



Alabama SRC  
Winter Newsletter  
2014

Thanks for  
a great  
year!



## Professionalism: Outside the Lines

It's a classic: The jobs not finished until the paperwork is done! It's your responsibility!!! Some things you just have to do yourself.

Got it? Let's see.

Did you check the player and coach passes against the game day/official roster? Were the numbers on the roster the same as the numbers on the player jerseys? You need to make certain because if you card number 13 and there is no number 13 on the roster, what then?

Did you legibly record the carded player/coach's name, uniform number and player/coach pass ID number? What happens when you sit down afterwards to complete the USSF Game Report and Supplemental Report and you can't read what you recorded? Recently, one of our most experienced referees used his iPhone to take a picture of the player pass and roster. Brilliant idea! Ain't technology grand? When he got home the picture was blurred! Oops!!! Useless. Using his experience, check to make certain you can read the photo BEFORE you return the passes and rosters back to the teams. I still suggest you also record the info as a back-up.

The entire referee crew should review the game report for accuracy before you sign your name to it. If there is an error CORRECT it. It's your responsibility, not just the center referees.

Are you properly registered? Did you attend a recertification clinic? Age 18 and older referees - have you completed the KidSafe background check? Do you know your username and password for [www.ussoccer.info](http://www.ussoccer.info)? Do you know your username and password to get into the Affinity/Kidsafe background check system? It is your responsibility to get registered and your responsibility to keep up with your usernames and passwords. FYI: U.S. Soccer is changing the registration system in the "future". More on that when it actually happens.

When you re-register each year, DO NOT register as a NEW referee because you are NOT a NEW referee. This will create issues that will delay your registration getting approved. Only NEW referees should register as NEW referees!

Are you keeping your Arbiter blocks current? Not doing this creates extra work for your assignors. For referees that have multiple Arbiter accounts, multiple gameofficials accounts and other assigning software accounts, you MUST keep your blocks current in ALL accounts. If not, you could easily be double booked with games from different assignors on the same day and at the same time. What a mess that can be.

Do you have the proper uniforms? The correct socks? Do you wear your uniform correctly?

Can you think of other situations "Outside the Lines" that it's your responsibility to do in order to be the best referee you can be?

PLEASE remember to visit your web site at [www.alasooccerref.com](http://www.alasooccerref.com) for information and answers to many questions that arise as you progress in your referee "career".

## 2015 Recert

Every referee that wants to work games in 2015 MUST recertify! To avoid the \$25 LATE fee you should attend a recertification clinic BEFORE 1/1/2015. Clinics are listed on your web site at [www.alasooccerref.com](http://www.alasooccerref.com).

There is a LAST CHANCE clinic scheduled in Birmingham on January 24, 2015. The location is the Hyatt Hotel at the Galleria. Once again, to avoid the \$25 late fee, you should check out the clinics that are scheduled in December in your local area or within driving distance of your local area. You must get your five hours of instruction and take the recertification test appropriate to your Grade.

When you attend your recertification clinic, your instructor will outline the requirements for each grade and the advancement requirements.

We will be hosting the NEW U.S. Soccer fitness test on January 11, 2015 in Tuscaloosa and January 24, 2015 in Birmingham. Locations and times will be posted on the web site. You MUST pre-register by contacting your SRA by 1/6/15 for the Tuscaloosa location and 1/19/15 for the Birmingham location. If you do not pre-register you will not be allowed to take the fitness test. ALL Grade 7 and State Referees MUST pass the fitness test to maintain their grade for 2015. Grade 8 referees planning to upgrade in 2015 MUST pass the fitness test.





## Instructional Corner

The 2014 Fall Season is drawing to an end! It is time to assess whether we have done all we can to provide support to the game we all love! What have you done to improve yourself? Have you requested higher level games to challenge your skills? Have you done some studying of *The Laws of the Game*, *The Guide to Procedures* or *The Advice to Referees*? Have you worked with different referees to observe other man-management techniques? All of these things are critical in your referee development.

To make sure you are doing all these things....let's look at each one individually. "Have you requested higher level games to challenge your skills?" Have you spoken to an assignor about allowing you some additional challenges? Remember, you are not tied to a single assignor or a single location to work your games. Sometimes it is to your advantage to go out of your area to work so you observe different teams, coaches, and referees. "Have you done some studying of *The Laws of the Game*, *The Guide to Procedures* or *The Advice to Referees*?" All of those resources are conveniently available through links on our website, [www.alasoccerref.com](http://www.alasoccerref.com), but are also on the United States Soccer Federation website, [www.ussoccer.com](http://www.ussoccer.com) under the Referee tab. There are a lot of other resources on that U.S. Soccer website. There are a number of classes; and specifically, modules that can help you refresh your knowledge. For example, if you are having trouble with misconducts (red and yellow card offenses), you can review them in the Entry Level modules and make sure that you are up-to-date on the latest information.

Finally, "have you worked with different referees....", are you making sure that you are working with different referees rather than the same old crew. Remember, if you work with the same people too much, you will be "covering" for each other when each of us needs to develop individual skills to handle all situations. It is too easy for a young referee to work with an adult who "protects" them and that young referee does not develop the skills to handle all situations on the field and then eventually moves away from the game because they just aren't ready for the next level.

Get out there and do everything you can do to become the best referee possible! It is your responsibility!

### A Model for Understanding and Dealing With Misconduct and Preventing Mass Confrontation By Gary LeMay, Ph.D. USSF State Referee Instructor NISOA Clinician

An excerpt from an article written by Gary LeMay, Alabama State Instructor and Assessor, is quoted as follows:

*Mass Confrontation can be defined as the display of psychologically and/or physically threatening behavior by multiple players and/or substitutes on the field, most of whom were not directly involved in the causal event. Unfortunately, officials regularly working highly competitive games are likely to encounter a mass confrontation at some point in their career. In Ferguson, outsiders flooded into the community and turned protest into riots, likely not inspired by the shooting that occurred there, but by their own experiences and motivations. This leads me to the next rule. **Rule #3: Players not directly involved in a serious incident who enter the area to create a mass confrontation are in a highly emotional state and may not be rational.** This rule has strong implications for referee and AR safety. In physics, there is a concept of critical mass – the quantity of mass that, when reached, ensures a reaction cannot be reversed. It is equivalent to a "tipping point." In a game, once this point is reached, the officiating team must shift its focus from prevention to observation and minimizing escalation.*

The article, in its entirety is linked on our website. It is worth the read by all of the referees who have concerns about how to deal with misconduct.