

Introduction

This manual for the entry-level referee training course is the product of several years of work by instructors at all levels of the United States Soccer Federation. It is intended for use by all affiliates so that referees can be trained in the skills necessary for properly managing and conducting soccer matches at the youth level. It is also intended as a base for developing officials to move on to work at higher levels of the game. The content of this manual has been thoroughly reviewed to reflect the rewriting the Laws of the Game in effect as of July 1, 1997. Several modules were formerly contained in the Intermediate-Level Referee Training Course Manual.

The course, as presented in this manual, is designed to be given in five classroom sessions, plus a testing/registration session, to qualify referees for the USSF Referee Class Two, also known as Grade 8. There is also an outdoor/field-training session to prepare the new referees for work under realistic conditions. Testing of the materials has shown that presenting the lessons in the order given works very well; however, this does not mean that instructors must follow slavishly the outline provided here, or that they cannot deviate from the order given. If local considerations require that the course must be presented in a different manner, it will be enough if care is taken to cover the basic elements as outlined in this manual.

The five classroom sessions are composed of 16-23 modules. Documentation for each module is given in the form of a lesson plan, together with the necessary handouts and visual materials. Many of the modules are quite precise and complete as to what should be presented by the instructor and how it should be done; others are not and do not. This is a reflection of the subject(s) to be covered. The more-complete modules are written that way for a purpose: They pertain to highly technical subjects which must be presented in a certain way to get the points across to the students properly. The less-complete modules are meant to be handled by the instructor at his or her discretion, to be adapted to the knowledge and needs of the participants. The times given are somewhat flexible for the less-structured modules, but are fairly accurate for the more-structured units. All of the modules are intended for presentation with maximum participation by all students.

Some Words of Caution: The instructor should read, research, and practice teaching each lesson before presenting it to a live class. Please note that in several instances the instructor is called upon to present a "scenario" for getting the students involved in the lesson. The content and style of the scenario have purposely been left to the imagination of the individual instructor. Also please note that there is nothing in the lesson plans regarding local procedures, assignment policies, game reports (although there is a handout on this), and several other items. It is up to the local authority to provide each referee and candidate this information, based on local conditions and requirements.

The field-training module **must** be conducted as an integral part of the entry-level course. Experience with the first edition of this manual (August 1992) has shown that when instructors omit this module from the course curriculum, the on-field performance of referees and assistant referees suffers badly and referee morale suffers. This results in a lower rate of retention and a waste of training and individual time.

This course was originally prepared by a committee of instructors under the guidance of Dr. Bill Blokker of the Professional Development Institute of Everett, Washington, and the chairmanship of Jim Allen. Contributors in word and deed were Tom Lewis, John Varas, Larry Fredella, Harry Baldwin, Chuck Acocello, Don Dennison, Bob Wertz, Michele Boyd, Bob Evans, Ulrich Strom, Dave McKee, Don Byron, Larry Bernard, and Gil McCallister, as well as Mike Flint, Dave Slutzker, and Keith Hageman. The suggestions and comments of numerous are deeply and sincerely appreciated.

The revised version was prepared by Jim Allen, with the help of Tom Kennedy and Mike Goblet.

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