

Information for Parents of Minor Referees

Approximately 40% of all USSF registered referees in North Carolina are under 18 years old. Due to Congressional action creating the US Center for Safe Sport and the promulgation guidelines for National Governing Bodies of Olympic Sports (of which soccer is one) regarding communications with and protection of minors, NCSRA is providing this information regarding the terms and conditions of your child’s participation our referee program.

1. If possible, one or emails and cell phone #s of a parent or parents should be provided in your child’s referee profile in Arbiter. There are spaces provided for this. Safesport guidelines require our assignors and other personnel when communicating directly in an individualized communication with a minor, to copy another adult on the communication, preferably a parent. (This does not apply to routine computerized communications such as notices of assignment to games. However, if your email is listed you will also receive game notification assignments so you will be aware of upcoming assignments for your child or children).
2. While participating in our referee program, whether it is in classroom sessions, working matches, or otherwise participating, adult officials may not have private conversations away from others without another person present. If a one on one communication must take place, it must be in an area where the interaction is visible to others, although not necessarily within hearing range.
3. If your child attends a tournament and needs to be housed overnight, they will need to be accompanied by a parent or another adult designated by a parent as the adult responsible for your child while at the tournament and they will need to room with that parent or designated adult.
4. For other information on the US Center for Safesport and its policies, or for more information on steps to avoid the abuse of minor athletes, click this link: [U.S. Center for Safesport](https://uscenterforsafesport.org/)
5. With regard to any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child’s participation in officiating program you may also you may contact Marianne MacDonald at the NCSRA office at ncsra@ncsoccer.org (336-763-1833) or ARA Erick Varone at Michaelsofficial14@gmail.com. You can also contact the following for assistance between 6 PM and 9 PM weekday evenings: Erick Varone at 910-233-4712