***Section 1***

All games under the jurisdiction of the SVSL shall be officiated by properly designated USSF certified referees. If a certified referee is unavailable, another qualified adult may be asked to referee the game, provided that both team representatives indicate their agreement before the game starts. This does not apply to play-off games. Rather than use a non-certified referee, a team representative may ask for the game to be rescheduled.

It will be the responsibility of the referees in the SVSL to conduct themselves with class and respect. The SVSL, in cooperation with the team representatives, will maintain and enforce respect towards the referees. Team Representatives should submit referee evaluations to the Executive Board and Referee Coordinator within 48 hours of an incident if they observe referees not conducting themselves in a professional manner. The Referee Coordinator is responsible for disciplinary actions as they relate to Referees. The Board of Directors can recommend a referee be removed from game assignments, but the final decision remains with the Referee Coordinator.

Referees will uphold, abide and enforce the constitution.

***Section 2***

Referees Responsibilities, in addition to The International Football Association Board (IFAB) Laws of the Game:

**Pre-Game**

Referees must be at the field no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to make sure that the field is in proper condition.

Referees will notify both teams 5 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time that if they do not have a legal team within 15 minutes, a forfeit will be recorded against them.

Collect the official game card with rosters from each team. The game Roster will be provided by the SVSL registrar to the referee prior to start of game.

Collect a player pass from each individual player on each team and check them off on the game sheet.

Collect 2 game balls from each team prior to start of game.

**During Game**

Referees will ensure guest player by-laws are upheld.

Record a forfeit against any team that does not have the legal number of players on the field within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

Ensure clock starts at scheduled game time.

**Post Game**

The Center Referee must submit the game score per the designated method (virtual/paper/etc) to the Board of Directors within 48 hours of a match. If there are any violations recorded, that e-card must be submitted within 12 hours to the above-mentioned.

Return player passes to the team representatives (minus the player passes of players receiving yellow/red cards).

Referees will retain player passes for both yellow and red cards and will turn them in to the Registrar or a member of the Board of Director. Failure to do so may result in a recommendation for removal from game assignments. If the Registrar is not available, then player passes will be turned into a member of the Board of Director.

If a player receives a red card, a detailed report of the incident must be sent by every member of the officiating crew directly to the Vice President within 12 hours for league review.

***Section 3***

Referees may also be players in the league but will remain unbiased when refereeing other teams in the league.

Out of courtesy to the referee coordinator, please contact him/her at least 48 hours prior to a game that you have been scheduled for and cannot make. Otherwise, you are responsible for finding a replacement.

***Section 4***

Referees will be paid for showing up at the field for games that are forfeited.

Only the official game card authorizes payment.

Payment shall be made by SVSL check. On special occasions (such as a tournament or play down), the Board of Directors may decide to pay in cash.

Each official must sign their own name on the game card. Names not listed on the game card will not be paid. Write ‘CLUB’ on the game card next to the name of a person who fills a vacant referee position and is not certified.

The game card must be delivered to the Registrar.

Game cards that are not filled out correctly may be rejected, or cause delays in payments. Make sure all requested information on the card is filled in (i.e. date, field, time, teams, score, carded players) and legible, to include complete descriptions of any violations on the field.