

# Section 10 Invitational Tournament

## Referee Expectations and Standards

(Last Updated 8/13/2023)

The goal of the Section 10 Referee staff is to provide teams of qualified officials to every match in our annual invitational tournaments. The player teams are the best from each Area in the Section and deserve our best efforts. We believe that it is an honor for a referee to be selected by his/her Area to participate in these tournaments.

The Areas in Section 10 are tasked with providing the referees that staff the matches. Our expectations of the Area Referee Administrator (ARA) are:

1. The ARA (or designee) shall provide a list of referees and game assignments to the SRA at least 2 days prior to the tournament. If the Area is unable to provide a sufficient number of referees the ARA MUST contact the SRA in a timely manner to allow the SRA to enlist additional support from other Areas.
2. Referees shall be assigned to a maximum of 3 matches per day. The recommended assignments in this case are 1 as Referee and 2 as Assistant Referee.
3. In fairness to the players, referees should not also be coaches in this tournament. The players are our priority and coaching duties must take precedence.
4. The ARA (or designee) must verify that each referee is a currently registered volunteer and that they have completed Safe Haven, CDC, Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), and Risk Background check is current (Green/Blue). Adult volunteers must have completed fingerprinting and verify that their Safe Sport certification is current.
5. The ARA (or designee) MUST attend the early morning (usually 7:15am) referee meeting. This meeting provides information that the referees need to know to successfully administer the matches.
6. Section 10 believes strongly in the value of mentoring. It is highly recommended that each Area provide mentors to support their referee teams. Upon request the SRA will arrange informal observations/mentoring of referees on a first come-first served basis.
7. The ARA (or designee) is responsible for ensuring that their referees are properly dressed and have the proper equipment (whistle, watch, flags, etc.) for each match. Referees who do not meet the referee dress standard will not be eligible for assignment on semi-final and final matches.
8. NOTE: From time to time the SRA may request a referee by name for a designated semi-final or final match. The purpose is to reward that referee for his/her efforts during the pool play phase of the tournament. These assignments will be coordinated with the ARA (or designee) prior to notifying the referee.

Referees at these tournaments are highly visible role models. We have the following expectation of our referees:

1. All referees MUST attend the early morning (usually 7:15am) referee meeting. This meeting provides information that referees need to know to successfully administer the matches.
2. Referees MUST be dressed according to AYSO/USSF uniform standards. We expect each referee to be dressed in an approved referee jersey, referee shorts, and referee socks with no exceptions. We understand that all referees may not be equipped with all possible jersey colors. At a minimum each referee must have the current yellow jersey (the previous generation pin-striped gold jersey is also acceptable). In the event of cold weather, and lacking a long-sleeve jersey, it is acceptable to wear a long-sleeve plain black shirt under the short-sleeve jersey. Caps, per the AYSO/USSF standard, are allowed. Referees who do not meet the referee dress standard will not be eligible for assignment on semi-final and final matches.
3. Referee uniforms are expected to be clean and worn properly: shirts tucked in and socks pulled up. This is a sign of respect for the players and game – please remember that referees are very visible role models for the other participants and a “professional” appearance is important.
4. All referees must also bring the required equipment: whistle, watch, pen/pencil, and referee badge with current certification. Each ARA (or designee) shall ensure that there are sufficient AR flags to support his/her referee teams. Section 10 does not have any referee equipment available to loan to referees.
5. Referees should arrive at field 15-20 minutes prior to the starting time in order to keep games running on time. If matches are running late, arriving referee crews are requested to perform pre-game player safety checks and coin toss off the field of play so that games can get started quickly.
6. **The use of electronic communication systems is not allowed while officiating.**
7. All misconduct and other relevant match incidents must be reported immediately after the match. Misconduct forms are available at each check-in tent.
8. Section 10 believes strongly in the value of mentoring. Upon request the SRA will arrange informal observations/mentoring of referees.
9. Referees are expected to act with courtesy and respect for all other participants at all times. We understand that this can be challenging but we expect you to maintain composure at all times.