

Policy: Game Priority in Referee Appointments

Each registered U.S. Soccer Federation referee is expected to abide by and respect the Code of Ethics and keep all assignments that he/she accepts. There are certain occasions, though, when a referee has duty to the referee program to release a lower level appointment and accept a higher level one in the interest of the U. S. Soccer Federation.

Therefore, the National Referee Committee declares that the following National and International appointments have precedence or priority over all other matches:

1. All FIFA Appointments
2. All CONCACAF Appointments
3. International A Matches
4. Any U. S. National Team Matches
5. Professional Division 1 League Matches (MLS)
6. Foreign Pro Club vs Foreign Pro Club matches
7. National Cup Finals
8. All Regional Cup Finals
9. Other Professional League Matches (A-League, D3 Pro)
10. National Tournaments (Adult and Youth)
11. National Adult Leagues
12. Interstate National Cup Competitions (Adult)
13. PDL and W-League Matches
14. Intrastate National Cup Competitions (Adult)
15. State Cup Competitions (Adult and Youth)

No other match (with the exception of the above) has appointment priority or precedence over any other match within the state.

The priority policy does **not** apply:

1. Within 72 hours of the scheduled match time unless an emergency situation exists, or
2. When a substantial financial commitment has been made for the referee appointment (e.g., non-refundable airline tickets).

Referees traveling out of town for a National or International appointment may:

1. Travel a day before and after the day(s) of the match(es), if necessary, and are excused from all other appointments on those days.
2. Not accept any other appointment on the day of the match appointment without permission of the Federation.