the decision
- Display of clear public communication of decisions
- Player or coach behavior refocused to their role in the game

OUTCOMES:

- Consistent referee team foul and misconduct selection
- Increased awareness and correct decisions by the referee team
- Collaboration between referee team on key match decisions

OFFICIATING A GAME



USING PERSONALITY TO CONTROL THE GAME

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Display characteristics and qualities that contribute to game control
 - Confidence
 - Courage
 - Concentration
 - Conflict-resolution skills
 - People management
- Clearly and confidently use body language to communicate decisions and engage with players and coaches, as needed
- Control emotions and behave in a calm and collected manner, specifically during key match incidents or moments of high pressure
- Remain approachable for a player, coach, or captain that behaves respectfully (game management (whether Referee, AR, or 4th Official))
- Keep an accurate record of the game (goals, cards, injuries, etc.) in conjunction with the referee team

OUTCOMES:

- Promoting a professional environment during the game
- Promoting integrity during the game
- Promoting respect during the game
- Demonstrating a high work rate to be in position to see, interpret, and make accurate decisions that contribute to control of the game
- Protecting the physical integrity of the players on the field
- Building professional relationships on game day, before, during, and after the game with:
 - Players
 - Team officials
 - Competition support staff

MANAGING POST-GAME ACTIVITIES



The Regional Referee is able to manage post-game activities and is competent in the below.

CONCLUDING THE GAME

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Carry out post-game activities (gather game balls, join rest of the referee team in the field of play, and monitor players and technical staff)
- Ensure the referee team's safety post-game
- Lead the referee team to collect and verify relevant information for the game report
- Return player passes and signed roster, when applicable

OUTCOMES:

- Smooth transition from end-of-the-game to post-game activities
- Increased accuracy and clarity of report(s) for competition authority
- Report that meets the standards of the competition and/or recommendations by U.S. Soccer

COMPLETING THE GAME REPORT(S)

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Confirm the accuracy of the report information with other members of the referee team for the game
- Document all required information (score, substitutions, misconduct, etc.) in the referee game report
- Recognize and submit when a supplemental referee game report is needed by the competition authority
- Review and confirm that the information in the report(s) is clear and that the language in the FIFA Laws of the Game is used
- Submit completed report(s) on time to the competition authority and other administrative roles (assignor, SRC, U.S Soccer, etc.)

OUTCOMES:

- Understanding the aspects of and standards for submitting reports and identifying areas for improvement
- Knowledge about basic components of submitting reports as recommended by U.S. Soccer
- Submitting supplemental report for injuries where player does not return to field of play, send-off offenses, and other unusual incidents

REFLECTING ON PERFORMANCE



The Regional Referee is able to reflect on the performance and is competent in the below.

REFLECTING AND EVALUATING

THE REGIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Review their individual performance
- Review their performance as part of a team
- Engage with referee coach/mentor/peers (referee team) when feedback is offered
- Understand the importance of lifelong learning
- Understand the positive aspects and habits applied during the game
- Recognize and understand areas for improvement related to habits displayed or management of incidents during the game

OUTCOMES:

- Referee identifies positive aspects in the performance and areas for improvement
- Continued growth (emotional and technical) as a referee
- Cultivation of relationships within the soccer referee community
- Participation in developmental opportunities
- Consultation of resources to assist with development of competencies of the regional referee (referee coach, mentor, assignor, LOTG, online, etc.)
- Identification of next steps and development plan to practice prior to the next game
- Application of lessons learned through reflection to next performance
- Demonstration of increased comfort and confidence in performing the tasks of the referee and demonstration of