

PROFILE OF THE NATIONAL REFEREE



GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE JOB OF A NATIONAL REFEREE

CONTEXT OF THE PERFORMANCE ENVIRONMENT

THE NATIONAL REFEREE:

- Officiates professional games at the Division 1 Women's Competition, Division 2-and 3- Men's Competitions in 11v11 outdoor fields
- Works primarily with National Referees and National Referees (new or experienced)
- Facilitates games for professional players
- Collaborates with coaches with diverse backgrounds to ensure player safety
- Maintains appropriate level of physical fitness for game assignments year-round and for fitness tests

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

THE NATIONAL REFEREE:

- Facilitates a fair and safe game for the players by enforcing/applying the Laws of the Game and Rules of Competition
- Makes and clearly communicates decisions based on perception and interpretation of player's actions
- Facilitates understanding and application the Laws of the Game for players and coaches
- Keeps a record of the game (goals scored, misconduct, injuries, etc.)
- Submits game reports to competition authority in a timely manner when appropriate

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES

THE NATIONAL REFEREE:

- Prepares prior to the game, officiates the game, assists with post-game activities, and reflects on the performance after the game
- Demonstrates leadership characteristics before, during, and after the game
- Takes ownership of self-development through on-line and field session opportunities offered by U.S. Soccer
- Maintains updated availability factoring in travel, rest, and recovery times
- Accepts or declines games in a timely manner
- Ensures that the stadium conditions are safe
- Officiates and maintains control of the game
- Assist with officiating and maintaining control of the game
- Works together with other match officials as a referee team
- Has final decision-making authority on matter that apply to the Laws of the Game
- Is accountable to the competition authority (professional league, U.S. Soccer)
- Upholds US Soccer's Code of Ethics to protect the integrity of the game
- Respects players, coaches, other match officials, and those around the game





TASK AND PROCESSES OF THE NATIONAL REFEREE

PREPARING FOR A GAME

- Navigating the game assignment process
- Understanding the game
- Discussing pre-match scouting report with referee team
- Maintaining physical aptitude
- Performing pre-game activities

OFFICIATING A GAME

- Understanding the game
- Making decisions that impact the game
- Demonstrating physical aptitude
- Using personality to manage players/coaches and control the game
- Communicating decisions clearly and confidently
- Leading the referee team

MANAGING POST-GAME ACTIVITIES

- Concluding the game
- Maintaining physical aptitude
- Completing the game report(s)

REFLECTING ON THE PERFORMANCE

- Reflecting and self-evaluating on the match performance
- Receives feedback in a positive manner to process for further improvement



PRIOR TO THE GAME The National Referee is able to prepare for a game and is competent in...

NAVIGATING THE GAME ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Invest in technical equipment to use it in the game as appropriate (communication headsets; electronic flags)
- Connect with assignor(s)
- Use assigning platforms/applications
- Communicate availability to work games
- Gain knowledge about the game assignment process
- Connect with referee team prior to the game
- Connect with national referee coach(es)/mentor(s) prior to the game

OUTCOMES:

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

UNDERSTANDING THE GAME

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Gain knowledge about team tactics that may be used by the referee team
- Understand thoroughly the Laws of the Game and rules of competition
- Understand the level of match management involved in various professional competitions
- Understands performance environment applicable to professional teams or leagues

OUTCOMES:

- Game plan that addresses:
 - the expectations from players and coaches
 - positioning and movement adjusted to team tactics
 - signals, mechanics, and decision making
- Prepare for decision making to promote a fair and safe environment
- Prepare for decision making to maintain control of the game
- Understand the meaning of reading the game



MAINTAINING PHYSICAL APTITUDE

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Gain knowledge about physical fitness
- Develop and apply a year-round training plan to reach personal goals related to fitness
- Understand the physical demands of the game
- Identify information about nutrition, rest, and recovery, and their relation to fitness
- Identify information about warm up & cool down drills for before and after the game
- Attend referee field sessions in their local area and/or competitions (professional leagues, US Soccer, etc.)
- Understand the environmental considerations (weather) surrounding outdoor training sessions (hydration, equipment, etc.)

OUTCOMES:

- Accomplished annual personal fitness goals
- Awareness of fitness for the performance environments in professional competitions
- Apply knowledge to maintain and improve fitness
- Implement plan including nutrition, training, rest, and recovery
- Develop and apply a warmup and cool down routine for before and after the game, respectively
- Self-comfort and self-confidence to lead the accepted game at current level of fitness
- Use preventative approaches to prepare for the performance environment

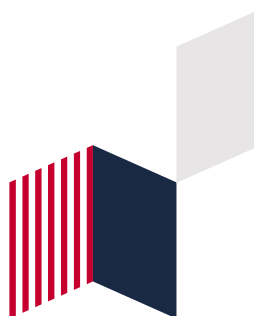
PERFORMING PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Actively participate with 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
- 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
- Environment of cooperation prior to the game to promote positive sporting behavior
- Ensured low risk of injury during a game for the referee team
- Positive relationship with referee team during pre-game activities and to prepare to work as a team during the game





DURING TO THE GAME The National Referee is able to officiate games and is competent in...

MAKING DECISIONS THAT IMPACT THE GAME

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Perceive, interpret, and make decisions on the field of play
- Make split-second decisions based on the collected information (players' actions and location on the field)
- Scan & use the position of players and the movement of players as cues for taking optimal position
- Apply FIFA Considerations to interpret players' actions (challenges, handball, offside, etc.)
- 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
- Optimal position to witness the action
- Increased consistency and accuracy of decision on the field
- Clear and confident communication with players, coaches, other match officials
- Teamwork
- Correct application of the Laws of the Game based on informed, practiced, and confident decisions without guessing
- Safety, fair, and controlled game environment

UNDERSTANDING THE GAME

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Have a comprehensive understanding of team tactics
- Read the game by recognizing each team's general style of play and team tactics
- Recognize key players (by technical skill, position, speed, behavior, etc.)
- Recognize potential conflicts based on players/coaches' actions and behavior
- Apply the Laws of the Game based on observed players' actions and considerations for interpretation
- Apply knowledge about offside, fouls & misconduct, restarts, etc.
- Understands the role of the coach & team officials and recognizes responsible & irresponsible behavior

OUTCOMES:

- Adapted decision-making to fit the game and players' needs for fair & safe
- Improved positioning and movement to witness the action
- Facilitating a fair and safe environment for players
- Positively managed game for players, coaches, spectators, & referee team
- Improved management of coaches and technical area where appropriate
- Relationships that help manage players' behavior, emotions, etc.
- Anticipated action to prevent escalation
- Clear and confident communication with players and coaches
- Anticipation to position for the next phase of play to observe & interpret the action, and communicate decision



DEMONSTRATING PHYSICAL APTITUDE

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

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

COMMUNICATING CLEARLY AND CONFIDENTLY

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Demonstrate calm, confident body language when communicating public decisions
- Manage player and coach behavior with verbal and non-verbal communication
- Communicates decisions using signals, body language, and assistant referee tools
- Manage player and coach behavior

LEADING THE REFEREE TEAM

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Establish the standard for foul selection on the field
- Establish the standard for misconduct
- Collaborate to make decisions that are out of the view of the assistant referee
- Take initiative to make decisions that contribute to overall game management
- Keep a record of the game (goals, misconduct, injuries, etc.) in conjunction with the referee team

OUTCOMES:

- Improved positioning and movement to see between 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
- 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 the referee team



USING PERSONALITY TO CONTROL THE GAME

THE NATIONAL 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 especially during key match incidents or moments of high pressure
- Remain approachable by a player or a captain that behaves respectfully

OUTCOMES:

- Promote a professional environment during the game
- Promote Integrity during the game
- Promote Respect among participants during the game
- Shows high work rate to be in position to see, recall, interpret, and make accurate decisions that contribute to control of the game
- Protect the physical integrity of the players on the field
- Build professional relationships with participants on game day, before, during, and after the game
 - Players
 - Team officials
 - Competition's support staff



AFTER THE GAME The National Referee is able to manage post-games activities and is competent in...

CONCLUDING THE GAME

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Carry out post-game activities (gather game balls, join rest of the referee team in the field of play, monitor opposing players)
- 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 consistence, accuracy, and clarity of report(s) for the competition authority
- Report that meets the standards of the competition and/or recommendations by U.S. Soccer

COMPLETING THE GAME REPORT(S)

THE NATIONAL 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 when a supplemental referee game report is needed by the competition authority
- Review and confirm that the information on the report(s) is clear and that the language in the Laws of the Game is used
- Submit completed report(s) on time to the competition authority and other administrative roles

OUTCOMES:

- Understanding the aspects of submitting reports and areas for improvement
- Knowledge about components of submitting reports as recommended by U.S. Soccer
- Application of knowledge to submit accurate reports to the competition authority



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

REFLECTING AND EVALUATING

THE NATIONAL REFEREE IS ABLE TO:

- Review their individual performance
- Review their performance as a team
- Engage with national referee coach/mentor/peers (referee team) when feedback is offered
- Understand, embrace, and model the importance of lifelong learning

OUTCOMES:

- Identification of positive aspects in the performance and areas for improvement
- Continued growth (emotional and technical) as an assistant referee
- Cultivation of relationships within the soccer referee community
- Participation in development opportunities
- Consultation of resources to assist with development of competencies of the National Assistant Referee (National Referee Coach, mentor, Laws of the Game, online, etc.)
- Master of the Laws of the Game, Rules of Competitions, Practical Guidelines, FIFA Considerations, and knowledge to help control the game