



USSF Referee Code of Conduct

Any violation of this code of conduct may result in disciplinary action

A referee will...

Hold themselves to the highest standard of refereeing and **promote a positive and safe environment** for all participants.

Treat all players, coaches, staff members, peers, and fans with respect.

Communicate with honesty and integrity, while maintaining appropriate boundaries and following all state, league, and club standards for communication, including on social media.

Model inclusive behavior and encourage diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, citizenship, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.

Hold all players, coaches, staff members, and fans to the **highest standard of sportsmanship**, handling all disputes and not tolerating any abusive actions.

Perform duties **knowledgeably and in accordance with the Laws of the Game**.

Ensure facilities, equipment, and **resources provided meet appropriate safety standards**.

Guarantee that teams and staff have appropriate and readily available **access to hydration and fluid needs**.

Ensure there is access to **emergency equipment, along with training and emergency action plans** and be prepared to execute in the interests of health and safety across all stakeholders.

Willingly accept feedback and **seek continuous personal and professional improvement**.

Understand and **act upon their mandatory reporting obligations**, reporting any suspected child abuse to law enforcement and to the [Center for SafeSport](#).

Self-report their behavior to a supervisor if they violate the code of conduct or applicable prohibited conduct policies.

Recognize their **responsibility to report when they witness a violation of the code of conduct**, or when they have reason to believe a violation is likely to have occurred.



A referee will not...

Break policies set forth by the [U.S. Soccer Federation](#), member organizations, leagues, or clubs. This includes all safeguarding policies such as the organization's prohibited conduct, the MAAPP, and the SafeSport Code.

Verbally, physically, sexually, or emotionally **abuse, harass, or haze** any player, coach, parent, or peer.

Illegally use or possess drugs, alcohol, and tobacco within soccer environments.

Meet one-on-one with participants in a private setting.

Engage in any conduct with a player or peer that could be reasonably construed as romantic or sexual, including, but not limited to, **pursuing or maintaining a romantic relationship** where a power imbalance exists.

Use **derogatory, discriminatory, or profane language**.

Show favoritism toward one team / player over another, but rather will treat all with equal dignity and compassion.

Accept any form of bribery in exchange for unethical game management.