

Proposed Change to Bylaw(s)

Submitted by:

Bryan McDermott & Nancy Marsden, Life Members

Existing Bylaw:

Committees - Georgia Referee Standards and Conduct Committee

None

Bylaw w/ proposed change:

Committees - Georgia Referee Standards and Conduct Committee

The Georgia Referee Standards and Conduct Committee (GRSCC) shall hear all complaints and matters of misconduct, unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority, and conflicts of interest involving game officials, referee development program persons, and others registered through the Federation Referee Program in Georgia, in accordance with USSF Policies 531-10 and 531-11 and the Federation Referee Program Code of Ethics. The GRSCC shall have jurisdiction over conduct arising from referee duties regardless of the affiliated organization under whose auspices the match or activity was conducted. The GRSCC shall operate independently in its investigative and adjudicative functions and shall notify the State Referee Committee and the GSSA Board of Directors of all decisions rendered.

The GRSCC shall adhere to and comply with all requirements of USSF, US Youth Soccer, and US Adult Soccer as applicable, and shall conduct all hearings in accordance with USSF Policy 531-10 and GSSA hearing procedures.

Chair and Vice Chair

The chair and vice chair of the GRSCC shall each be nominated by the State Referee Committee and appointed with the approval of the GSSA Board of Directors. The chair and vice chair shall each be appointed for a specified two-year term and may be reappointed. Neither the chair nor the vice chair shall be the State Referee Administrator, the State Youth Referee Administrator, the State Director of Referee Instruction, the State Director of Referee Assessment, a Federation National or FIFA Referee, or any other current member of the State Referee Administration.

The chair shall be responsible for the receipt and review of all complaints submitted to the GRSCC, the conduct of preliminary investigations, the determination of whether sufficient grounds exist to convene a hearing, the convening and administration of ad hoc hearing panels, and the transmission of findings and decisions in writing to all parties and to the GSSA Executive Director for appropriate record keeping, in accordance with USSF Policy 531-10. The chair may delegate any investigative or administrative function to the vice chair or to any member of the standing pool.

In the event the chair has a conflict of interest with respect to a specific matter, the chair shall recuse themselves from that matter and all investigative, administrative, and adjudicative functions for that matter shall vest immediately in the vice chair. In the event

both the chair and vice chair have a conflict of interest with respect to a specific matter, both shall recuse themselves and the GSSA Board of Directors shall designate a pool member to serve as acting chair for that matter only.

The chair shall serve as a non-voting administrator during hearings except that the chair shall cast a vote solely to break a tie vote of the hearing panel. The vice chair shall serve in the same non-voting capacity when acting in place of the chair.

How the Bylaw would read after proposed change:

Committees - Georgia Referee Standards and Conduct Committee

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Rationale:

Referee disciplinary problems are currently handled through the Youth E&G Committee. There have been times that due to the nature of the games involved, that committee may not have jurisdiction. This new committee would be independent of any particular playing division or league inside or outside of Georgia Soccer as long as they are associated with USSF.