

Keys to Referee Development and Retention

**MYSA Winter Symposium
February 7, 2010**



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Referee Development and Retention

1. Training
2. Assigning
3. Mentoring
4. Positive support
 - From club officials
 - From parents and spectators



Training

USSF clinics – organized by MN State Referee Committee

Different types for different training needs:

- Entry Level – Grade 9, Bridge, Grade 8
- Recertification



Requirements for Referees

- Must register with USSF and attend clinic each year
- Must follow *Laws of the Game*, MYSA modifications, and USSF procedures
- Grade 9 and Grade 8 certifications differ
- Referees for MYSA matches must be older than players (this requirement does not apply to ARs)
- Clubs may have their own local policies (for example, minimum age requirements for officials)



The Importance of a Good Assignor

- Crucial to success of referee retention efforts!
- Considers ability and comfort level of each referee
- Enforces USSF, MYSA, and local requirements – uniforms, etc.
- Meets with referees before, during, and after season – do they enjoy experience?
- Matches novice officials with mentors



Requirements for Assignors

- Must register with USSF and attend clinic each year
- Must assign only currently registered and certified referees to affiliated games
- SAC trains assignors according to USSF's broad requirements
- MYSA adds its own specific requirements



Assignors must utilize referees properly –
Not just fill assignments with any warm body!



MYSA Referee Mentor Program

Mentors:

- Guide, support, and protect novice referees
- Help them acquire basic knowledge, skills, and techniques of officiating
- Help them gain the confidence they need to enjoy being referees
- Promote consistent understanding and application of rules



MYSA Referee Mentor Program

Mentors:

- Trained by MYSA; work for clubs
- May be volunteers or paid
- Coordinate schedules with assignor
- Improve retention, reduce turnover



Positive Support

Club officials:

- Host clinics
- Identify a capable, committed assignor
- Provide mentors
- Recognize and support referees
- Offer PACT training for coaches and parents

Coaches and spectators:

- Refrain from criticizing referees



An Example of What Not to Do

The Referee cannot deny any legal substitution request even if it was meant to delay the game.

However, coaches and spectators should not protest because the referee has the authority and the duty to add time to compensate for all time wasted.



Questions?

