



Dear Referee Leaders,

Thank you for your continued commitment to growing the game – and especially the referee community – across the United States. Your leadership, dedication, and passion are the foundation of everything we do to support, develop, and elevate referees at every level.

Included in this package are the 2026 referee badges, which mark the start of another exciting year. Among them, you'll find something new: the **Green Referee Badge**, designated for officials who are under the age of 18 at the time of registration.



This badge is part of our *#RespectTheCall* campaign – a national initiative to foster a more respectful and supportive environment for young referees. The green badge is a visible reminder to coaches, players, and spectators that these referees are still learning, and deserve patience, encouragement, and protection. Our goal is to not only reduce abuse but also create a culture that values growth and mentorship.

As a referee leader, you play a critical role in this effort. Your support in explaining the purpose of the green badge, sharing the message of *#RespectTheCall*, and championing positive sideline behavior will make a lasting impact – not just on the referees wearing the badge, but on the future of our game.

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and can't wait to see all that we accomplish together in 2026.

With appreciation,

Kari Seitz
Vice President, Refereeing

