



USPSA Referee Administrative Handbook 2015



Introduction

This publication is meant to be used as a guide to the administrative processes of the U.S. Power Soccer Association (USPSA) Referee Program. It contains information about policies, by-laws and requirements that affect all referees. Of importance are the various recertifying and upgrade requirements should any referee wish to consider moving to a different grade. Although you can contact our office at any time should you have a question, many questions can or should be addressed by the Regional Referee Administrator who may be more familiar with certain local procedures and protocols. If you do not know how to contact the Regional Referee Administrator in your area, contact a member of the USPSA Officials Committee or USPSA Executive Committee listed on our web site, **www.powersoccerusa.net**.

Notice Regarding Updates to This Handbook

Note: The information contained in this book was updated in November 2014. Any policy or procedure changes approved by the USPSA Executive Committee or USPSA Officials Committee after that time will not be included. To find the most up-to-date information and any changes to the contents of this book, please check the download page on our web site, **www.powersoccerusa.net**.

**United States Power Soccer Association
Indianapolis, Indiana**

www.powersoccerusa.net

THE REFEREE COMMITMENT

The United States Power Soccer Association (USPSA) Program for Referee Development, through the involvement of each referee, is recognized by players, coaches and administrators as a program which consistently provides excellence in officiating and displays the highest level of professionalism through service and dedication.

To accomplish this, I, as a referee, am committed to:

1. Officiating matches in a fair and safe manner that ensures player and spectator enjoyment.
2. Maintaining my physical fitness for peak performance.
3. Faithfully keeping all appointments assigned to and accepted by me.
4. Supporting my fellow officials with loyalty, pride and dignity.
5. Conducting myself in a way to be ethically and morally beyond reproach.
6. Granting players and coaches dignity and self-respect.
7. Contributing to the overall development of the National Program for Referee Development.
8. Remaining committed to continuous learning and an improvement process that enables me to perform to my full potential.

"The problem with referees is that they just don't care which side wins."

- Tom Canterbury, US college basketball player

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	Back of cover
The Referee Commitment	i
History of the Game	v
USSF Letter to USPSA	vii
 I. GENERAL PROVISIONS	 1
A. Introduction	1
B. Scope	1
C. Referee Program Mission	1
D. Standards of Conduct	1
E. Code of Ethics and Conduct for Referees	1
 II. ORGANIZATION OF USPSA REFEREE PROGRAMS	 2
A. General	2
B. Deputy Vice President	3
C. National Supervisor of Officials	3
D. Officials Committee	4
E. Regional Referee Coordinators	
 III. THE REFEREES	 5
A. Introduction	5
B. Grades	6
C. Registration	6
D. Unauthorized Disclosure of List of Referees	8
E. Assignments	8
F. Referee Administration	8
 IV. REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS	 10
A. Introduction	10
B. Objective	10
C. Referee Training and Instruction Program	11
D. Referee Assessment Program	14
 V. POLICIES	 16
A. System of Officiating	16
B. Unaffiliated Matches	16
C. Referees with Potential Conflicts of Interest	17
D. Referees Traveling Out of the United States	17
E. Guidelines for Contact with Media and Team Officials	17
F. Game Priority in Referee Appointments	18
 VI. DISCIPLINE	 19
A. Misconduct Toward Game Officials	19
B. Misconduct of Game Officials	21
C. Guidelines for Referees	22

VI. FINAL PROVISIONS	22
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APPENDICES	
A. REFERENCES	23
B. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS	25
C. USPSA ASSESSMENT FORM	27
D. USPSA REFEREE REPORT	29

History of the Game

Powerchair football has been played around the world in various forms for about 30 years. During the 1970's, some imaginative teachers in France created a particular form of powerchair football that severely physically disabled students at a residential school could play. This form of the game involved an old basketball and 'boards' along the sides of the court. They adapted and adjusted their sport until it grew into a highly competitive conference of about 30 teams in 3 divisions with many tournaments leading up to National Competitions.

Meanwhile, in 1982 some energetic Canadian power wheelchair users in British Columbia developed another form of powerchair football. In 1988, the first game of powerchair football was played in United States in Berkeley, California, however, this form of powerchair football allowed blocking and was more reminiscent of rugby. The Japanese were also concurrently developing the sport to fit their needs and their version of the sport was subsequently adopted in England.

During the next 20 years, the various forms of powerchair football were played without the different countries being aware of each other's endeavors – each style of play being very different from the others. In 2004, a US powerchair football coach, David Ruelas, visited Belgium on vacation and discovered the European form of the game. He then made contact with Herve Delattre, the Director of Powerchair Football in France. Through their discussions, the first possibility was raised about developing powerchair football into an international sport. In January 2005, 24 representatives from seven countries (France, US, Canada, Japan, England, Belgium, and Portugal) met in Le Chesnay, France, to discuss the possibility of internationalizing power soccer. They laid the groundwork for the formation of the International Powerchair Football Association (IPFA). The object of IPFA was to provide general support and the administrative body for the regulation and promotion of powerchair football. At the same time, plans were made to merge the 3 main styles of the game into one standardized international format.

In October 2005, representatives from the same seven countries met in Coimbra, Portugal. Teams from France, Japan, England, and the USA demonstrated their rules and styles of play to the rest of the delegations. Long discussions resulted in a decision to use the English set of rules as the initial basis for a standardized set of international Laws of the Game.

During the next 9 months, points of law were discussed, debated, and changed. In July 2006, teams from Canada, Denmark, England, France, Japan, and the US, as well as delegates from Portugal, Turkey, and South Korea, met in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and approved a standardized Laws of the Game and formally established an international governing body, the Fédération Internationale de Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA).

FIPFA is a legal organization headquartered in Paris, France, and the first annual Congress was held there in April 2007.

In October 2007, the inaugural World Cup of Powerchair Football was played in Tokyo, Japan. The championship game was played through two overtimes and six rounds of kicks from the penalty mark before the United States upset France to win the first World Cup.

In November 2008, the European Powerchair Football Association (EPFA) held the first European Powerchampions League Cup in Douai, France. Teams from France, England, and Denmark competed for this first-ever European Championship.

In October 2009, the Powerchair Football Conference of the Americas (PFCA) held the first Americas Championship Cup (ACC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The ACC is played by the top club teams in the Americas Zone.

In November 2011, the US again won the FIPFA World Cup, this time in Paris, France, beating England in the final.

In June 2014, PFCA hosted the first national powersoccer team tournament in the American hemisphere. The US national team traveled to Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, where they dominated in this inaugural event.

Object of the Game

The game is played by two teams of differently-abled athletes using special footguards attached to powered wheelchairs as ‘feet’ to kick a large ball. The object of the game is to maneuver the ball over the goal line of an opposing team while preventing them from doing the same.

A formal classification system for levels of play is still under development. Contact the Fédération Internationale of Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA) for further information.

Male and Female

References to the male gender in this handbook with respect to referees, assistant referees, players and officials are for simplification and apply to both males and females.

The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) supports the officials of the United States Power Soccer Association (USPSA):



February 16, 2009

Mr. Dominic Russo
President, USPSA
P.O. Box 1181
Carmel, IN 46032

Dear Dominic,

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the United States Power Soccer Association ("USPSA") is a member in good standing with U.S. Soccer Federation, and also to confirm the support of the U.S. Soccer referee department for your efforts to solicit and train referees for USPSA's programs.

We understand that USPSA is currently attempting to recruit new referees to officiate power soccer games, including some referees currently registered with U.S. Soccer. U.S. Soccer strongly supports your efforts, and would encourage referees to consider this opportunity. To the extent any USSF referee has questions about the impact of participation with USPSA on their status with USSF, they should be assured that officiating USPSA games will have no adverse impact on their registration with USSF.

If there are specific referees or other administrators who have any concerns about this issue, please feel free to tell them to call me. My direct line is 312-528-1237. You should also feel free to share this letter with them.

Please let us know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Tamberino', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Tamberino
Director of Referee Development

cc: Tim Pinto

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I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. **Introduction.** These regulations describe the organization and administration of refereeing in the United States Power Soccer Association (USPSA). The contents of this booklet are intended to assist USPSA clubs and Match Officials with their respective duties and responsibilities. USPSA reserves the right to monitor the implementation procedure for these regulations.

B. **Scope.** These regulations apply to all USPSA referees.

C. **Referee Program Mission.** The USPSA Referee Development Program is a service organization of integrity dedicated to all referees, whose purpose is to ensure the development of USPSA Referees in terms of quality and quantity through achieving excellence in governance, education and administration. The program shall work in the interests of all its members and to service the game at every level of competition.

D. Standards of Conduct

1. Purpose. To define general guidelines to determine whether members of the Referee Development Program act within acceptable limits so far as ethical conduct or conflict of interest are reflected in their conduct as soccer officials and members of USPSA.
2. Policy. Membership as a privilege offered and granted to individuals who perform capably as USPSA administrators, referees, referee assignors, referee instructors and referee assessors during USPSA sanctioned activities. It carries with it an obligation for each individual member to uphold and promote the stated goals and objectives of the Association and do nothing to bring the Association into disrepute or work against its goals and objectives. Any conduct which is considered unethical or as a conflict of interest shall be subject to possible disciplinary actions.

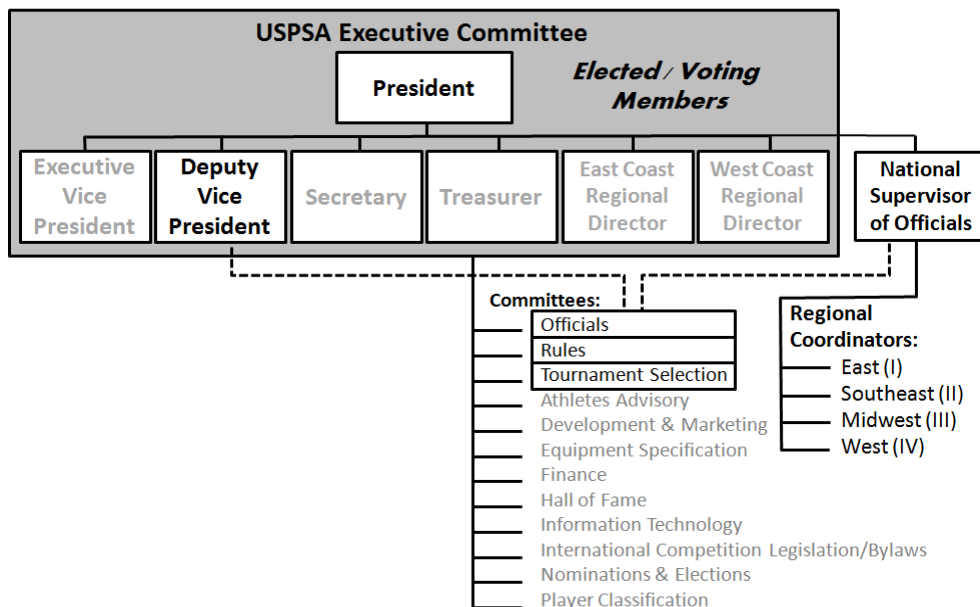
E. Codes of Ethics and Conduct for Referees

1. **Code of Ethics.** The code of ethics, “The Referee Commitment”, for USPSA referees is listed on page i of these regulations.
2. **Code of Conduct**
 - a. To maintain and enhance the reputation of USPSA and the sport of power soccer as a whole, it is essential that everyone involved in the sport behave in an appropriate manner. USPSA expects officials to abide by the code of conduct. If someone is believed to have contravened the code, this should be reported to a member of the USPSA Officials Committee or the Executive Committee (see www.powersoccerusa.net).
 - b. Accepting a position as an official is an important responsibility, which must be exercised according to the following Code of Conduct:
 - 1) Always remember the sport is for the athletes.
 - 2) Ensure that you are mentally and physically ready as an official, limit your consumption of alcohol and get a good night sleep before you officiate or participate.
 - 3) Always check the schedule and arrive at the venue on time, be well prepared. Always check the game, match or competition schedule and be ready for your next appearance.
 - 4) Be up to date on all management regulations, profiles, protest rules, classification and sports rules, and help other officials do the same.

- 5) Respect other officials and their decisions, and do not publicly criticize other officials.
- 6) Stay calm when confronted with emotional reactions of players, coaches, parents or spectators.
- 7) Always be fair and impartial, declare spontaneously any conflict of interest.
- 8) Always speak to athletes in an appropriate manner and ensure the athlete fully understands.
- 9) Make your decisions with confidence and in the best interest of the sport.
- 10) Conduct your business in a manner that will provide a positive experience for all athletes, coaches, and partners.
- 11) Control the game in a manner that will provide a positive experience for all players.
- 12) Do not use foul language or rude gestures.
- 13) Wear the uniform as prescribed by USPSA.
- 14) Respect the rules and regulations as set by the tournament or team host.
- 15) Officials are privileged to have regular contact with athletes, coaches and team members from all over the country and the world, but should always remain impartial.
- 16) When attending competitions outside the US, ensure that you are aware of the laws, differences in culture and habits of the country you are visiting. Be aware of cultural differences and behaviors, including use of appropriate language and gesture.

II. ORGANIZATION OF USPSA REFEREE PROGRAMS

- A. **General.** The organization of referees under USPSA resides under the USPSA President with input from the Deputy Vice President. It includes the National Supervisor of Officials and the Officials Committee. In addition, the Officials Committee makes recommendations to the Tournament Selection Committee and members sit on the Rules Committee.



- B. **Deputy Vice President.** The Deputy Vice President oversees the general operations of Power Soccer played in the United States, and works with the President to ensure the game is played with the highest standards possible as determined by the Executive Committee, set forth in the USPSA Constitution and Bylaws and the international rules and regulations. The Deputy Vice President shall:

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- a. Perform duties as the President may elect.
 - b. Oversee the training of Power Soccer players, coaches, and referees.
 - c. Serve on the Officials Committee.
 - d. Develop teaching and support resources to enhance efforts of teams and coaches to ensure that Power Soccer is played at the highest degree of sportsmanship.
 - e. Facilitate efforts of new and existing coaches, teams, and referees to develop and enhance their skill and constantly seek to enhance the level of play.
 - f. Oversee the training, evaluating, and ranking of all referees to develop and maintain consistency in how the game is played.
 - g. In the absence of the Treasurer, perform the functions of that office with the same duties and powers.

C. National Supervisor of Officials. The Supervisor of Officials is appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee to serve in two year term increments. The Supervisor assists the Deputy Vice President and the USPSA Executive Committee in the general oversight of the training and supervision of the USPSA referee corps. The Supervisor shall be an experienced senior referee with the responsibility to:

- a. Perform duties as the President and Deputy Vice President may elect.
- b. Chair the Officials Committee.
- c. Serve as a liaison between game officials and USPSA teams and players.
- d. Coordinate and oversee the training, certification, annual recertification, and development of power soccer referees.
- e. Organize courses for referees, referee instructors and referee assessors.
- f. Prepare and produce teaching materials in line with USPSA's most current Laws of the Game.
- g. Facilitate efforts of new and existing referees to develop and enhance their skill and constantly seek to improve their ability to officiate at higher levels of play.
- h. Coordinate the evaluating and ranking of all referees to develop and maintain consistency in how the game is played.
- i. Assist the Tournament Selection Committee in the selection and assignment of officials for postseason play.
- j. Maintain a database of all USPSA certified officials and their contact information.
- k. Make recommendations for the appointment of regional referee coordinators, referee assessors, and referee instructors.
- l. Nominate referees for appointments to the International List of Referees and for assignment to international matches.
- m. Oversee the discipline of officials as required.
- n. Report regularly on referee activities to the President and Executive Committee either directly or through the Deputy Vice President.

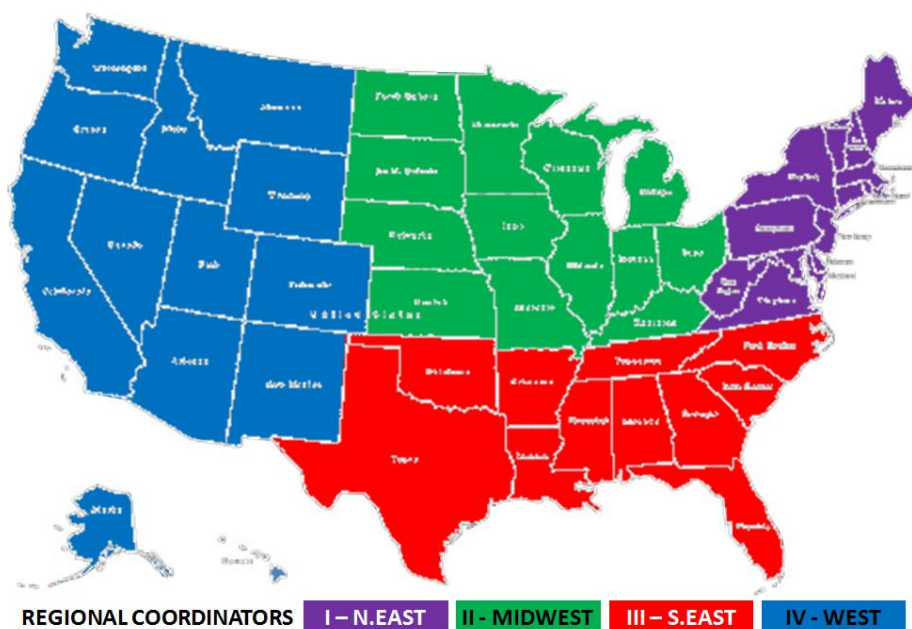
D. Officials Committee. Chaired by the Supervisor of Officials. The Officials Committee shall:

- a. Include representation by coaches, players and officials.
- b. Serve as a liaison between game officials and USPSA teams and players, working in concert with the President.
- c. Have the responsibility to oversee the following areas:
 - 1) Official training and development.
 - 2) Official certification and annual examination.
 - 3) Official discipline.

- d. Assist the Tournament Selection Committee in the selection and assignment of officials for postseason play.
- e. Provide recommendations to improve the laws of the game to the Rules Committee.
- f. Maintain a database of all USPSA certified officials and their contact information.

E. Regional Referee Coordinators. Regional Coordinators of Officials will be nominated by the Supervisor of Officials and approved by the Officials Committee. There are four regions within USPSA's jurisdiction (see below). The Regional Coordinators assist the National Supervisor and the Deputy Vice President in the general oversight of the training and supervision of the USPSA referees in their respective regions. The Regional Coordinators shall be experienced senior referees with the responsibility to:

- a. Perform duties as the National Supervisor of Officials and the Deputy Vice President may elect.
- b. Serve as a liaison between game officials and regional teams and players.
- c. Identify and nominate referees for USPSA certification.
- d. Organize local training courses for referees.
- e. Make recommendations for the assignment of USPSA referees to regular season matches in their regions.
- f. Coordinate the evaluation and ranking of all referees to develop and maintain consistency in how the game is officiated.
- g. Oversee the discipline of officials as required.
- h. Report regularly on referee activities to the Officials Committee either directly or through the Deputy Vice President and/or National Supervisor.



REGION I, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, New
EAST Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia,
 Washington DC, West Virginia

REGION II, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri,
MIDWEST Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

REGION III, SOUTHEAST Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas

REGION IV, WEST Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

III. THE REFEREES

- A. **Introduction.** The grade and title of a power soccer official will be determined solely by the standards and examinations issued by USPSA. Annual re-examination is required. A referee must officiate at the next-higher level to accumulate experience to be certified competent at that level. Assignors must exercise care to increase the difficulty level of the game assignments in a gradual and orderly manner for the good of the official and of the players.
- B. **Grades.** There are four grades of USPSA accreditation for power soccer referees:

1. Entry Level Grades

Criteria	Grade 4 Assistant Referee	Grade 3 Referee
Minimum Age	13 (or per state law)	17
Nomination	Met pre-requisites set by USPSA	Met pre-requisites set by USPSA
Experience – minimum cumulative career matches at designated level	Assistant Referee: 10 (club level)	Referee: 10 (club level) Assistant Referee: 10
Time in Present Grade	12 months	12 months
Training Course Requirements	Successful completion of a referee course led by a USPSA Referee Instructor	Successful completion of a referee course led by a USPSA Referee Instructor
Written Examination	70% minimum score on USPSA Referee Exam	75% minimum score on USPSA Referee Exam
Field Assessment	Not required but recommended that new referees be observed in at least one of their first 10 matches	Successful completion of a formal assessment as a center referee at a regional competition

Advanced Level Grades

Criteria	Grade 2 Regional Referee	Grade 1 National Referee
Minimum Age	19	21
Nomination	Nominated by Regional Coordinator to USPSA referee clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant experience in USPSA and/or USSF refereeing • An above normal understanding of the Laws of the Game and competition regulations • Proven leadership capabilities and the ability to provide direction for and supervision of the referees at a USPSA sanctioned event • Willingness to assist in the education process as either an instructor or assessor of referees
Experience – minimum cumulative career matches at designated level	Referee: 10 (regional level) Assistant Referee: 20 To be defined	Referee: 20 (National level) Assistant Referee: 30 To be defined
Time in Present Grade	12 months	12 months
Training Course Requirements	Successful completion of a referee course led by a USPSA Referee Instructor	Successful completion of a referee course led by a USPSA Referee Instructor
Written Examination	80% minimum score on USPSA Referee Exam	95% minimum score on USPSA Referee Exam
Field Assessment	Successful completion of two formal assessments at a USPSA sanctioned regional competition (s) as a center referee	Successful completion of two formal assessments at USPSA sanctioned national competition (s) as center referee

2. **Waivers.** The criteria for a grade may be waived in specific cases by the approval of the USPSA Officials Committee.

C. Registration

- All referees must register annually with USPSA and must meet the following minimum requirements:
 - Successful completion of a written test on their technical knowledge of USPSA's most current Laws of the Game in accordance with the requirements of his/her grade (see Section III.B above.)
 - Register with USPSA via the on-line website as well as acknowledge the Code of Conduct, and Waiver/Liability Release Form. Referees must also purchase liability insurance

(through USPSA, National Association of Sports Officials (NASO), etc.) before they will be assigned to any power soccer matches. Grade 1-4 referees will receive a USPSA badge.

2. **Minimum Game Requirements.** Each referee should make every effort to work the minimum number of games required to maintain their respective referee grade. Referees must maintain a record of their club, regional, and national activities, attend workshops and rules update clinics, and attend meetings of referees at competitions and events as directed by the Supervisor of Officials or Regional Coordinators. Referees must annually submit a record of matches officiated and training attended during the playing year (1 August-31 July) to the USPSA Officials Committee by 1 September.
3. **Promotion and demotion of Referees**
 - a. The criteria for the promotion and demotion of referees must be approved by the Officials Committee.
 - b. At the end of each season, the National Supervisor of Officials, assisted by the Regional Coordinators and Referee Assessors, shall prepare a ranking of the referees in each category and subcategory based on the marks given by the Assessors.
 - c. USPSA's Officials Committee shall identify referees for promotion every season and any who should be downgraded.
 - d. The Officials Committee shall nominate referees to FIPFA for promotion to the International List and any US referees who should be downgraded.
4. **Promotion.** Referees seeking to upgrade must do the following:
 - a. From Grade 4 to Grade 3:
 - 1) Announce his/her candidacy by submitting a recommendation letter from the Regional Referee Coordinator to the Chair of USPSA's Officials Committee.
 - 2) Attend any required clinics specified by USPSA and pass the written test.
 - 3) Fulfill the assessment requirements within the designated time frame.
 - b. From Grade 3 to 2, or Grade 2 to 1:
 - 1) Announce his/her candidacy by submitting a letter to the Chair of USPSA's Officials Committee.
 - 2) Attend any required clinics specified by USPSA and pass the written test.
 - 3) Fulfill the assessment requirements within the designated time frame.
5. **Demotion of a Referee.** A referee may be downgraded if the referee fails to meet any of the criteria for the grade he/she holds. A referee can only be registered at the level where the criteria of a particular grade are met. If a referee is downgraded, he/she does not have to spend a year in the lower grade but may be reinstated at the higher grade whenever he/she has met the standard for that grade.
6. **Emeritus Referee**
 - a. The purpose of the emeritus grade is to retire from the highest level the referee has attained. It may not be used to circumvent the testing and registration procedures of USPSA.
 - b. The emeritus grade allows a Grade 1-2 Referee the option of retiring from those levels of officiating while retaining that grade and continuing to referee at a lower level.
 - c. To become an Emeritus Referee, the official must submit a personal letter of intent to the Officials Committee who will initiate the appropriate paperwork. The referee must have held the grade for a minimum of three years prior to the request. (The three years do not have to

be consecutive or immediately preceding the request for emeritus status – but at anytime in the referee’s career.)

- d. An Emeritus Referee may reinstate as an active referee at the level the official retired from once all the criteria for the grade has been met.

7. Honorary Grade

- 1) A referee who retires from officiating completely may retain the highest grade attained as an honorary grade.
- 2) To become an honorary grade referee, the official must submit a personal letter of intent to the Officials Committee who will initiate the appropriate paper work.
- 3) There are no time in grade requirements to be eligible for this grade. Honorary referees are no longer certified to officiate in any match.

8. **International Referees.** Referees certified by FIPFA and in good standing are eligible to officiate any and all USPSA sanctioned matches.

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- D. **Unauthorized disclosure of the list of registered referees.** The list of registered USPSA referees will not be made available to anyone else (including soccer related businesses).

E. Assignments

1. Referees shall be assigned to matches that correspond to their level of skill and experience, in the context of a planned process.
2. Referees shall be appointed in adequate time before the match or event in question, thus allowing sufficient time for them to prepare, save in exceptional situations that are duly justified.
3. **Registration Required Prior to Assignment.** No one shall officiate as a referee or assistant referee in any match under the sanction or jurisdiction (direct or indirect) of USPSA who is not registered with the association for the current year unless that person is a visiting foreign referee who has been properly accredited by his or her national organization of powerchair football (NOPF).
4. **Use of Club Linesmen.** When neutral assistant referees are not assigned or fail to appear for a match as assigned, the match referee may seek the assistance of club linesmen whose duties shall be as delegated to them by the referee.

F. Referee Administration

1. Referee Uniform

- a. The official uniform for referees working USPSA competitions shall be identical with those of the United States Soccer Federation.

Standards of Dress and Appearance Official USPSA Referee Uniform



GOLD SHIRT: with black pinstripes (long or short sleeve)

ONE BADGE ONLY: USPSA (PFCA or FIPFA, if the referee is on the international list.) Securely fastened to shirt over left chest.

BLACK COLLAR BLACK CUFF: (on long sleeve shirt only) (no cuffs on short sleeves)

BLACK SHORTS: Bottom edge of shorts not less than 3 inches nor more than 7 above the top of the knee-cap.

BLACK SOCKS: with 3 stripes or Official Sports logo.



BLACK SHOES: (may have manufacturers design) with black laces

Alternate Referee Uniforms

The following four shirts have been approved by USPSA as alternates that can be worn in case of color conflict. There is no order of preference among the alternate jerseys. The other parts of the referee uniform (shorts, socks, shoes) do not change if the referee wears an alternate shirt.



BLACK SHIRT with, **BLACK COLLAR**, and **BLACK CUFFS** (on long sleeve shirts only).

RED SHIRT with, **BLACK COLLAR**, and **BLACK CUFFS** (on long sleeve shirts only).

BLUE SHIRT with, **BLACK COLLAR**, and **BLACK CUFFS** (on long sleeve shirts only).

GREEN SHIRT with, **BLACK COLLAR**, and **BLACK CUFFS** (on long sleeve shirts only).

Logos, Emblems and Badges: Only manufacturer's logos and USPSA/PFCA/FIPFA approved badges and/or emblems may be visible on the referee uniform.

b. Referee Badge

- 1) Grade 1-4 referees will wear the USPSA referee badge.
- 2) FIPFA referees are entitled to wear the FIPFA referee badge.

c. **Standards of Dress for Off Field Duties of Referees, Instructors and Assessors.**

- 1) Referees, instructors and assessors are official and visible representatives of USPSA. The first impression of the organization is the one that they provide, on and off the field. *“Is the referee program of USPSA administered by competent professionals, or is it the casual product of poorly trained amateurs?”*
- 2) The following standards of dress and appearance are intended for referees traveling to and from a match, for the referee instructor while teaching any course or clinic, and for the referee assessor while evaluating or assessing a referee performance:



- (a) Always acceptable for men: Navy blue blazer and khaki slacks with collared white shirt with or without tie; for women, two piece suit or equivalent; leather shoes.
 - (b) Also approved for referees traveling to and from assignments, are neatly pressed slacks, skirt or dress slacks for women, and a short or long sleeved knit shirt with USPSA, PFCA, or FIPFA logo. For extended travel, a well kept warm up suit with USPSA or FIPFA emblem and sports shirt is acceptable.
 - (c) Always acceptable, especially while observing a match or demonstration or teaching on the field: Well kept warm up suit with USPSA, PFCA, or FIPFA emblem and sports shirt is acceptable.
 - (d) Acceptable, especially while evaluating or assessing the performance of a referee: A neat and clean appearance with appropriate dress that does not call attention to oneself.
 - (e) Acceptable, especially in summer: Slacks or well kept warm up suit bottoms, sports shirt with USPSA, PFCA, or FIPFA logo.
2. **Referee Authority.** The referee’s authority begins upon arrival at the venue and does not end till departure from the venue. The referee shall have the power to decide as to the fitness and safety of the facility in all matches.
5. **Evaluation of Referees’ performances**
- a. The Regional Coordinators of Officials shall establish a referee assessment program to analyze the performance of referees in matches in their category. An assessor report template is also included in Appendix D.
 - b. All records are the property of USPSA and will be kept by the Officials Committee for further reference in the long term.
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IV. REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

- A. **Introduction.** The USPSA referee development program consists of two distinct elements: Referee Instruction and Training, and Referee Assessments.
- B. **Objectives.** The refereeing development program has the following objectives:
1. To develop and improve the performance of registered Referees in all matches under the auspices of USPSA, thus improving standards at all levels

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2. To ensure uniform interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game
 3. To offer support and programs adapted to the needs of each Referee and each Grade.
 4. To increase the number of power soccer Referees.
 5. To develop the Referee Instructor and Referee Assessor programs.
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C. **REFEREE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

1. **General.** The USPSA Referee Training and Instruction is designed to develop the highest level of competency possible among all Referees. This development is implemented through a series of training modules and materials relevant to soccer officiating. USPSA organizes referee clinics in each of the regions with assistance from the Regional Coordinators of Officials. USPSA also organizes National training clinics in conjunction with the different cup tournaments. Occasionally, FIPFA holds clinics for the development of refereeing.
2. **Activities for the education of Referees**
 - a. USPSA shall organize the following activities (programs, courses, meetings, seminars or different activities):
 - 1) Annual refresher courses and regular seminars for referees
 - 2) Programs for talented and promising referees
 - 3) Programs for Referee Instructors
 - 4) Programs for Referee Assessors.
 - b. Each Regional Coordinator shall organize the following activities (programs, courses, meetings, seminars or different activities):
 - 1) Annual refresher courses and regular seminars for Grade 4 Assistant Referees
 - 2) Programs for talented and promising referees
3. **Description.** The instructional and training aspect of referee development comprises of two segments, the first of which is designed to help candidates reach the next higher level through a series of Entry Level and Upgrading Courses. The second segment is designed to help referees maintain and improve their refereeing competency through In-Service Training (Clinics).
 - a. Each of these two segments contains six categories of expertise:
 - 1) **Laws of the Game:** To elevate the competency of the referee to the highest level, in all areas: knowledge and application of the Laws; and duties and responsibilities
 - 2) **The Diagonal System of Control:** To standardize guidelines for positioning, cooperation and general field procedures
 - 3) **Refereeing Psychology, Discretion and Techniques:** To reflect on management of players, coaches, and others involved in competitive stress. Includes the use of discretionary techniques and applications
 - 4) **Personal Management:** To deal with the referee's personal preparation for the game, personal grooming, including refereeing equipment, self-development, and the professional conduct required of all Referees
 - 5) **Fitness:** To deal with the development of a personal awareness and physical fitness required of each Referee

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- 6) **Administrative Skills and Reports:** To establish competency in administrative and managerial skills needed to prepare and submit reports and to maintain records
 - b. Entry level courses allow the candidate to enter a particular level of referee classification, such as Referee (Grade 3) or Assistant Referee (Grade 4).
 - c. Upgrading courses allow referees to upgrade to the next higher level, such as a Grade 3 Referee may upgrade to a Grade 2.
 - d. In-service training clinics are a means for referees to enhance their knowledge and application of the Laws.
 - 1) For Grade 4 referees, the Regional Coordinator is responsible for training unless held in conjunction with a USPSA clinic. The scheduling of these clinics, and the selection of the subject matter, are at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator.
 - 2) For Grade 1-3 referees, the National Supervisor of Officials is responsible for overall training, the scheduling of these clinics, and the selection of the subject matter.

4. **USPSA Referee Course Overview:**

- a. Power Soccer:
 - 1) Introduction to Power Soccer
 - a) History
 - b) Organization
 - c) Referee Pathway for accreditation and maintenance
 - 2) Code of Conduct
- b. Structure of the Laws:
 - 1) Laws of the Game
 - 2) Competition Regulations
 - 3) Referee Supplement to the Laws
 - 4) Guide to Procedures
- c. Laws of the Game / Advice to Referees:
 - 1) The Authority (Laws 5-6)
 - 2) The Basic Laws (Laws 1-4, 7-10, 13, 15-17)
 - 3) The Technical Laws (Laws 11-12, 14)
- d. Guide to Procedures:
 - 1) Positioning
 - 2) Mechanics
 - 3) Referee Signals
 - 4) Speed Testing Protocols
- e. Overview of General Types of Disabilities:
 - 1) Types of Disabilities and Effects on Athletes
 - 2) Abilities and Restrictions of Power Soccer Players
 - 3) Classification System and Relevance to Referees and Laws of the Game
- f. Practical Application:
 - 1) Training on the Field of Play
 - 2) Observation during Mock Matches
 - 3) Practical Evaluation and Feedback
 - 4) [Assessment(s) in Competitive Match(es)]
- g. Conclusion:
 - 1) Written Examination
 - 2) Wrap-Up and Next Steps

5. Education and training of elite Referees

- a. Referees who are preparing for nomination to FIPFA should seek the advice and assistance from at least one Referee Instructor and one power soccer coach.
- b. Special training programs should be prepared with regular meetings for training sessions and analysis of match situations. A preparatory course should also be organized at least once a year. Current FIPFA programs may be used for courses and meetings at the USPSA level. Referee education is essential both on the field of play (practical) and in the classroom (theoretical).

6. Top-Level Referees

- a. Top-level referees must be identified and supported by a more comprehensive development structure that may include the appointment of a Mentor in order to coach them.
- b. The following criteria may be used to identify top-level referees:
 - 1) Age
 - 2) Physical condition
 - 3) Technical skill
 - 4) Psychological preparation
 - 5) Health
 - 6) Education, etc.

7. Recruitment and retention of Referees

- a. USPSA shall organize campaigns in order to increase the number of active referees and shall take appropriate measures in order to retain them as long as possible.
- b. The best source for identifying highly eligible candidates is through the local USSF affiliated referee organization.
- c. USPSA members may contact local soccer clubs, universities and colleges in order to recruit new referees. University and college students as well as players are suitable candidates for officials.

8. Instructor panels. The following panels of experts shall be created by the Officials Committee in order to support the education of referees:

- a. Technical instructors for referees
- b. Assessors
- c. Physical instructors
- d. Experts in tactical preparation (power soccer coaches).

9. Instructor Grades. The implementation of this program would not be possible without the training and advancement of instructors to train referees. Experienced USPSA referees are highly encouraged to apply for appointment as a USPSA-sanctioned referee Instructor to the Officials Committee. The current instructor levels within USPSA's Program for Referee Development are (minimum age to become an instructor is 18):

- a. **Associate Referee Instructor.** This level is the provisional entry level for candidate referee instructors and is based upon consideration of the candidate's performance and expertise as an instructor in front of referee students and his/her knowledge of the laws of the game, referee mechanics, etc. Candidates must participate as an instructor in a clinic run by a USPSA National Referee Instructor. The senior Referee Instructor must observe the candidate and approve certification of the candidate as a National Referee Instructor.
- b. **National Referee Instructor.** Consideration will be based upon the candidate's individual expertise as an instructor. Before requesting an upgrade to International FIPFA Referee

Instructor, the candidate must perform satisfactorily for 18 months as a National Referee Instructor.

- c. **FIPFA International Referee Instructor.** The USPSA Officials Committee may nominate individuals to FIPFA for certification as an International Referee Instructor.
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10. Teaching materials

- a. USPSA Official Committee shall periodically provide Regional Coordinators with teaching materials to support referee education programs. It is mandatory for the instructors to follow the guidelines drawn up by USPSA for the use of these materials in order to ensure uniform interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game.
 - b. These materials shall consist of:
 - 1) Print or multimedia materials on the Laws of the Game and their interpretation.
 - 2) Print or multimedia materials on the guidelines for referees.
 - 3) Videos with analysis of match situations in USPSA, PFCA, or FIPFA competitions.
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D. REFEREE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

1. **Introduction.** The USPSA Assessment Program develops policies, programs and procedures to guide the evaluation of officials by trained and certified assessors. The objective of this evaluation/assessment is to assist officials at all levels of the game to improve and sharpen their skills.
2. **Description**
 - a. Assessors certified by USPSA function under the direction of – and report to – the Chair of USPSA’s Officials Committee when assessing Grade 1-3 Referees. When assessing Grade 4 referees, assessors function under and report to the respective Regional Coordinator. Experienced USPSA referees are highly encouraged to send an application for certification as an assessor to the USPSA Officials committee.
 - b. Experienced officials who possess the necessary technical and “people” skills are invited to become part of USPSA’s assessment program. Contact should be made with the Regional or National Supervisor for information about upcoming courses.
 - c. There are 3 assessor grades:
 - 1) **Associate Referee Assessor.** This level is the provisional entry level for candidate referee assessors and is based upon consideration of the candidate’s performance and expertise as an assessor, his/her knowledge of the laws of the game, referee mechanics and signals, etc. A National Referee Assessor must judge the candidate’s ability to accurately report on the performance of referees on the field and approve certification of the candidate as a National Referee Assessor. Before requesting an upgrade to National Referee Assessor, the candidate must satisfactorily observe and assess a minimum of six (6) matches.
 - 2) **National Referee Assessor.** Consideration will be based upon the candidate’s individual expertise as an assessor. Before requesting an upgrade to International Referee Assessor, the candidate must satisfactorily perform for 18 months as a National Referee Assessor and satisfactorily observe and assess a minimum of ten (10) matches.
 - 3) **FIPFA International Referee Assessor.** The USPSA Officials Committee may nominate individuals to FIPFA for certification as an International Referee Assessor.

3. **Assessment Forms**

- a. The assessor fills out an assessment form containing a summary of his or her findings. The form is provided to the official following the game or within 7 days thereafter. A copy of the Assessment Form is located in Appendix E.
- b. It is the responsibility of the Chair of the Officials Committee to develop the means for circulating completed forms to officials in a timely manner. It is also the assessor's responsibility to provide copies of these assessments to the Officials Committee to support officials' requests for upgrading.
- c. All assessments of referees should be sent to the Chair of the Officials Committee.

4. **Assessment Criteria**. The following information is a summary of the criteria for USPSA Assessors. It is intended to serve as a guide for use in evaluating and reporting on referees and assistant referees who seek performance improvement and upgrading.

a. **Referee**

- 1) **Personal Qualities:** Appearance, attitude (toward players, coaches and game), credibility, self-confidence (not intimidated by coaches or players), reaction to criticism, impartiality, composure, courage and character.
- 2) **Interpretation and Application of the Laws:** Application of the Laws of the Game, officiating in accordance with the spirit of the game, foul recognition and selection, recognition of 2-on-1 and 3-in-the-area infringements, use of advantage, accuracy of decisions, deals with gamesmanship, time-wasting and persistent infringement.
- 3) **Performance of Duties:** Attention to detail, communication and cooperation with assistant referees and the 4th official, firm, clear and approved signals, proper use of the whistle, proper mechanics for misconduct management (cards), game management, static and dynamic positioning using a flexible diagonal system of control.
- 4) **Match Control and Discipline:** Recognizing and effectively dealing with misconduct, serious foul play and violent conduct, dissent, tactical fouls and player management.
- 5) **Fitness:** Sprinting speed, recovery from extreme positions, field presence, work rate and mobility.

b. **Assistant Referee**

1. **Personal Qualities:** Appearance, league protocol, attitude, equipment and field inspection, confidence, reactivity, impartiality, courage, character, focus and concentration.
2. **Fitness and Positioning:** Fitness, endurance, sprints, side-stepping, dynamic and static positioning, work rate, mobility and overall mechanics.
3. **Assistance with Law 11, Touchline and Goal Lines:** Use of clear and approved signals, correct directions on kick-ins, goal kicks and corner kicks, correct Law 11 decisions (2-on-1 and 3-in-the-area.) Followed shots to the goal.
4. **Assistance with Fouls:** Assisted with serious foul play, violent conduct, penalty kicks, and dissent; indicated fouls missed or not seen by the referee, assistance with misconduct and discipline.
5. **Assistance with Game and Player Management:** Pre-game duties, cooperation with referee and other officials, wall management, consistency of decisions, composure, communication with the crew and players-coaches, concentration and assistance with player management.

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5. USPSA specifically encourages Grade 1-3 referees and Grade 3 nominees to have at least one annual assessment conducted outside of the referee's region.
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V. POLICIES

A. System of Officiating

1. The Laws of the Game recognize only one system for officiating soccer games, namely the diagonal system of control (DSC), consisting of three officials - one referee and two assistant referees. All competitions sanctioned by USPSA require the use of this officiating system. (Certain competitions will use a 4th Official.)
2. In order to comply with the Laws of the Game, all games sanctioned directly or indirectly by member organizations of USPSA must employ the diagonal system. As a matter of policy, USPSA prefers the following alternatives in order of preference:
 - a. One USPSA referee and two USPSA referees as assistant referees (the standard ALL competitions should strive to meet).
 - b. One USPSA referee, one USPSA referee as an assistant referee and one club linesman¹ who is unrelated to either team and not registered as a referee. (Only if there are not enough USPSA referees as stated in a, above).
 - c. One USPSA referee, and two club linesmen who are unrelated to either team and not registered as referees, acting as club linesmen, (only if there are not enough USPSA referees as stated in a or b, above).
 - d. One USPSA referee and two club linesmen who are not registered USPSA referees and who are affiliated with the participating teams, (only if there are not enough USPSA referees as stated in a, b or c, above).
 - e. A USPSA certified referee with a connection to one a team may be used as an assistant referee but will be considered as a club linesman for all intents and purposes.
3. USPSA will make every effort to assist in recruiting officials so that enough qualified referees will be available to permit use of the diagonal officiating system for ALL competitions.

B. Unaffiliated Matches

1. An unaffiliated club² and/or league is a club and/or league that has never been affiliated with a USPSA or FIPFA or has left voluntarily (on its own terms) and was in good standing with the USPSA and FIPFA at the time of its departure.
2. While referees cannot be prohibited from working unaffiliated games, USPSA requests that all referee administrators strongly discourage referees within their jurisdiction from working these games. Only in doing so will these unaffiliated clubs/leagues be encouraged to become affiliated. Here are some ample reasons why referees should not work these games:

¹ Club linesmen (not registered as USPSA Referees) are limited to calling in and out of bounds only.

² This includes recreational teams

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- a. No assessments may be conducted for unaffiliated matches.
 - b. There is no liability insurance coverage when a referee is working an unaffiliated match.
 - c. If the referee is assaulted or should there be any other serious misconduct, there's no assurance any disciplinary body will review and act on it.
 - d. The referee will not be able to fulfill grade upgrade requirements.
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C. Referees with Potential Conflicts of Interest

1. These rules permit referees to be represented on the administrative committee or board of USPSA, and allow an active referee to be the chief officer of a league. The restrictions are a minimum but referees should take steps to prevent any appearance of a conflict of interest. Therefore, USPSA has adopted the following policy:
 2. An active referee may serve on the administrative committees or board of a league including being the chief officer, and may referee in the league while also being a member, but the referees:
 - a. Shall disqualify themselves from participating in any disciplinary proceeding in which the subject is a team, player or other person where there is a vested interest,
 - b. Shall be recused from participating in any disciplinary proceeding involving a game where they served as a game official.
 - c. Shall not referee in any match where there is a vested interest³.
 3. A registered USPSA referee shall not officiate any matches in a competition where he/she is registered as player, coach, or team official.
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- D. Referees Traveling Out of the United States.** Referees are registered by USPSA and are considered independent contractors. As a matter of courtesy, referees should inform USPSA when traveling out of USPSA's area of jurisdiction to work games provided that they have met their obligation to USPSA.
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- E. Guidelines for Contact with Media and Team Officials.** Referees, instructors, and assessors should use good judgment based on the referee Code of Ethics when speaking to the media and team officials. Referees, instructors, and assessors should:
1. Not, under any conditions, discuss the politics of the game or the sport.
 2. Stick to what they know as it relates directly to their personal experience in the game of power soccer.
 3. Relate only factual information about a game. Do not discuss judgment calls that were made.
 4. Avoid making declarations, which amount to speaking for other people.

³ "Vested interest" is defined as when the referee or a member of the referee's family (spouse, child or parent) or that person's team may be affected by the outcome of the proceeding or match.

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5. Represent themselves, USPSA, and the game of power soccer in a positive and enthusiastic way.
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F. Game Priority in Referee Appointments

1. Each registered power soccer referee is expected to abide by and respect the Code of Ethics and keep all assignments that are accepted. However, there are certain occasions when a referee has duty to the referee program to release a lower level appointment and accept a higher level one in the interest of USPSA.
 2. Therefore, USPSA declares the following precedence of National and International appointments:
 - a. All FIPFA Tournaments/Events
 - b. All Zone/Regional Tournaments/Events
 - c. Other International Matches
 - d. Any respective National Team Matches
 - e. National Cup Matches/National Tournaments
 - f. Regional Cup Matches/Tournaments
 - g. Other matches
 3. The priority policy does **not** apply:
 - a. Within 72 hours of the scheduled match time unless an emergency situation exists, or
 - b. When a substantial financial commitment has been made for the referee appointment (e.g., non-refundable airline tickets).
 4. **Additional Advice to Referees**
 - a. Referees are responsible to communicate the receipt of a higher priority appointment to their existing assignor as soon as possible.
 - b. When an assignor refuses to release a referee to the higher priority assignment, then the referee must report this action immediately to his/her Regional Coordinator or National Supervisor.
 5. **Advice to Assignors**
 - a. Continue to schedule the most experienced referees to the most difficult regular matches as always.
 - b. Identify the highly experienced referees on the assignment roster who are likely to be assigned to a higher priority assignment. Always be prepared to fill these slots on an emergency basis.
 - c. Insist that the highly experienced referees on the assignment roster keep the lines of communication open about upcoming National and International appointments as far in advance as possible.
 - d. Cooperate with other assignors on those rare occasions when the priority policy is invoked.
 - e. Report any abuses of the priority policy to the National Supervisor.
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VI. DISCIPLINE

A. Misconduct Toward Game Officials

1. **General.** Misconduct against referees may occur before, during and after the match, including travel to or from the match. Misconduct may occur also at later times when directly related to duties of a game official as a referee.
2. **Rule Application**
 - a. This policy shall supersede any inconsistent rules that pertain to assaults or abuse upon USPSA referees, assistant referees, the manner and means of hearings, appeals, and rehearings in matters pertaining thereto.
 - b. Nothing in this policy rule shall be construed to restrict or limit any league, event/ tournament or team from applying equal or greater restrictions to anyone not listed in section IV.D.4.b of this policy (i.e., a spectator associated with a club or team).
 - c. This policy shall not apply to players, coaches, managers, club officials, or league officials while participating in non-USPSA-affiliated activities.
3. **Jurisdiction and Hearings**
 - a. **General**
 - 1) When any player, coach, manager, club official or game official assaults or abuses a referee in a:
 - a. National or regional event, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in USPSA.
 - b. Local event, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in the responsible organization (team, club, or league).
 - 2) When an allegation of assault is reported to the responsible governing authority, the accused is automatically suspended until the hearing on the assault.
 - 3) The governing authority should hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of the verification of the abuse or assault. If the governing authority does not adjudicate the matter within that period of time, original jurisdiction shall immediately vest in the governing authority's Appeals Committee to adjudicate the matter, to which the same provisions as to the term of suspension shall apply.
 - 4) Failure to hold the initial hearing shall not rescind the automatic suspension.
4. **Guidance to Referees.** Assaults sometimes happen, even to experienced referees. Referees working all competitions must follow a sensible and consistent course of action that will enable USPSA or the organization with jurisdiction over the game to punish offenders, and discourage potential offenders from acts of violence. A referee should respond to an assault in a manner that will permit administration and enforcement agencies to do their job. If an assault occurs:
 - a. **Never strike back** if such action can possibly be avoided. Defend yourself as passively as possible. When referees are struck, the majority of players and bystanders are automatically sympathetic toward the referee, even if they were previously hostile. If the referees choose to "slug it out," they stand to lose the support and calming influence of the players and bystanders. The referees' legal position may also be prejudiced.
 - b. **Try to remain calm and avoid undue signs of stress.** Maintain a standard of behavior befitting a professional referee. Remember that police officers are assaulted frequently, yet they react in as controlled a manner as the situation permits, drawing on their resources of self-control to get to the top of the threatening situation.

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- c. **If the assaulter is a team official, send the individual off.** Advise the captain and/or coach of your decision, and be prepared to abandon the game if the person is not removed completely from the scene.
 - d. **Get the details down on paper** (after things are under control). Note the player's number and/or individual's name from the team captain or coach if necessary.
 - e. **Obtain witnesses.** Consult your assistant referees, if any, or any unattached bystanders. Record names and telephone numbers for future reference. Use players as witnesses only as a last resort. Do not be concerned about holding up the game; common assault is a criminal offense and must be treated seriously. Make notes to be sure that your subsequent report is accurate. After the game, discuss the incident with your witnesses; this is quite legal as no charges have been laid at this stage.
 - f. **Seek medical attention if you are injured.** Go to the nearest hospital emergency room or trauma clinic. The medical personnel will treat any injuries, and document them for the record. Retain any medical records.
 - g. **Official notification of the incident.** Contact either the respective Regional Coordinator, National Supervisor of Officials and/or Deputy Vice President, as soon as possible, but at least by the next business day, to make one of them aware of the incident. Follow up with a complete written report.
 - h. **Write a report.** The report of assault or abuse toward any member of the referee crew must be professional, precise, informative and above all, accurate. The report should be accompanied by written reports from the assistant referees (if used) and by copies of any other game misconduct reports. If the referee was, or is going to be, medically treated for injury, that should also be noted. A copy of an incident report is included in Appendix D.
 - i. **In the event that the assault is serious enough** for you to consider filing civil action with local authorities, referees have that right. Referees should inform the President of USPSA via the National Supervisor of Officials of the intent to do so.
5. **Procedure for Reporting Assault and Abuse**
- a. For a Regional, National, or International match that is played under the jurisdiction of USPSA, referees shall transmit a written report (via fax or e-mail) of the alleged assault or abuse, or both, within 48 hours of the incident (unless there is a valid reason for later reporting) to the respective Regional Coordinator, National Supervisor of Officials and/or Deputy Vice President. For tournaments or special events, the tournament director/event coordinator must be notified, in writing, on the day of the incident.
 - b. **Referee Report.** Referee Reports must be professional and concise, yet complete (see Appendix D). The report should include:
 - 1) the teams (the full and correct names of the competing teams)
 - 2) the venue and date of the match
 - 3) the competition (league, tournament, etc.)
 - 4) the individual's name, team affiliation, and, if a player, jersey number
 - 5) reason for report (i.e., specific Law 12 reason)
 - 6) action taken
 - 7) the incident (i.e., description of what actually happened stating only the facts, with no opinions, and no recommendations)
 - c. The incident must be:
 - 1) as was observed (there is no substitute for the facts)
 - 2) brief, but containing enough evidence and information to enable a disciplinary committee to understand what happened. This description would include the reaction, if any, of the player(s) and others.

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- d. Make certain that assistant referees have all the above details before leaving the field.
 - e. Remember that each incident meriting a report must have a separate report; e.g., two players who are sent off means two separate reports.
 - f. Present the report in the most legible manner. If the handwriting is difficult for others to read, then print it or type it if at all possible.
 - g. Check spelling. Almost every important word is in the current USPSA Laws of the Game or can be located on the USPSA web page (www.powersoccerusa.net).
 - h. The report must be filed within forty-eight (48) hours. The referee's name should be included in the report. The referee's address and phone number should be on a separate cover page. Referees should retain a copy of the report for future reference.
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B. Misconduct of Game Officials

1. Procedures

- b. Misconduct at a Match. When any game official is accused of having committed misconduct toward another game official, participant, or spectator at a match, or of having a conflict of interest, the original jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter shall vest immediately in USPSA.
- c. Misconduct Away From a Match. When any game official, referee, referee assistant or referee development program person is accused of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest in any matter in the pursuit of or may affect the individual's official dealings within and as authorized by the Association, its Affiliates or Associates, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority, the matter shall vest immediately in USPSA.
- d. Any allegation of misconduct or of conflict of interest by a match official, or of unethical conduct, misuse or abuse of authority or conflict of interest of a "referee development program person," shall be made in writing to USPSA. If the individual is not a member of USPSA (an international referee), the report should still be sent to USPSA.
- e. Upon receipt of a written complaint, a hearing shall be conducted by USPSA within 30 days. The hearings and appeal process within USPSA shall provide for adequate due process for the accused person including proper notice of charges, the right to bring witnesses in defense, and the right to confront and cross-examine the accusers.
- f. The Chairman of the hearing committee shall transmit the findings of the committee in writing to all parties concerned including the accused and the accusers and to USPSA within seven days of the hearing.
- g. Any party subject to penalties shall receive, at the time of notification of the decision, a notice of the rights of appeal and a copy of the procedures and deadline dates required for such an appeal to be properly considered. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.

2. Penalties

- a. The severity of the penalty imposed upon an individual shall be determined by the decision-making body having jurisdiction.
- b. Penalties may be among the following:
 - 1) Letter of reprimand;
 - 2) A forfeiture of game fee(s), if applicable;
 - 3) Suspension from all active participation in USPSA sanctioned events for a fixed period of time;

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- 4) Any combination of clauses (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection; and
 - 5) Dismissal from the Association.
 - c. Any individual while under suspension may not take part in any activity sponsored by the association or its members.

3. **Appeals**

- a. Any game official who is found guilty of misconduct as defined in this rule may appeal the decision of the hearing committee to a Referee Disciplinary Committee or an Appeals Committee appointed by USPSA.
 - b. The party appealing the decision of a committee shall have ten (10) days to file the notice of appeal of a decision. Time for filing an appeal shall start with the date of official receipt of the decision by the party making the appeal.
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C. **Guidelines for Referees**. Misconduct reports must be sent to the appropriate authorities within the stipulated time. It is the referee's duty to acknowledge all correspondence relating to the misconduct report and to advise the hearing panel of his/her availability to attend a disciplinary hearing or committee meeting when requested. Such requests are not made lightly and if invited to appear before the disciplinary committee, the referee should make every effort to attend and should:

- 1. Bring a copy of the misconduct report and the match record card to the meeting. This will help to recall the incident clearly.
 - 2. Take pride in personal appearance, since this will be an indication of professionalism and will enhance his/her credibility as a witness.
 - 3. Arrive in plenty of time and introduce him/herself.
 - 4. Answer all questions clearly and briefly.
 - 5. Remain cooperative throughout the proceedings.
 - 6. Do not become involved in discussion, debate or argument with any other party who may be in attendance.
 - 7. Remember that the final decision taken by the Committee will be its judgment based on all the evidence presented. It is not for the referee to pass opinion or judgment on the decision reached.
 - 8. Claim only expenses to which entitled.
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VII. **FINAL PROVISIONS**

A. **Adoption, entry into force and transitory period**

- 1. These regulations were adopted by the USPSA Executive Committee on _____ and come into force on _____.

APPENDIX A

REFERENCES

1. United States Power Soccer Association (USPSA), “*Power Soccer Laws of the Game*” [Indianapolis, Indiana]
2. USPSA, “*Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game of Power Soccer*” [Indianapolis, Indiana]
3. USPSA, “*Guidebook to Procedures for Power Soccer Referees, Assistant Referees, and 4th Officials*” [Indianapolis, Indiana]

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APPENDIX B**DEFINITIONS AND TERMS**

1. **Conference:** means
 - a. a group of teams organized by USPSA according to experience and ability for competitive purposes
 - b. a group of Associations recognized by FIPFA that belong to the same continent (or common geographic region) (also known as a Zone or Region).
2. **Executive Committee:** means the executive body of USPSA.
3. **FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
4. **FIPFA:** Fédération Internationale de Powerchair Football Association.
5. **Hearing:** a meeting of at least three neutral members, one of whom is designated or elected to serve as chairman. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines established by the organizing authority (USPSA).
6. **International List:** the List of International Referees as issued by FIPFA on an annual basis. Each list is valid from 1 January to 31 December of each year.
7. **Match (or Game) Officials:** collectively includes all the following:
 - a. All currently registered USPSA referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - b. Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (see section IV.D.4.b of these regulations).
 - c. Any club assistant referee.
 - d. Any referee development program person performing any official function at a match.
8. **Mentor:** a person who acts as a personal counselor to the referee concerning his performance, his preparation and any advice for his career.
9. **NASO:** National Association of Sports Officials
10. **Officials Committee:** the USPSA committee governing the organization of Referees, giving advice and assisting with all matters related to refereeing and Referees.
11. **PFCA:** Powerchair Football Confederation of the Americas
12. **Referee:** a person who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed. Any reference to Referees in these regulations applies to both men and women as well as to assistant Referees. “Referee” includes the following:
 - a. All currently registered USPSA referees, assistant referees, 4th officials or others duly appointed to assist in officiating in a match.
 - b. Any non-licensed, non-registered person serving in an emergency capacity as a referee (see section IV.D.4.b of these regulations).

-
- c. Any club assistant referee.
13. **Referee Abuse:** a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a referee or the referee's property or equipment. Abuse includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee:
- a. Using foul or abusive language toward a referee that implies or threatens physical harm;
 - b. Spewing any beverage on a referee's personal property; or
14. **Referee Assault:** an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a referee:
- a. For purposes of this policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interest of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant.
 - b. Assault includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a referee: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a referee that could inflict injury; damaging the referee's uniform or personal property, i.e. car, equipment, etc.; or any attempts to do so.
15. **Referee Assessor:** a person certified to evaluate and assess the performance of the Referees by giving advice and constructive comments to help the development of the Referees while also using a marking system.
16. **Referee Development Program Person:** includes any referee, referee administrator, referee assessor, referee instructor, referee assignor, or other person serving in such capacity in a line or supervisory position, including members of any referee committee appointed by USPSA, FIPFA, its Affiliates or Associates, or a competition, tournament or other appropriate authority.
17. **Referee Instructor:** a person certified to lead the instruction of Referees either on the field of play or in the classroom by teaching technical refereeing skills. Any reference to Referee Instructor in these regulations also applies to fitness instructors.
18. **Team Officials:** all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, media officers, medical staff (doctors, physiotherapists, etc.), representatives and further individuals present in the controlled field/venue area forming part of a team delegation.
19. **USSF:** United States Soccer Federation

APPENDIX C

ASSESSMENT FORM
**UNITED STATES POWER SOCCER ASSOCIATION
REFEREE ASSESSMENT FORM**

Referee: _____ State: _____ Position: R AR
 Location: _____ Home Team: _____ Visiting Team: _____ Score: ____ - ____
 Assessor: _____ State: _____ Date: _____

Yes		No		Yes		No	
1. DRESS & APPEARANCE				6. POSITION / MECHANICS / SIGNALS			
• Looked neat & well groomed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		• Anticipated play & adjusted position?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Appeared confident?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		• Kept ARs in view at all times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Made good first impression?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		• Acknowledged signals by ARs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment(s): _____				• Positioned well for set plays?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. PRE-GAME				• Indicated decisions clearly with signals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Arrived on time?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		• Made best use of whistle?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Inspected field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Comment(s): _____			
• Inspected equipment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		_____			
• Conducted speed test properly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		7. ACCURACY OF DECISIONS			
• Followed pre-game procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		• Recognized "intent" correctly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment(s): _____				• Recognized Law 11 position vs infraction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. FITNESS				• Recognized DFK vs IFK infractions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Stayed out of way of play / players?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Recognized misconduct correctly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Appeared fit throughout match?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Recognized ramming infractions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• In proper position to make calls?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Avoiding calling trifling offenses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment(s): _____				• Anticipated play & adjusted position?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. ATTITUDE				Comment(s): _____			
• Kept composure under pressure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
• Was mentally prepared?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. MATCH CONTROL			
• Showed respect for players?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Established authority early?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Showed respect for coaches/staff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Asserted authority early?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Understood disabled sports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Managed wall correctly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Appeared to enjoy him/herself?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Dealt with incidents quickly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment(s): _____				• Dealt with persistent infringement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. COURAGE / CHARACTER / CONSISTENCY				• Stopped encroachment immediately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Gave decisions promptly and firmly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Dealt with time-wasting correctly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Restarted play quickly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Did players accept the decisions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Dealt with injuries correctly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Made effective use of advantage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Accounted for all time lost?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	• Dealt with coaches fairly but firmly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Was approachable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comment(s): _____			
• Maintained composure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
• Was consistent in decision making?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____			
Comment(s): _____				_____			
_____				Assessor's Signature: _____			
_____				_____			

Provide any additional comments on back of form.

Distribution: 1 copy to Referee, 1 copy to Assessor, 1 copy to USPSA Officials Committee

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

APPENDIX D

REFeree REPORT



UNITED STATES POWER SOCCER ASSOCIATION

REFeree REPORT

This report must be mailed within 48 hours after completion of game to proper authorities.

GAME: _____

Home Team	Score	Visiting Team	Score
-----------	-------	---------------	-------

League/Tournament _____

Date of Game: _____	Scheduled time: _____
Field and Address: _____	Actual kick off: _____
_____	End of game: _____
_____	Score at half time: _____

REFeree: _____	Grade: _____
Sr. Assistant: _____	Grade: _____
Jr. Assistant: _____	Grade: _____
4 th Official: _____	Grade: _____

Field Condition: _____

Was the home team on the field on time? _____	If not, how late? _____	No. of Spectators: approx. _____
Was the visiting team on the field on time? _____	If not, how late? _____	Marking of field: _____
Copy of Game Sheet included/not included. _____		Conduct of Administrators: _____
Dressing room for Referee: _____	Yes / No _____	of Players: _____
for Players: _____	Yes / No _____	of Spectators: _____

A supplementary form explaining circumstances must accompany any unusual situations.

Serious injuries during the game.

Name	Pass No.	Team	Nature of Injury

Players cautioned during the game.

Name	Pass No.	Team	Type of Misconduct

Players sent off the field—Player passes must be retained after the game and returned to proper authority with this report.

Name	Pass No.	Team	Type of Misconduct

REMARKS:

(Continue on back)

Referee Signature: _____ Phone #: () -
 Date: _____

GAME:

Home Team

Score

Visiting Team

Score

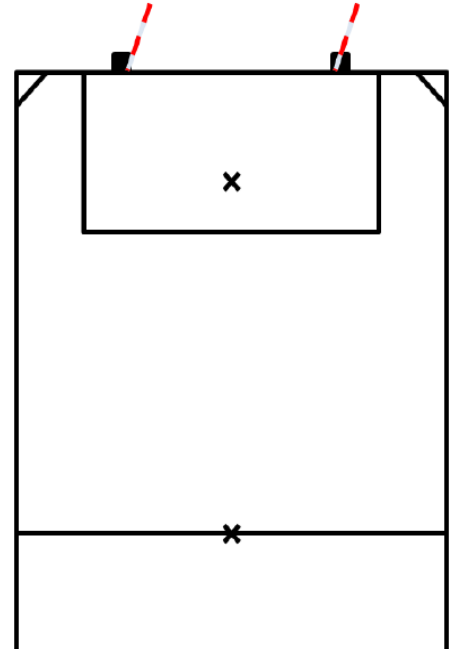
League/Tournament

Location

Date of Game:

Referee

Continued Remarks:



Referee Signature:

Report Date:

Phone #:

()

-

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USPSA

Referee

Administrative

Handbook