# United States Soccer Federation

## Match Official Developmental Assessment Form

**Official’s Name:**

**Grade:**

**State:**

**Position:**

- ☐ Referee
- ☐ AR1
- ☐ 4th Official
- ☐ AR2

**Difficulty of Game:**

- ☐ Easy
- ☐ Competitive
- ☐ Difficult
- ☐ Very Difficult

**Overall Performance:**

- ☐ Acceptable
- ☐ Needs Improvement

---

### Performance Summary / Feedback

(NA – Not Acceptable   A – Acceptable   VG – Very Good   O – Outstanding)

#### Referee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>VG</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Personality / Presence and Communication:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Game Control and Foul Selection/Recognition:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Teamwork:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Points of Emphasis / Directives:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Managing the Technical Areas:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Positioning / Movement / Signals:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Assistant Referee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>VG</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Involvement / Assistance in the Game:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Offside:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Positioning / Movement:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Signals:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Positive Areas of Performance:**

1.

2.

3.

**Areas For Improvement:**

1.

2.

3.

**Additional Comments / Suggestions:**

1.

2.

3.

---

**Assessor Signature:**

**Assessor Name:**

**Phone Number:** (  )

**email:**

**Grade:**

**State Association:**

---

**Distribution:**

- Referee – White
- Administration – Yellow
- Assessor – Pink
### U.S. Soccer FOCUS CRITERIA

#### REFEREE

**Criteria 1: Personality and Communication**

- **Personality and Presence: Influencing the Future**
  - Referee varied personality to defuse and prevent the NEXT foul.
  - Referee used personality/presence to influence the future with actions in the present.
  - Body language was appropriate for the moment.
  - Referee changed his/her temperament and approach as the game dictated/changed thereby sending effective messages to players/coaches.
  - Signals were clear, effective and used to send messages as appropriate.

- **Communication**
  - Referee established an “open line of communication” with players and coaches without being overly communicative.
  - Referee used all his/her communicative tools to “draw the line in the sand” (firmly/fairly) so players and coaches knew what to expect.
  - Used more than the whistle to communicate and manage the game.
  - Utilized “down time” to manage players and the game.

**Criteria 2: Game Control and Foul Selection / Recognition**

- **Misconduct: Game or Player Need It**
  - Got the 100% misconduct situations correct.
  - Identified the moment(s) of truth and acted upon them appropriately.
  - Cautions were given because the game and/or player needed it.
  - Used personality to manage/control the game versus card as the situation/game dictated.

- **“Big Picture” Approach in Game Context**
  - Used the “big picture” of the game to handle misconduct not ignoring the 100% misconduct situations.
  - Exhibited the characteristics of a “proactive referee.”
  - Used discretion and common sense while taking a “big picture” approach to decisions given the atmosphere of the game and other game-related characteristics.

- **Allowed Game Flow**
  - Was able to encourage game flow through foul selection/recognition because he/she was able to differentiate between the soft/trifling/minor challenges from those that were minimally careless and needed to be called.
  - Distinguished between trifling fouls that interrupt the flow of the game and the fouls, based upon the game level, that needed to be called.
  - Recognized and applied advantage as required by the game.

- **Foul Recognition / Discrimination**
  - Discretion and common sense were exercised.
  - Managed the game so that the enjoyment and entertainment value (for players/officials) was maximized without disregard to game control.
  - Exhibited the ability to deliver messages in an appropriate way based upon the game, the situation, and the personality of the receiving player.
  - Felt the “temperature” of the game and increased his/her influence on the game as it dictated.
  - “Smelled/anticipated the foul before it occurred.

- **Tactical Approach**
  - Referee understood the tactical/technical approach of the teams/players and adjusted their approach as the game required.
  - The ability to “read” the game and adjust his/her approach to the game as tactics changed was evident.

- **Criteria 3: Teamwork**
  - Referee empowered his team (pregame or otherwise) in a manner that provided the avenue for officials to participate in managing the game and ensuring “critical game decisions” were addressed appropriately.

- **Criteria 4: Points of Emphasis / Directives**
  - **Tackles / Elbows / Contact Above the Shoulder / Handling**
    - Differentiated between fouls/misconduct that were “careless” and “reckless” versus “using excessive force” with the possibility of injuring the opponent.
    - Identified and correctly dealt with elbows and tackles that endangered the opponent or that could injure an opponent.
    - Correctly applied directives on handling.
    - Able to differentiate the contact above the shoulder which the arm/elbow was used as a tool versus a weapon (red card).

  - **Dissent / Game Disrepute / Mass Confrontation**
    - Took appropriate actions to keep game disrepute from escalating into mass confrontation.
    - Dealt correctly with the instigator and escalator (third man in).
    - Used the “Personal, Public and Provocative” criteria to determine whether a player’s conduct was dissent (cautionable) or offensive, insulting or abusive (red card).

### REFEREE (con’t)

**Criteria 3: Positioning / Movement**

- Was in correct position to support decisions.
- Kept up with play for the entire duration of the game.
- Exhibited the ability to maintain the offside line throughout the match.
- Correctly positioned to make offside decisions.
- Took strategic positions that were needed to manage the game as well as enable him/her to manage the “next phase of play.”
- Referee’s positioning allowed him/her to “sell” decisions due to the closeness to play.
- Restart (free kick, corner kick, throw in, etc.) management positions enabled the referee to manage the wall, the kicker, and the “drop/danger zone.”
- Positions did not interfere with players or play.
- Exhibited the ability to anticipate and read play thereby enabling him/herself to be in the optimum position for the game at that time.
- Signals were clear and convincing and used appropriately.

### ASSISTANT REFEREE

**Criteria 1: Involvement / Assistance in the Game**

- Read the game like the referee and tempered assistance accordingly.
- Involved as needed (versus over-involved) and provided assistance to the game/referee as needed.
- Demonstrated the appropriate level of teamwork necessary to assist the referee in managing the game.
- Was in the same “rhythm” of the game as the referee thereby providing the appropriate level of assistance/involvement.
- Exhibited the courage to become involved in critical situations.
- Participated in the “triangle of control” as dictated by the game.

**Criteria 2: Offside**

- “Wait and see” approach to offside decisions was applied.
- Showed restraint in the application of offside. Flag kept down, if in doubt.
- Benefit of doubt given to the attack.
- Understood and applied concepts of “interfering with play,” “interfering with an opponent” and “gaining an advantage.”

**Criteria 3: Positioning / Movement**

- Was in correct position to support decisions.
- Kept up with play for the entire duration of the game.
- Exhibited the ability to maintain the offside line throughout the match.
- Correctly positioned to make offside decisions.
- Took strategic positions that were needed to manage the game as well as enable him/her to manage the “next phase of play.”
- Followed every ball to the goal line and/or to the goalkeeper.
- Was able to keep body square to the field through sidestepping as play dictated.
- Displayed the ability to transition (from sidestepping to sprinting and from sprinting to sidestepping) and modify his/her running style to meet the demands of the match.

**Criteria 4: Signals**

- Signals and flag work were clear and followed U.S. Soccer guidelines and mechanics.
- Made eye contact with the referee prior to signaling.

### NOTES