

DISTRICT VI

GRADE 9 REFEREE POLICY

1 APRIL 2009

1. BACKGROUND:

The United States Soccer Federation has instituted the referee grade of Grade 9, USSF Recreational Referee. Referees who are Grade 9 are authorized to referee or assistant referee on recreational youth games (Class 4 only). These referees are not allowed to perform any referee duties on any competitive games including any Class 3 league or tournament games. In addition, in Northern California, they are only authorized to referee within their own leagues (which can contain several clubs). In order to move up to higher level Class 4 games or to Class 3 games, the Grade 9 referee must take the 8-hour Bridging Course to become a USSF Grade 8 referee and have one year time in grade as a Grade 9 referee (or the 18-hour Grade 8 Entry Course).

2. CANDIDATE REFEREE AGE REQUIREMENTS:

In District VI, all Grade 9 candidate referees must be adults (over 17 years of age) with the exception of parent-child candidates. Youth referee candidates will be accepted into the Grade 9 course if they are a minimum age of 14 on July 1 of the current year and if at least one parent, grandparent or legal guardian is also taking the course and agrees to be an active referee, not just take the course.

3. COURSES:

Grade 9 courses may be requested by leagues/clubs through the District VI Director of Instruction for a course fee of \$200.00. The 8-hour course must have a minimum of two certified instructors for each class. Each separate course will have a maximum number 25 students. The annual USSF registration fee for Grade 9 is \$40.00. The sponsoring club will purchase two books for each student and distribute the two books to the student at least one week in advance of the start of the course with the intent of having each student read the books PRIOR to attending the course. The two books will be: first, the USSF Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials; and second, either the current USSF Laws of the Game or the USSF Laws of the Game Made Easy (preferred).

4. GRADE 9 REFEREE ASSIGNMENTS:

League and club assignors must insure that Grade 9 Recreational referees are only assigned to Class 4 games at the U-14 level or below within their own leagues. No exceptions will be permitted.

5. MISUSE OF GRADE 9 REFEREES:

If leagues/clubs are found to be mal-assigning their Grade 9 referees after an appropriate investigation, the Referee Administration in District VI will take the following actions:

- a. For the first offense, the Grade 9 referee will be suspended from all games for a period of one month. The suspension period will not count for time in grade.
- b. For the second offense, the Grade 9 referee will be suspended from all games for the

remainder of the calendar year. The suspension period will not count for time in grade.

c. If the league or club assignor is licensed with USSF, for the first offense, the assignor will be placed on a limited “Grade 9” probation by District VI with a warning. The probation will remain in effect for the remainder of the calendar year.

d. If the league or club assignor is licensed with USSF, for the second offense, the assignor will be suspended from assigning duties for the remainder of the calendar year or six months, whichever is longer.

e. For the youth league or club in which the mal-assignment occurred, for the first offense, the league will pay a fine of \$100 to CNRA and will be placed on a limited “Grade 9” probation for the remainder of the calendar year or six months, whichever is longer.

f. For the youth league or club in which the mal-assignment occurred, for the second offense, the league will pay a fine of \$250 to CNRA and will not be authorized to sponsor another Grade 9 course for a period of one year from the date of the incident.

g. If a league or club assignor who is not licensed with the USSF does the mal-assignment, the fines paid by the youth leagues are doubled.

h. The Youth Administrator in District VI is charged with the responsibility for taking the appropriate administrative actions and for all record keeping associated with the enforcement of the District VI Grade 9 policy.

6. MULTIPLE ABUSES:

If it is determined that multiple abuses of this policy are occurring within District VI, the District VI Director of Instruction has the authority to withdraw the offering of Grade 9 courses within District VI.

 -signed-
Thomas Starr
District Director of Instruction, District VI