

**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program  
Updated Assessment Criteria  
September 2012**

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In 2011, a simplified assessment form was introduced at the professional level to replace the 2009 Assessment Criteria form. The form has reduced the time required to complete the form, while still allowing the major elements of the previous form to be consolidated into fewer criteria and feedback received from the referees, administrators and assessors has been positive. No changes have been made to the grading system, rating of game difficulty and sufficient test criteria.

Effective October 1, 2012, this new form will replace the 2009 Assessment Criteria form for use on all formal assessments completed as part of the U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program. Please note that no changes have been made to the Development and Guidance Form.

### **Referee Updates**

Previous criteria:

- 1 – Personality/Communication
- 2 – Game control and flow
- 3 – Teamwork
- 4 – Points of emphasis
- 5 – Managing the technical area
- 6 – Fitness, work rate, etc.

Updated criteria:

- Control of the Game (previously criteria 1-2-4)
- Teamwork (previously criteria 3-5)
- Physical fitness and Positioning (previously criteria 6)

A new introduction is included and used to determine the match difficulty. This introduction should list the factors that contributed to the difficulty the referee team faced in this match and allows for a brief description of game critical incidents the referee team faced and how they dealt with them.

The new Positive Points and Areas for Improvement sections should be completed in detail. The first section focuses on the positives related to the referee's performance and the second section focuses on solutions/options to problems observed and provides corrections for use in future matches.

The administrative comments section from the 2009 form has been replaced with an Additional Comments section. This section allows for more discussion of critical issues observed during the game that contributed to the Positive Points and/or Areas for Improvement.



## **Assistant Referee Updates**

Previous criteria:

- 1 – Involvement/assistance
- 2 – Offside
- 3 – Positioning

All previous criteria have been consolidated into a single overall score with an updated feedback section. It is important to give specific detail for each Positive Point listed and for each recommendation/option in the Areas for Improvement section.

A general section entitled Additional Comments allows for more detailed discussion of critical issues observed during the game that contributed to the positive performance and areas in need of improvement.

## **Fourth Official Updates**

Previous criteria:

- 1 – Bench control
- 2 – Assistance to referee
- 3 – Administrative tasks

All previous criteria have been consolidated into a single overall score with an updated feedback section. It is important to give specific detail for each Positive Point listed and for each recommendation/option in the Areas for Improvement section.

A general section entitled Additional Comments allows for more detailed discussion of critical issues observed during the game that contributed to the positive performance and areas in need of improvement.