



# Elite Referee Program

## U.S. Soccer Assignment Priority Protocol

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While each official is expected to keep the assignments he or she accepts, there are certain occasions where a referee should be released from a lower level assignment to officiate in a higher-level competition.

To this end, the following games are listed by priority for assignment:

- International and senior National Team games assigned by U.S. Soccer
- Games assigned by the Professional Referee Organization (PRO)
- Youth National Team games assigned by U.S. Soccer
- Competitions (regional and national) assigned directly by U.S. Soccer's affiliated members. Includes but is not limited to:
  - USASA
  - US Youth Soccer
  - US Club Soccer
- League games assigned by U.S. Soccer
- Competitions (state level) assigned directly by U.S. Soccer's affiliated members. Includes but is not limited to:
  - State Adult Associations
  - State Youth Associations

Please note that this policy does not apply:

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

### Responsibility of officials:

- Keep the lines of communication open about upcoming national and international appointments as far in advance as possible
- Communicate the receipt of a higher priority appointment to their assignor as soon as possible
- Report an assignor that refuses to release the official from a higher priority assignment to their State Referee Administrator and the U.S. Soccer Referee Department

### Responsibility of assignors:

- Identify the highly experienced officials on your assignment roster who are likely to be assigned to a higher priority assignment and always be prepared to fill these slots on an emergency basis
- Cooperate with officials and other assignors on those rare occasions when the game priority policy is invoked
- Report any concerns regarding officials to the State Referee Administrator