

Policy: (From page 43 of the Referee Administrative Handbook) dated August 2008

Game Priority in Referee Appointments

Each registered U.S. Soccer Federation 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 the U. S. Soccer Federation.

Therefore, the U.S. Soccer Referee Committee declares that the following National and International appointments have precedence or priority over all other matches:

1. All FIFA Appointments
2. All CONCACAF Appointments
3. International A Matches
4. Any U. S. National Team Matches
5. Professional Division 1 League Matches (MLS)
6. Foreign Pro Club vs Foreign Pro Club
7. Other Professional League Matches (USL-1, USL-2 Women's Pro League)
8. U.S. Soccer Development Academy Program Matches
9. National Cup Finals (all matches)
10. All Regional Cup Finals
11. National Tournaments (Adult and Youth matches – match length as recommended by U.S. Soccer Best Practices)
12. Interstate National Cup Competitions (Adult)
13. National Adult Leagues
14. Intrastate National Cup Competitions (Adult)
15. State Cup Competitions (Adult and Youth matches – match length as recommended by U.S. Soccer Best Practices)

No other match (with the exception of the above) has appointment priority or precedence over any other match within the state.

The priority policy does not apply:

1. Within 72 hours of the scheduled match time unless an emergency situation exists, or
2. When a substantial financial commitment has been made for the referee appointment (e.g., non-refundable airline tickets).

Referees traveling out of town for a National or International appointment may:

1. Travel a day before and after the day(s) of the match(es), if necessary, and are excused from all other appointments on those days.
2. Not accept any other appointment on the day of the match appointment without permission of the Federation.