

Lafayette Referee Association

BY-Laws

- Section 1 Introduction
- Section 2 Seniority System
- Section 3. Match Assignments
- Section 4. Discipline
- Section 5. Pack Systems
- Section 6. Amendments and Additions

Section 1. Introduction

- A. In an effort to maintain consistency from season to season and Administration to Administration, the following BY-LAWS for the Lafayette Referee's Association have been implemented effective with the 1985 Soccer season.
- B. The Intent of the BY-LAWS rather than letter of the BY-LAWS shall prevail.
- C. The primary goal of this Association shall be to provide referee's for all match requests and dependant upon availability of the Referee's; these BY-LAWS can be super ceded if the assignment process cannot be met due to a shortage of referee's.

Section 2. Seniority System

1. Senior Referee

- A. Qualifications as the Senior Referee are an internal process of the Lafayette Referee's Association and are not to be confused with any class designation of the USSF or any other Referee Association.
- B. The Senior Referee is the referee that has exhibited sufficient knowledge of the laws and has demonstrated the ability to properly interpret the laws in a match situation.
- C. Senior Referee's can be assigned to any level of competition.
- D. Qualification requirements are any one of the following:
 - 1. USSF class # 1 or higher.
 - 2. Field assessment done by the Training Chairman or designee with a minimum of 1 center and 1 linesman in the adult league.
 - 3. Minimum of 25 centers, of which 10 are at level U-14 or above. A field assessment by the Training Chairman or designee of a center level U-16 or above and linesman at level U-16 or above.
 - 4. USSF field assessment by a licensed assessor may be used in lieu of an internal assessment.

2. Junior Referee

- A. Any licensed USSF Referee who has not met the requirements of a Senior Referee.
- B. Must complete one year of assignments as a Linesman in competitive matches. Junior Referee's can be assigned to any match except High School or Adults (unless upgrading).
- C. If there is a shortage of Referee's available for approved games, a Junior Referee can be used in the Adult League. A Junior Referee should not be used in any capacity for High School.

3. Associate Referee

- A. Holds current USSF Associate Referee License.
- B. Associate Referee's can be assigned as a Linesman in any youth match.
- C. Associate Referee's are assigned after Junior Referee's.

4. Downgrading

- A. A Senior Referee may be downgraded for any one of the following reasons:
 - 1. A request to be excluded from a competition level other than conflicts of time impairment will be considered as a request for downgrading.
 - 2. The Executive Board may downgrade in the case of disciplinary action.
 - 3. A Senior Referee who does not meet the minimum season match requirement per the Constitution is automatically downgraded to a Junior Referee.
 - 4. Once downgraded, the official will be required to repeat and satisfy all of the requirements to achieve the next higher level.

Section 3

Match Assignments

1. Adult Competition

- A. Senior and Junior Referee's requesting assessment for Senior Referee status will be assigned to center referee in these matches.
- B. Senior and Junior Referee's may be assigned as linesmen in adult matches.

2. High School Competition

- A. Only Senior Referee's will be assigned to High School competition.

3. Youth Competition

- A. Senior and/or Junior Referee's may be assigned as centers. In the event of an uncovered match, a Junior or Associate Referee may be used.
- B. Senior and/or Junior Referee's may serve as linesmen for all levels of competition. Associate Referee's can be used in at the U-14 level and below.

4. Playoff Matches Youth Level

- A. All center Referee's will be Senior Referee's, if there is an uncovered match a Junior Referee can be used, provided they are 19 years of age.
- B. When and wherever possible, Senior Referee's will be used as linesmen. If a match is uncovered a Junior Referee can be used, age is not a factor.

5. State Tournaments

- A. All center Referee's will be Senior Referee's.
- B. When and wherever possible, Senior Referee's will be used as linesmen. If a match is uncovered a Junior Referee can be used, age is not a factor.

6. Conflicts

- A. It is the responsibility of the referee to maintain an impartial presence while conducting the business of officiating. Therefore any Referee's assigned to a match which poses a conflict, such as the following:
 1. Child playing on the team, all matches in that division.
 2. Coach of a team, all matches in that division.
 3. League Commissioner, all matches in that division.
 4. Referee's who are not two (2) years older than the players.
 5. Any other conflicts where the Referee's feels reluctant to carry out the officiating duties.

Section 4

Discipline

1. The total authority granted the Referee in a match places the responsibility for referee discipline upon the Referee Association. The Referee Association has sole responsibility for assigning referee's to approved matches.
2. Disciplinary hearings are held for Referee's and also to protect Referee's and the Lafayette Referee's Association.
3. Reports of assault or abuse by a Referee, require immediate investigation by the President. If the President determines that an assault or abuse did occur; the Referee will be suspended from any officiating until a disciplinary hearing is held. A report of this incident will be filed with the State Referee Association.
4. Formal written complaints with merit can result in center suspension until a disciplinary hearing is conducted:
 - A. The President along with one other member of the Executive Committee will decide if a complaint has merit.
 - B. Every effort will be made to conduct the hearing as soon as possible.
 - C. The President, with 100% agreement of the Executive Committee may center suspension, but cannot waive the hearing.
5. Disciplinary can only be administered after a disciplinary hearing and only with a majority vote. The President votes only in the case of a tie.
 1. A written report of the match or incident is required from the Referee.
 2. The Referee in question is not required to be present or to be questioned, unless a total suspension or downgrading from Senior status is contemplated. If there is a hearing for an incident that in anyway involves a Referee, the Referee must be notified of the hearing, but does not have to be present.
 3. If a temporary suspension has been issued and at the time the Referee was not present at the hearing where suspension or downgrading was discussed; that suspension will remain in effect until another meeting is held, with the Referee present to answer questions.
6. Actions that require a disciplinary hearing:
 1. Formal written complaints with merit.
 2. Upheld protests which implicate a referee as being primarily at fault.
 3. Ejection from a match as a player and / or coach.
 4. Assault or abuse.

5. Two written complaints from more than one match.
6. Request by any Referee with two Executive Committee members concurrence.
7. Types of disciplinary action:
 1. Total suspension.
 2. Partial suspension.
 3. Forfeiture of match fees.
 4. Donation of future match fees.
 5. Retesting.
 6. Additional Training (Referee Clinic or Specific Training Session)
 7. Downgrading from Senior status.
 8. Match assignment restriction (Linesman only, Age group, Division)
8. The President will request match reports from the Referee's assigned to the match and any Referee's that were spectators, to assist in decisions and to answer questions from Playing Associations.
9. The President or appointed Representative will represent any Referee at any Playing Association or meeting affecting the Referee. All discipline and investigations are to be handled by the Lafayette Referee's Association and not by the Playing Association, as far as the referee is concerned.
10. Disciplinary action administered by a Playing Association to a member of Lafayette Referee's Association, while participating as a player, coach, or spectator, will be upheld by this association unless specifically requested otherwise by the responsible Playing Association.

Section 5 Pack Systems

1. To facilitate the scheduling and administrative process, a Pack system will be used.
 - A. The determination of Packs will be made each Season by the Executive Committee.
 - B. Scheduling is the responsibility of the appropriate Assignor and may be delegated to Pack leaders.
2. Pack leaders are representative of the Executive Committee and are to uphold the esteem set forth by the Lafayette Referee's Association.
3. Pack leaders have administrative and possibly scheduling function authority only over Referee's.

Section 6 Amendments

1. Amendments to the By-Laws can be submitted by any Referee in good standing with the Association.
2. Amendments will be written up and available for all to review.
3. During the season, the process will be accomplished by distribution at the regular meeting, with a vote being held at the following meeting.
4. During the off season, the process will be a mail out or email with a meeting set for the purpose of taking a vote.

