



Ontario Soccer Policy

Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct for Match Officials

2017

The Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Referees should guide all registered referees, assessors, mentors, instructors, coaches and members of the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) and Ontario Soccer (OS) with regard to ethical behaviour and professional conduct. The code should be read in conjunction with the CSA and OS Rules.

This Code consists of four overall ethical principles:

1. Integrity

Specifically, referees shall:

- 1.1 Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
- 1.2 Seek support/ guidance advice from peers, colleagues, mentors and / or assessors with regard to issues that may hamper their performance as a referee.
- 1.3 Avoid situations or engage in activities or behaviour, which might oblige them or lead to them contravening the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- 1.4 Ensure that they and others accurately represent and reflect the body of knowledge and training of their profession.
- 1.5 Not accept or attempt to secure fees or benefits over and above those agreed with OS and their representatives.
- 1.6 Honour all refereeing commitments except in the case of serious illness or unexpected circumstances whereby their ability to perform their duties would be impaired and in such circumstances to notify, in a timely manner, the appropriate personnel or where appropriate to make alternative arrangements.
- 1.7 Not exploit any relationship to further their own or others personal or professional interests including the soliciting of appointments.
- 1.8 Be aware of the nature of dual relationships and where possible avoid such positions that could lead to the undermining of the Integrity of Refereeing or the good name of the CSA and OS.
- 1.9 Act to stop or limit the activities of a colleague, assessor, instructor or official that is clearly harmful or unethical and bring such actions to the attention of the association.

2. Competence

Specifically referees shall:

- 2.1 Comply with the rules of the licensing system and develop the skills and knowledge required appropriate to the level they wish to officiate at.
- 2.2 Engage in continuing professional development in terms of all aspects of refereeing, e.g. physical fitness; knowledge, application and interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- 2.3 Accept the obligation to know, understand and to operate the provisions of this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.
- 2.4 Recognize the limits of their competence and take care not to exceed these limits by officiating at games outside the parameters of their particular license.
- 2.5 Participate in and contribute to the continuing development of refereeing.
- 2.6 Refrain from officiating when their ability to carry out their duties in a professional and competent manner is impaired by physical, medical or other reason.



2.7 Seek relevant, competent and professional assistance to reorganize and remedy any difficulty that prevents or inhibits their ability to carry out their duties in a professional and competent manner.

3. Respect

Specifically, referees shall:

- 3.1 Treat all players, coaches and officials as persons of innate worth and respect any difference based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference.
- 3.2 In the course of their duties safeguard the respect of players and coaches based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, culture, religious belief or other difference and deal with any infringements of these rights in the context of the Laws of the game or the rules of Ontario Soccer.
- 3.3 Take the necessary preventative actions so as not to allow themselves to be compromised by events or situations where individuals respect or dignity could be undermined in the context of age, gender, disability etc.

4. Responsibility

Specifically, referees shall:

- 4.1 Be aware of their responsibilities to the players and teams in the game at which they are officiating and to the League(s) to which they are assigned and to the Canadian Soccer Association and Ontario Soccer.
- 4.2 Shall be responsible for their actions, and assure themselves, as far as possible, that they carry out their duties to the best of their ability.
- 4.3 Shall carry out their duties in a responsible, professional and respectful manner.
- 4.4 Behave in professional activities in such a way as not to undermine public confidence in their profession.
- 4.5 Protect the reputation of the profession and the Canadian Soccer Association and Ontario Soccer by ensuring that all professional activities carried out conforms to the provisions of this Code of Ethics & Conduct.

Referee's Name


Date (DD / MM / YYYY)

Signature

OS #



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