



# Club Line Training



# Agenda

- What is a club line?
- What are the responsibilities as a referee?
- What are the responsibilities of a club line?
- Best practices.





# What is a Club Line?

- Whenever a match designated to be officiated by three match officials (one referee, two assistant referees) has only one or two match officials present to officiate, a club line should be appointed to fill in for the missing match official(s)
- A club line MAY be affiliated with one of the clubs competing in the match.
  - Albeit unlikely, the home club may find a neutral observer to volunteer as a club line for a match.
- A club line is performing an unpaid service.
- A club line should be agreed upon by both teams, but the final decision belongs to the referee.



# What is the responsibility of a Club Line?



- The club line should be positioned at the corner flag opposite the diagonal being run by the center referee.
- The club line does not move along the touch line like a certified referee.
- A club line is to advise the referee whether the ball is out of play by raising the flag straight up in the air.



# What are the responsibilities of the referee over a Club Line?

- The referee will provide an assistant referee flag for the club line to use.
  - *As part of the MSYSA Return to Play guidelines, the referee should be prepared to sanitize the flag prior to and after use by a club line.*
  - *Also as part of RTP guidelines, the club line should occupy the touch line of their team to prevent intermingling of spectators between teams*
- The referee may take the advice of a club line as to whether the ball is in or out of play.
- The referee may relieve the club line of their responsibilities and appoint an alternate club line should performance become an issue.



1. Advise both coaches of the need for a club line and ask for volunteers. Inform them that the volunteer need only stand at the corner flag and indicate when the ball leaves the field of play.
2. Advise the coaches that since the referee will be calling offside, there may missed offside calls despite additional effort to make correct calls. Advise that there will be zero tolerance for offside complaints. Failure to comply is cause for misconducts. Ask coaches to advise spectators accordingly.
3. If both teams offer a club line, take into consideration their playing experience, soccer officiating experience, and coaching experience first to determine who you will utilize. Adults are preferred.
4. A club line should not be paid unless they are certified with a badge and proper jersey present, both teams approve, and they perform all certified referee duties.
5. Always notify the assignor via email and through game notes in Game Officials if a club line was used in the game.
6. Absolutely no use of two whistles on any US Soccer sanctioned match!





**Thank You and Good Luck!**

