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Referee Program
US Soccer Federation

Dear Referee Program team,

Ensuring games are safe to referee should be one of the top goals of the Program. Please assist in keeping referees safe by **revoking the ban on radios for grassroots referees** imposed in 2021.

*Radios are an effective and easy-to-use tool for referee crews to **promptly manage abuse, irresponsible behavior, and escalating scenarios**. The assistance that radios provide in keeping referees safe and games under control **cannot be overstated**.*

The banning memo pointed to radios as error-contributors. Nevertheless, the memo did not count the *many more* errors that radios help correct and prevent. Moreover, the memo did not compare them to the frequent and numerous errors that happen with traditional tools, like whistles and flags. An Internet search shows many examples of the latter.

Additionally, radios are a valuable tool for *mentoring* and *recruiting* referees, particularly for youth referees and for referees who proactively seek to improve their skills.

The USSF Referee Program has the opportunity to lead the world in grassroot referee safety and officiating quality by embracing the use of radios. **This is the right time:**

- the Laws of the Game allow for radios,
- a protocol for safe and proper use of radios can be taught within a couple of minutes, and
- the cost of a set of high-quality referee radios is lower than a set of USSF Pro OSI jerseys.

Please immediately revoke the national ban for grassroots referees, keeping referees, especially Youth Referees, must be the top priority.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Your Name