

Certified Assignor Policy Update

For the last 2 years, the State has had a policy that a league associations' Referee Assignor needs to have been certified through a USSF/GA class which typically runs once or twice per year in GA. The goal of the policy is to introduce consistency into the assigning in our State and provide support tools for the assignors.

Benefits

The Referee Assignor role is critical in ensuring appropriate referees are assigned to games and potentially in the recruitment, development and retention of referees, particularly in leagues that do not have a Referee Coordinator or active referee program.

The assignor certification class addresses all aspects of the assigning process, the theory, the practice and the implementation.

The certified assignor also gets access to on-line help from the website, including the complete list of GA referees, and support from the SRC (State Referee Committee).

The assignor's annual certification through the USSF also provides liability insurance.

Some Referee Support programs from the State are only available where a certified assignor is in place.

Implementation

The assignor attends a one-day certification class, which is typically run twice per year in GA and details can be found at

<http://www.gasoccer.com/org/orgcourses.asp?o=1168&wzb=1>

There is no cost for the class. The class covers all aspects of assigning: Assigning Philosophy; Communication/Cooperation; Matching referees to the Match; assignor's office; dealing with no-shows, turn-backs and complaints; Referee recruitment, development, retention, mentoring; and many other topics.

The assignor completes a registration with USSF each year, the cost of which is \$10.

The assignor creates an e-mail log-in to the State website, to which we give assignor rights, and the assignor is then able to access referee lists and other support documentation.

The assignor receives help and support from the SRC through the State Referee Assignor Coordinator.

Because the class is offered only twice a year, when assignors change, a league can get an 'emergency' status for a new assignor for up to 6 months, by contacting the SRC – the new assignor is expected to sign up for the next course offered.

Problem

The State has not enforced the Certified Assignor policy to date – most leagues have complied due to the benefits, but not all. The plan is to ensure compliance and many support programs will only be available to leagues in compliance, due to the need for the assignor's involvement, to meet referee recruitment, development or retention objectives.

Solution

Ensure everyone understands and adheres to the policy.

Continue to offer 2 courses per year in GA, prior to the start of each season.

Continue to provide help and support to the assignors through the State Assignor Coordinator position, and through the referee portion of the website.

Action

Next class is planned for August 28, 2004 in Atlanta – details on the website shortly – if not in compliance have your designated assignor(s) attend the class, if possible.