

# **CLARIFICATION - USSF REFEREE ASSIGNOR POLICIES**

## **Most Commonly Asked Questions**

### **2010**

***Does the SRC (State Referee Committee) make policy changes for competitions that are governed by CJSA and CSSA?***

CSRP does not make any policy changes for CJSA/CSSA or any other organization. CSRP abides by the United States Soccer Federation (USFF) Policies concerning the National Referee Program.

***Referee Assignor Policies – are they new and whose interpretations are they?***

All the policies and clarifications are not CSRP driven: they are the policies of USSF regarding the National Referee Program. These policies have been in effect for as long as the USSF Bylaws and Policies pertaining to Referees have been in effect. The Referee Administrative Handbook (RAHB) was extracted from the Federation Bylaws and Policy Manual.

***Are members of the CJSA/CSSA Board of Directors and Club Presidents aware of these policies, and of their impact?***

As members of the USSF, they should be familiar with the USSF Bylaws and Policies Manual.

***Except on an emergency basis, is a certified referee assignor allowed to officiate in leagues or conferences for which they serve as assignors?***

No. When the assignor is an active referee, the assignor should be designated within a given experience/rating group and be part of the same rotation system of assignment in leagues outside of the league where he/she is serving as an assignor (unless in an emergency). See USSF Policy, Referee Administrative Handbook (page 62, paragraph 5).

***Does this mean that a certified referee assignor, who assigns games in a District League, cannot officiate in games in the same District League?***

Currently, CJSA District Leagues are NOT assigned by the District. Since that is the current structure of the leagues, club assignors are considered part of the club and not the league, so they can referee for other clubs in that particular league.

***“Certified referees assignors should not referee matches in which they have a vested interest.” Please define “vested interest”?***

“A special concern or stake in maintaining or influencing a condition, arrangement, or action especially for selfish ends”

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“Vested interest” is defined as: when the referee, or a member of the referee's family (spouse, child or parent) or that person’s club/team, may be affected by the outcome of the proceeding or match.

Conflicts of interest occur when members (assignors) are in a position to influence a decision on a game where they might directly or indirectly receive financial benefit or give improper advantage to associates. Conflicts of commitment arise when assignor’s involvements in games substantially interfere with their primary commitments to the State Association.

#### **Examples:**

- Assignors shall NOT referee a match of the club that they assign for. It does not make any difference if the assignor is paid by the club or if the assignor is a volunteer.
- Assignors shall NOT assign a member of the assignor’s family (spouse, child or parent) of the club that they assign for.
- Assignors shall NOT assign a board member of the club that they assign for.
- Assignors shall NOT assign a board member of the district that they assign for in CJSA State competitions.
- An assignor shall NOT participate as a player or as a coach/manager in a match they have assigned a fellow official to.

***Who will decide if someone has a vested interest in a match? Is it arbitrary or is there a specific policy?***

Once a complaint is registered there will be an investigation, according to the guidelines set by USSF.

***It is appropriate for assignors to assign a board member of their club? In effect, club board members can no longer referee for the clubs that they are board members of?***

Not for games of the club to which they belong as a club board member. Very clear case of an example of vested interest and conflict of interest.

***Assignors shall not assign a board member of the district that they assign for in CJSA State competitions. Is this for State Cup? Is this for CT Cup? Is this for Premier Leagues? Is this for District Leagues? If both teams in the competition are from the same district, can a board member be assigned?***

This is another example of vested interest and conflict of interest. CJSA state competitions should not be refereed by Board members of the district where they belong.

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District Leagues games can be assigned to district Board members.

***If more than one assignor assigns for a league or club, can they assign each other to their matches?***

No. These is in clear violation of US Soccer policy.

***Is it the responsibility of all assignors to abide by the Federation Policy?***

Yes.

Membership is a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably as State Referee Administrators, referees, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors during United States Soccer Federation sanctioned activities.

Membership carries with it an obligation for each individual member to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives of the Federation and do nothing to bring the Federation into disrepute or work against its goals and objectives. Any conduct which is considered unethical or as a conflict of interest shall be subject to possible disciplinary actions (page 13 RAHB) and Policy 531-11, part III, section B.

No one shall assign or appoint a referee, assistant referee or fourth official in any match under the jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of the Federation who is not registered as a Referee Assignor with the Federation for the current year. The state association, league or tournament may appoint an unregistered assignor in an emergency who may not serve past the end of the current seasonal year without becoming registered. This section does not apply to an assignment to any youth recreational or house league match (page 7 RAHB).