

Special Team Assistant Referee (STAR) Program

PURPOSE

- The NCSL STAR Program provides trained certified assistant referees to U12 and U13 matches when neutral assistant referees are not assigned.
- STARs are expected to help others appreciate the difficult role of a referee in competitive youth soccer.
- STARs are encouraged to officiate other games in NCSL, their house leagues, or elsewhere to gain experience and additional insight into the art of soccer officiating. NCSL strongly encourages STARs to serve as assistant referees for other NCSL matches, especially those games that are immediately prior to or immediately following their match. However, if selected by their team to serve as a STAR, their primary duty on game day is to the team, not officiating other matches.
- STARs are **certified referees**, with all the roles and responsibilities that go with this position.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- STARs must be dressed with the USSF approved uniform consisting of black shorts (without stripes or logos); black socks with three white horizontal stripes; the current USSF approved gold jersey; and the current year USSF badge. Failure to be **properly dressed** will nullify payment. An alternate color jersey (black, red, or blue) may be worn at the discretion of the center referee when one team is wearing gold or yellow jerseys. However, STARs are not required or expected to own an alternate color jersey.
- Footwear suitable for running is required. Black footwear is highly encouraged to present a professional appearance.
- When at the field, including before and after the match, referees should present a professional appearance, including socks pulled up and shirts tucked in.
- STARs may wear a hat. The hat should be a baseball cap type, and black, without any logo or seal except for that of USSF.
- STARs must also have flag, provided by the Center Referee (CR); a log for recording the score and other game events; pen or pencil; and watch.

GAME DAY PROCEDURES

- Approach the referee and determine whether assistant referees have been assigned for the match. If two STARs are needed, each team may provide one STAR, should one be available from each team. If two STARs are needed and one team has none available, and one team has two available, the two available from one team will serve. If only one STAR is needed by the referee, and both teams have a STAR available, the STARs will decide among themselves who will serve. If they cannot come to a decision, the center referee will choose one STAR to serve the entire match. Two STARs may not share the duty of one position, whether from the same or opposing teams. If two positions are available and only one STAR is available, the one STAR may serve, and the center referee will determine whether or not to use club linesman for the second position.
- STARs serve the entire match and will not be substituted except in severe extenuating circumstances, and only with the permission of the referee. In case a STAR fails to complete a match, the center referee has wide discretion on whether to replace the STAR with another certified referee, club linesman, or leave the position vacant.
- STARs should meet with the referee at least 15 minutes before the scheduled game start, and from then until the end of the match should not participate with their team in warm-ups, training, administration, etc.
- STARs serve as directed by the referee, who serves as directed by USSF, their state referee organization, and NCSL. During the pre-game meeting, the referee should instruct the assistant referees regarding field and equipment inspection, positioning, mechanics, and how In/Out of play, Off-sides, Fouls, etc. should be signaled.
- As Grade 9 or higher certified referee, STARs should be **calling** and **properly signaling** Fouls, Off-sides, and In/Out of play. However, just as with any Assistant Referee, the CR has wide discretion utilizing STARs, including positioning the assistants, and directing the STAR whether or not to signal fouls.
- Once the game begins, the STARs should not communicate with the players or spectators except in their capacity as a referee.
- STARs must stay with the referee during halftime, not with their teams.
- STARs should meet briefly with the referee after the match to discuss match events and ensure the game results (score, cautions and ejections, injuries, etc.) are properly recorded.
- STARs/Manager must ensure the Center Referee signs this NCSL STAR Record so that their team receives payment for their services.

PAYMENT

Within 10 days after the end of the season mail or email NCSL STAR Record to STAR Administrator. Card will be validated and a **single** check will be mailed to the team manager, made out to the team's name. If team does not have a team bank account, let STAR Administrator know which name to make the check out to (see front of form). Team will be paid \$30 per time a STAR is used (as indicated on the front of this Record), subject to validation and STAR being properly dressed. It is up to the club/team how funds are distributed among their STARs.