



Position Statement

Subject: Referee use of Electronic Communication

In recent years, the evolution and use of Referee communication devices such as "RefTalk" has evolved and is being used on more competitions. As with any new technology, training and protocol often lags behind followed by policy and rules.

It is the position of the Washington State Referee Committee that these devices should be used on only the highest levels of competition and with proper training in use, vocabulary and emergency procedures such as communication failure or outside interference.

If a Referee opts to use "RefTalk" on a formal assessment, only the Referee crew assigned to the match is authorized to use this equipment. The underlying principle behind a formal assessment (either upgrade or maintenance) is to gauge the skill sets of the match official(s). Under no circumstances can an outside agent be in communication with the Referee team.

The SRC strongly encourages that Referees wanting to use "RefTalk" seek out proper training before using such devices. Current FIFA, National Referees and PRO Officials are an excellent resource.

The SRC also is of the opinion that "RefTalk" has the potential to be an excellent training tool when properly used. Again, current FIFA, National Referees and PRO Officials are an excellent resource.