



Colorado Referee Committee

Policy Number: 004

Effective Date: USSF Registration Year 2016

Revised: N/A



Turning Back Accepted Referee Assignments

Purpose and Scope: This policy addresses the issue of officials turning back assigned and accepted match assignments. The policy applies to any referee or assignor registered with the Federation by the State of Colorado.

Additional Authority: Federation Policy 531-10 and Federation Policy 531-11.

Responsible Parties: State Referee Administrator (SRA) and State Director of Assignment.

Policy Statement

Referees are independent contractors, and as such determine when and where they officiate matches. Assignors, leagues, and tournament directors depend upon referees providing accurate availability, and keeping that availability current. All assignments are based upon this information. When a referee decides, for whatever reason, not to honor an accepted game, this is deemed a "turn-back." Turning back an accepted referee assignment without adequate justification (good cause) is unacceptable, and creates a significant number of negative issues for assignors, league administrators, tournament directors, teams, and fellow soccer officials.

Sports officiating is a paid profession, and providing availability to an assignor means you are willing to work an assigned match at the time, date, and location for which you provided availability. Accepting such an assignment is a contractual obligation that stipulates *you will* officiate the assigned match at the specified time, date, and location. Each USSF referee registered by the State of Colorado is expected to abide by and respect the *Code of Ethics for the Federation Referee Program* (contained in Section 4 of USSF Policy 531-11) and honor all assignments that he or she accepts. Assignor expectations and requirements may vary between assignors, league administrators, and tournament directors, but the following general guidelines are recommended by the Colorado Referee Committee (CRC):

- Officials should regularly check their relevant assignment management website (typically ArbiterSports or GameOfficials) to ensure their availability is correct. When a known scheduling conflict arises, officials should update their availability as soon as practicable to ensure the assignor is aware of the conflict.
- Published match assignments should be accepted or declined (with good cause) within twenty-four (24) hours of assignment.
- It is not acceptable for an official to turn back an assigned and accepted match within seventy-two (72) hours of the scheduled kickoff time *unless an emergency situation exists*.
- It is not acceptable for an official to notify their assignor of an emergency-related turn-back on the day of the match via email. The official must contact the assignor via telephone conversation or text message to provide notification of the emergency situation.

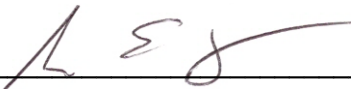
- At the assignor's discretion (depending upon the time frame and turn-back circumstances), it may be the official's responsibility to find his or her replacement if a game must be turned back. The assignor must approve the replacement official. In any case, the official must contact the assignor and explain why the match assignment cannot be honored. A sufficient time frame between the turn-back and scheduled match kickoff allows the assignor a better opportunity (possibly with the official's assistance) to assign a replacement official.

It is an unacceptable breach of the *Code of Ethics for the Federation Referee Program* as outlined in USSF Policy 531-11 to turn back an assigned and accepted match (absent good cause) without sufficient time to assign a replacement official, or worse yet, fail to appear and officiate such a match as scheduled. It is also unacceptable to exhibit a documentable pattern of frequent or repeated assignment turn-backs.

Good cause includes emergency situations the referee could not have known about at the time the assignment was accepted, such as illness or injury (of the referee or a family member) or a death in the family. Referees are expected to notify the assignor within a reasonable period of time after her or she becomes aware of the emergency situation that prevents him or her from officiating assigned matches. Good cause does not include non-emergency and purely personal commitments (regardless of whether they were known at the time the assignment was accepted), such as family dinners, children's activities, or other entertainment activities. Referees are expected to schedule their personal commitments around their work assignments the same as with any other job.

At his or her discretion, the assignor shall notify the SRA about allegations of misconduct described by this CRC policy. The SRA will then refer the allegations to the three-member CRC Disciplinary Matters Committee for investigation in accordance with CRC Policy 002. If the allegations are proven, the official in question may be subject to a penalty imposed that includes a letter of reprimand, a monetary fine, a suspension from all active participation as a Federation-sanctioned referee for a fixed period of time, or any other penalty (or combination of penalties) appropriate under US Soccer and CRC policy.

Approved by:



Neal E. Fausset

State Referee Administrator

4/21/2016

Date