

# OREGON REFEREE COMMITTEE

## Everything You Wanted to Know About Affiliated Soccer, And More!

When you pass the written test at the conclusion of your entry-level referee class, you're registered as a referee with the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and you have your USSF referee badge. Now you can referee any soccer game, right? Actually, it's a little more complicated than that.

### Affiliated Soccer

The Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA) and the Oregon Adult Soccer Association (OASA) are state associations affiliated with USSF. You can proudly wear your USSF referee badge at all games conducted by OYSA and OASA and their respective leagues and clubs. Doing those games is why you got that badge!

As part of your registration as a USSF referee, you are covered by a national liability insurance policy in case someone decides to sue everyone involved in a particular game, including the referees. This is an excellent protection for referees which comes with doing affiliated games.

### High School and College Soccer – Betwixt and Between

High school and college soccer games are played using slightly different rule books prepared by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Those organizations each require a separate referee registration process. If you're interested in refereeing high school or college soccer games in Oregon, you should contact the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) or the Oregon Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (OISOA).

Although national high school and college associations are affiliated with USSF, high school and college games themselves are ***not*** affiliated. That means, of course, that you never should wear your USSF badge at a high school or college game. Also, your USSF liability insurance won't apply to high school and college games.

## **Completely Unaffiliated Soccer**

There are some youth and adult amateur leagues and tournaments in Oregon which aren't affiliated in any way with USSF. In addition, no indoor soccer center in Oregon is affiliated with USSF.

## **Why All This Stuff Is So Important**

USSF and the Oregon Referee Committee don't prohibit USSF referees from doing games that aren't affiliated with USSF, whether they are high school, college or completely unaffiliated indoor or outdoor youth or adult amateur games. In fact, the Oregon Referee Committee encourages you to offer your services for high school and college games. ***The bottom line is that no matter what unaffiliated games you do, you also should continue to make yourself available for a reasonable number of USSF games as well.***

However, USSF referees need to remember that the liability insurance they receive as USSF referees does ***not*** extend to unaffiliated games, including high school and college games. Unaffiliated associations, leagues, tournaments and indoor centers may provide liability insurance to their referees, but don't count on it. You should carefully investigate your insurance coverage before refereeing any soccer game not affiliated with USSF.

And, if you hope to upgrade your USSF referee registration some day, you need to know that:

- ***No*** high school, college or other unaffiliated games can be used to help meet the game count required for your USSF upgrade.
- ***No*** assessments of your performance during high school, college or other unaffiliated games can be used for purposes of USSF promotion.

## **About Those USSF Badges**

***USSF referee badges are only to be worn in USSF-affiliated games.*** Wearing them for other games is inappropriate and may mislead players, coaches and spectators into believing that a game is affiliated with USSF.

If you have questions about anything raised in this paper, please consult the SRA.