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SnVYSA Referee Participation Policies

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SnVYSA values and respects referees and recognizes the importance of growing and developing youth referees and creating a positive and fulfilling atmosphere that makes referees want to come back year to year.

SnVYSA Referee Participation policies define the administrative and operational rules and requirements for a referee to engage and participate in SnVYSA supervised and organized programs, activities, and events. These include policies covering eligibility, registration, training, development, compensation, game assignment, match reports, and illegal substances.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Good standing

Referees must be in “good standing” with SnVYSA to participate in any program, camp, clinic, or event organized, managed, and supervised by SnVYSA. An individual is in good standing if they are current on all financial obligations due to SnVYSA, are clear of any suspensions, removals, or disciplinary actions, and are in compliance with SnVYSA bylaws, policies and procedures as defined in the SnVYSA Bylaws, section 2.3.

1.2 Referee Positions and Age Requirements

SnVYSA prioritizes the development of youth referees and understands that youth referees are the future of refereeing. Refereeing is a great training ground to deeper understanding of the Laws of the Game, provide a better appreciation of the game, and help youth referees learn responsibility. It is for these reasons, SnVYSA has a few paths for young individuals to get involved and become a youth referee.

- a. Referee Positions. There are different positions individuals interested in refereeing may register for depending on their age. SnVYSA has the following referee positions:
 - i. Apprentice Referee. The Apprentice Referee is geared toward youth that are interested in learning to be a referee for the first time and refereeing the youngest age groups U6-U8. The Apprentice Referee program provides new referees with a training ground to learn how to referee and get hands on experience to gain knowledge and confidence before advancing to obtain their USSF Grassroots license.
 - ii. USSF Grassroots Referee. Individuals interested in refereeing older age group games and continuing to grow and develop their referee knowledge, skills, and confidence may sign up to become a licensed USSF Grassroots Referee.
 - iii. Referee Mentor. Individual interested in being a Referee Mentor must be a current USSF licensed Grassroots Referee and have experience in order to provide guidance, support, and constructive feedback to help other less experienced referees improve their performance and understanding of the rules and mechanics of the game.
- b. Age Requirements. To register for one of the positions outlined in 1.2a above, individuals must meet the specific age requirements as defined below:
 - i. Apprentice Referee Age Requirements. To be eligible to become an “Apprentice Referee”, individuals must be at least ten (10) years of age and no older than twelve (12) years of age at the time of registration with SnVYSA.
 - ii. USSF Grassroots Referee Age Requirements. To be eligible to become an “USSF Grassroots Referee”, individuals must be 13 years of age at the time of registration with Washington State Referee Committee (wareferees.org).
 - iii. Referee Mentor Age Requirements. To be eligible to become a “Referee Mentor”, individuals must be at least fifteen (15) years of age at the time of registration.

2. Registration

2.1 Referee Registration

a. Registration.

Individuals that meet the eligibility and age requirements in section 1 above may register as a referee for one of the three (3) referee positions. Registration is required to referee with SnVYSA each seasonal year. There are three (3) referee position registrations:

- i. Apprentice Referee Registration. Applies to individuals that are interested in being an Apprentice Referee and meet the age requirements in section 1.2b(i) above.
- ii. Grassroots Referee Registration. Applies to individuals that are interested in being a USSF Grassroots Referee and meet the age requirements in section 1.2b(ii) above.
- iii. Referee Mentor Registration. Applies to individuals that are interested in being a Referee Mentor and meet the age requirements in section 1.2b(iii) above.

b. Legal Name, Date of birth, and Birth Sex.

Individuals must register with their legal name, date of birth, and birth sex at the time of registration. These same legal requirements must be used when completing registration with the Washington State Referee Committee (wreferees.org) for USSF License Certification.

c. Experience.

- i. Apprentice Referee. No prior referee experience or license certifications are required.
- ii. Grassroots Referee.
 1. Background. No prior referee experience is required, however, individuals with prior referee experience must include their experience in the registration.
 2. New Referee. All new referees must be licensed as a USSF Grassroots Referee for the current seasonal year no later than July 1 to register.
 3. Returning Referee. Individuals returning as a Grassroots Referee from the prior seasonal year must indicate if they have recertified for the current seasonal year in the registration. All returning Grassroots Referees must have a current season license to referee.
- iii. Referee Mentor.
 1. License Certification. Individuals interested in registering as a Referee Mentor must be a currently licensed USSF Grassroots and meet the requirements outlined below.
 2. Requirements. Must have at least 2 years prior experience as a licensed USSF Grassroots Referee, refereed twenty (20) or more games at various age groups (U9 and up), and received positive feedback and/or positive referee evaluations from coaches on prior game performances.

d. Contract. Individuals must acknowledge and sign an Independent Contractor Agreement at the time of registration. This contract outlines the terms and conditions to Referee with SnVYSA as well as the specific job duties and compensation.

2.2 Registration timeline

- a. SnVYSA Referee Registration. Registration opens no later than January 1st of each calendar year and stays open until December 31st of the current year.
- b. USSF Grassroots Certification Registration. Certifications are good for one seasonal year and must be renewed annually. Registration for the new seasonal year opens on July 1 and close on June 30th of the following year. Outlined below is the period the USSF certification will be covered for based on the date registered.
 - i. Registration date: Jan 1-June 30: Registration is good until December 31 of the current year.
 - ii. Registration date: July 1- Dec 31: Registration is good until December 31 of the following year.

2.3 Safety Training

SnVYSA complies with the risk management policies of its affiliated organizations (e.g. Washington Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer, and U.S. Soccer) as well as those required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport. The following training is required of all referees that are eighteen (18) years of age or older and will be participating in SnVYSA organized and supervised programs, activities, or events with regular contact or authority over minor athletes:

- a. SafeSport Training. All referees that are 18 years of age or older are required to complete the required SafeSport training defined in SnVYSA Safety and Prohibited Conduct Policies section 4.1 annually. The SafeSport training will be completed as part of the registration process with the Washington State Referee Committee (wreferees.org).

2.4 Background Screening

SnVYSA is responsible for adherence to the risk management policies of Washington Youth Soccer and requires all referees 18 years of age or older to comply with SnVYSA Safety and Prohibited Conduct Policies section 3-Background Screening.

- a. Washington State Referee Committee. All referees 18 years of age or older are required to complete the annual background check screening with the Washington State Referee Committee. This will be completed as part of the registration process.
- b. Risk Management Fee. The fee is included as part of the license certification fees paid to Washington State Referees Committee at the time of registration.
- c. Risk Management Clearance. Referees must have an "Approved" background screening by Washington State Referee Committee.

3. Educational Training and Certifications

3.1 Referee Training

SnVYSA provides several resources to prepare referees each seasonal year. These include in person training, referee handbooks, and online and in person field training for referee license certification.

- a. Referee Training. Referees are provided with various training options during the seasonal year depending on the Referees' role.
 - i. New Apprentice Referees. SnVYSA will host a 2-day training course for new Apprentice Referees in August of each seasonal year to prepare new Apprentice referees to referee U6-U8 age group games.
 - ii. New Grassroots Referees. Individuals that will be obtaining their USSF Grassroots license for the first time must complete online training and in-person field training with Washington State Referees Committee before they will be certified as a licensed Grassroots Referee.
 - iii. Returning Grassroots Referees. Individuals that are returning as licensed Grassroots Referee must re-certify and complete online training with Washington State Referees Committee annually once their registration is expired. Registrations are valid for one year and expire based on the registration dates outlined in section 2.2b above.
- b. Referee Handbooks. SnVYSA provides referees with educational resources to assist with refereeing which are published on the SnVYSA Referee Resources page.

3.2 USSF Grassroots License Certification

- a. Certificate. After completion of the USSF Grassroots Referee online training and in person field training (for new Grassroots Referees), the referee will have completed their license certification with Washington State Referees Committee.
- b. Reimbursement. The cost of the referee license certification training is eligible for reimbursement as outlined in the SnVYSA Fee and Payment policies section 13.1.

4. Referee Compensation and Incentives

4.1 Referee Compensation

- a. Payment. SnVYSA will compensate referees based on the program and age group they referee, and the compensation payment scale outlined in the Independent Contractor Agreement signed at the time of registration. For a referee or referee mentor to be paid by SnVYSA, referees must adhere to the requirements outlined in SnVYSA Fee and Payment policies section 11.1.
 - i. Recreational U6-U12 age group games. SnVYSA compensates referees for U6-U10 home and away recreational games, U8-U11 Jr. Academy home games, and U11-U12 home recreational games.
 - ii. Recreational U13-U19 age group games. Referees assigned to referee U13-U19 recreational games must register with East King County Soccer Referees Association (ekcsra.org) to sign up to referee and be paid for those games.
 - iii. Cascade FC U8-U19 games. Referees who referee U8-U19 Cascade FC games must register with East King County Soccer Referees Association (ekcsra.org) to sign up to referee and be paid for those games.

4.2 Referee Bonus

One of the incentives SnVYSA offers to referees each seasonal year is a referee bonus for refereeing ten (10) or more games. The bonus amount varies by referee role (Apprentice Referee or Grassroots Referee). The payment terms and conditions are outlined in the SnVYSA Fee and Payment Policies section 11.2.

4.3 "Of the Year" Awards

SnVYSA enjoys recognizing and celebrating amazing coaches, volunteers and referees by polling families to nominate a coach, referee, or volunteer they feel has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment during the season. The SnVYSA Board reviews the nominations and selects "Of the Year Award" for both a Male and Female category for Coach and Referee of the Year, and a single Volunteer of the year award. The "Of the Year Awards" are published to all SnVYSA families to recognize their accomplishments and each winner is presented with an award plaque by the SnVYSA Board.

4.4 College Scholarship Opportunity

SnVYSA offers high school seniors that reside in the SnVYSA boundaries an opportunity to apply for a college scholarship each calendar year.

- a. Referee Scholarship. SnVYSA has established the Ed Eldredge Memorial Scholarship Fund for referees. The Ed Eldredge Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to honor the life and accomplishments of community member Ed Eldredge. Ed was a SnVYSA Board member and actively involved and supportive of youth soccer in the valley. He was also a licensed USSF referee, assignor, assessor, and administrator for East King County Soccer Referee's

Association. To honor and recognize Ed's commitment to Snoqualmie Valley Youth Soccer and Ed's love of the game, SnVYSA awards one (1) referee scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 to a referee who has demonstrated this same commitment and involvement with SnVYSA.

- b. Eligibility. All high school seniors that reside in the Snoqualmie Valley Youth Soccer Association boundaries and meet the academic enrollment and scholarship requirements outlined in the SnVYSA College Scholarship Policy 12.1.

5. Referee Development

SnVYSA aspires to continue to develop youth referees, so they grow in confidence, skills, and return to referee year by year. To help with these objectives, SnVYSA rolled out an Apprentice Referee program, a Referee Mentor program, and created a process for coaches to evaluate referees' post-game to provide real time constructive feedback for continued growth and development of referees. The long-term goals of these combined program and process improvements are to continue to increase the number of new Apprentice Referees each year, graduate Apprentice Referees to Grassroots Referees, and improve the overall knowledge and skills of all new and returning SnVYSA referees. SnVYSA encourages referees to continue developing their skills each year by doing one or more of the following:

5.1 Referee Evaluations

Coaches will evaluate referees after each game. Referees should take this opportunity for constructive feedback and review the evaluations after each game. The feedback is a great tool to help referees improve in areas that they scored lower in for future games.

5.2 Sign Up as An Assistant Referee

New and returning referees can learn a lot from being an Assistant Referee for a more experienced center referee. Assistant Referees are available for assignment for all U11-U19 games. This is a great way for referees to get on-field tutorial experience by watching and learning from more experienced center referees.

5.3 Request a Referee Mentor

All new and returning referees can request a Referee Mentor from the SnVYSA Referee Manager at any time during the season to get one on one feedback from a Referee Mentor at some of their games.

5.4 Become A Referee Mentor

Becoming a Referee Mentor is a great referee development pathway that will help referees to continue to learn the game while helping a new referee improve their skills. It is also a great way to gain leadership experience. Individuals interested in becoming a Referee Mentor must meet the age requirements outlined in section 1.2b(iii) and the experience requirements in 2.1c(iii) to register.

6. Game Assignment

Game Assignment is completed in different systems depending on the program and age group. A referee must register with the referee system indicated for the program and age group they will be refereeing.

6.1 Registration

SnVYSA uses two different referee systems for referee game assignment. Outlined below are the two systems SnVYSA uses based on the program and age group.

- a. Arbiter Referee System. Arbiter referee system is used for game assignments for recreational U6-U10 home and away games and U11 and U12 home games. It is also used for U8-U11 Jr. Academy home games.
- b. East King County Soccer Referee System (EKCSRA). EKCSRA referee system is used for U13-U19 recreational games and U8-U19 Cascade FC games.

6.2 Self-Assignment

- a. Arbiter Referee System. Referees must contact the SnVYSA Referee Manager to be set up as a referee in the Arbiter system. After the SnVYSA Referee Manager has set up the referee in the system, the referee can login with their email address and create a password. The email address must be unique and should match the email address the referee used to register with the Washington State Referees Committee if they are a USSF Grassroots referee.
- b. East King County Soccer Referee System (EKCSRA). Referees must be registered as a referee with EKCSRA.org to self-assign to games in East King County Soccer Referees Association.

6.3 Restrictions

- a. Family member restriction. SnVYSA does not allow referees to self-assign to a U9 or higher age group game if a family member is participating in the game (e.g parent is coach, sibling is player). If a referee assigns to a game that a family member is participating in, the referee will not be paid for that game.
- b. Exception to family member restrictions. If there is no referee assigned to a game a family member of the referee is participating in, and the referee is present at the game, the referee may referee the game and will be paid. The referee must contact the SnVYSA Referee Manager after the game, so they are notified about the game and can be paid.

7. Match Reports

After each game, the referee is responsible for filling out a match report. The match report includes the final score of the game, any disciplinary actions (yellow/red cards, ejections), and a description of any noteworthy incidents that occurred before, during, or after the match.

7.1 Game Score

The referee is responsible for entering the final game score in the referee system for both the home and away team after each game.

7.2 Disciplinary Actions

Referees must report any cards that were issued to players, coaches, or spectators in the match report after the game. The report should include a description of why the card was issued. If a player, coach, or spectator was ejected that also needs to be documented in the report.

7.3 Incident Reports ~ Referee Misconduct and Abuse

Referees must report any incidents of abuse or misconduct in a game by a player, a spectator, or a coach in the match report after the game and to the league Disciplinary Committee Chair and the SnVYSA Disciplinary Committee Chair within 48 hours after completion of the game for review and decision. SnVYSA has a zero-tolerance policy for referee abuse as outlined in SnVYSA League Policies section 4.12.

8. Illegal Substances

SnVYSA prohibits the use and possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and vaping by any member participating or spectating at any SnVYSA supervised or organized practice, game, camp, clinic, or other field event at facilities rented by SnVYSA.