



Registration Year: 2025 Fall Season. All of 2026

## Youth Referees, Ages 17 and Younger

Re: **#RespectTheCall** US Soccer's Green Badge Sportsmanship and Respect Initiative

**The Green Badge is REQUIRED to be worn by all referees under the age of 18 on ALL assigned matches, including any NCYSA sanctioned matches.**

"This badge is part of the "#RespectTheCall" Campaign, a national initiative to foster a more respectful and supportive environment for young referees", says US Soccer Vice President of Refereeing, Kari Seitz. "The green badge is a visible reminder to coaches, players and spectators that these referees are still learning and deserve patience, encouragement and protection." Kari continues, "The goal is to not only reduce referee abuse but also create a culture that values growth and mentorship. Abuse and mistreatment of minor referees wearing this green badge will not be tolerated."

Our partners at NCYSA have also sent out an Educational Program to all their member clubs, indicating if they see a referee wearing a Green Badge, they should be mindful of their interactions, as any misconduct towards a minor referee comes with much harsher sanctions from the governing bodies.

US Soccer, NCYSA and all of us here at NCSRA hope this, along with continual education opportunities, will help to reduce the inappropriate and negative adult interactions with our younger referees across the state. We have your back so you can go out and do your job to the best of your abilities. **If you experience any kind of referee abuse during your match, please call your assignor post-match ASAP so they can work with you on having this reported appropriately and addressed within their club!**

Our wish is that our younger referees continue to prosper as they navigate through their referee journeys.

NC Youth Soccer

North Carolina Soccer Referees Association

