

# Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association Blacktown Cup Regulations





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## **Contents**

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1. ADMISSION AND ORGANISATION .....	2
1. Scope and Application .....	2
2. Control of Competition.....	2
3. Consequences for Breach.....	2
4. Alteration.....	2
5. Special Consideration .....	2
6. Trophies and Prize Money.....	2
2. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS.....	3
1. Laws of the Game .....	3
2. Competition Format .....	3
3. Match Schedule.....	3
4. Duration of Matches.....	4
5. Match Balls .....	4
6. Interchange.....	4
7. Technical Areas.....	4
8. Added Time .....	5
9. Matches Drawn at Full Time.....	5
10. Ground Officials.....	5
11. Colours.....	5
12. Grounds .....	6
13. Inclement Weather.....	6
14. Abandoned, Postponed or Terminated Matches.....	6
15. Forfeits.....	7
16. Withdrawal From Competition.....	7
3. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION .....	8
1. Team Eligibility .....	8
2. Player Eligibility .....	8
3. Disciplinary.....	9
4. TEAM SHEETS, RESULTS AND MATCH OFFICIALS .....	10
1. Match Sheets and Results .....	10
2. Match Officials.....	10



# **1. ADMISSION AND ORGANISATION**

## **1. Scope and Application**

- a) These Regulations are made under clause 37 of the Blacktown Districts Soccer Football Association Incorporated (BDSFA) Constitution and apply to the 2026 football Season.
- b) Football NSW (FNSW) has granted BDSFA a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion, and regulation of football in the Region.
- c) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all Clubs, affiliated bodies and organisations shall first have regard to the Regulations, Constitution, By-Laws, FNSW Rules and regulation Football Australia (FA) rules and regulations and where applicable rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and FIFA.
- d) If any part of these Regulations is void that part shall be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations. BDSFA may choose to not enforce a term of these Regulations in some cases, in its absolute discretion, without affecting its right to enforce that term in other cases.
- e) BDSFA will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations, and any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties and not subject to challenge or appeal.
- f) These Regulations cover the activities of all Persons associated with the game of football (soccer) and conduct of all matches under the control of the BDSFA Inc.
- g) Capitalised terms used in these Regulations are as defined in the BDSFA Competition Regulations and BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.

## **2. Control of Competition**

- a) The administrative control and conduct of the Competitions is vested in the Executive subject to any resolution by the Board to the contrary.

## **3. Consequences for Breach**

- a) All Clubs, Players, Team Officials, Match Officials, Spectators, or any Person participating in any manner at a BDSFA Fixture, Match, or event will submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of these Regulations, the BDSFA Competition Regulations, BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations and/or BDSFA Fines and Penalties.
- b) Penalties may be imposed for any breach of the Constitution, Regulations, By-Laws, and policies of the BDSFA and for any matter, which is not expressly mentioned as are categorised by the Board prior to the parties being cited.
- c) The BDSFA may, from time to time, adopt policies. Failure to adhere to policies may carry similar consequences to breaching a Rule, Regulation or By Law. All policies must be distributed to Clubs.

## **4. Alteration**

- a) The Board will have the power from time to time to make, alter, or rescind the Regulations.
- b) These By-laws may be amended by the Board if required due to unforeseen circumstances.

## **5. Special Consideration**

- a) The Executive will have the power to consider exceptional circumstances outside the prescribed limits of the Regulations should it be clear those special considerations are in the interest of the game.
- b) The decision by the Executive to review and consider exceptional circumstances under this section is not subject to appeal or review.

## **6. Trophies and Prize Money**

- a) The winning Team will be presented with the Blacktown Cup perpetual trophy and a champions plaque.
- b) The Blacktown Cup perpetual trophy will remain the property of the BDSFA and remain in the possession of the BDSFA
- c) Any damage caused to the Blacktown Cup perpetual trophy will be charged to the offending Club at the cost of repair or replacement as deemed necessary
- d) The winning Club will receive 50% of the revenue generated by the Blacktown Cup entry fees
- e) The runner up Club will receive 25% of the revenue generated by the Blacktown Cup entry fees



## **2. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS**

### **1. Laws of the Game**

- a) All fixtures will be played in accordance with the BDSFA Competition Regulations as well as the FA and FNSW By-Laws, regulations, codes and directives.
- b) All fixtures will be played in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game enforced at the time within BDSFA competitions

### **2. Competition Format**

- a) The format of the competition is knockout from Round One (1) played as per the below schedule

Round	Date
Round 1 (32 teams)	Prior to 30 April
Round 2 (16 teams)	Prior to 21 May
Round 3 (8 teams)	Prior to 19 June
Semi Final (4 teams)	8 July
Grand Final (2 teams)	29 July – Blacktown Football Park

- b) Nominations are to be submitted by 5pm on 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of competition on the form prescribed by the BDSFA
- c) Entry fee per team is \$250 with the revenue split between prize money for first place, second place and administration costs of the tournament
- d) A minimum of eight (8) teams are required for the competition to be viable
- e) A maximum of 32 teams will be permitted entry to the Cup.
- f) In the event there are more than 32 nominations, teams will be accepted based on the ladder position of the team in the previous Winter season in the following order
  - i. BDSFA Men's Premier League 1 First Grade
  - ii. BDSFA Men's Premier League 2 First Grade
  - iii. All Age Men 1
  - iv. Over 35 Men Division 1
  - v. BDSFA Men's Premier League 1 and 2 Reserve Grade
  - vi. BDSFA Men's Premier League Under 21s
  - vii. All Age Men 2
  - viii. Under 21 Men Division 2 and subsequent Under 21 divisions
  - ix. All Age Men Division 3 and subsequent
  - x. Over 35 Men Division 2 and subsequent
- g) A team that did not participate in the previous season will be considered to have finished behind all teams in the division they are competing in the current Winter season.
- h) The BDSFA may invite nominations from neighbouring associations in its absolute discretion and their allocation to the draw will be at the discretion of the BDSFA based on their results in their respective Winter season

### **3. Match Schedule**

- a) The BDSFA will release a match schedule for the Competition
- b) The schedule will be conducted by seeding the top four teams based on 2.e) with all other teams drawn randomly.
- c) The top four places based on 2.f) will be seeded in the following positions of the draw 1, 32, 17, 16 respectively.
- d) A team external to the BDSFA will not be seeded
- e) The Competition will be played using grounds already approved for usage during the Winter Season in the year of Competition. Teams external to the BDSFA will play all of their games at Blacktown venues as the away team unless drawn against another non BDSFA team in which case an external ground may be used.
- f) The Home team will be the team listed first on the draw



- g) After the teams competing in each Match is confirmed, the Home team will be responsible for providing the Away team with a minimum of four (4) dates and times, prior to the cutoff date for the applicable round, for the game to be played. These dates and time must be on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening.
- h) The Away team must agree to one of the four (4) provided options
- i) All games must kick off no later than 7.30 unless the club has confirmed field lighting beyond 10pm.
- j) The agreed details of the match must be provided via email to the BDSFA Competitions Manager a minimum of ten (10) days prior to kick off. Both clubs must be included in the correspondence to the BDSFA
- k) The BDSFA in its absolute discretion may reject the provided match details if it deems it unsuitable. In this instance the BDSFA will provide the Clubs with a further four (4) alternate dates.
- l) Exception to play matches after the cutoff must be sought from the BDSFA a minimum of 14 days prior to the cutoff date with exception only given for exceptional circumstances
- m) Failure to play a match by the cutoff date will result in a forfeit by the club deemed at fault

#### 4. Duration of Matches

- a) All matches will be played for a duration of 45 minutes each half.
- b) There will be an interval of ten (10) minutes between the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period. It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure they are on the field to resume play with any delays deemed delaying the restart at the discretion of the Match Officials

#### 5. Match Balls

- a) Each participating Team are required to provide two (2) match balls of a suitable quality as determined by the referee
- b) The BDSFA will provide match balls for the Grand Final

#### 6. Interchange

- a) An unlimited interchange of Players is permissible at any time during a match under the direction of the Match Officials.
- b) The maximum number of Players to be used for interchange is five (5)
- c) It is the responsibility of Team Officials and the Referee to ensure all relevant rules around the interchange of players are enforced
- d) Interchange players cannot be used to replace any player who has been dismissed from the match by the Referee

#### 7. Technical Areas

- a) Only currently registered and eligible Players and Team Officials are permitted with the technical area during matches
- b) All persons in the technical area must be correctly listed as participating in the fixture on the team sheet
- c) All players in the technical area must wear a training bib or clothing that clearly distinguishes them from either participating team. In the event of a bib clashing with either team or the referees, it is the responsibility of the interchange players to change the colour of the bib or clothing.
- d) All Players in the technical area must remain seated unless moving to and from warm-up
- e) Only one (1) Team Official at a time is authorised to be standing in the technical area
- f) A maximum of nine (9) people are permitted in the technical area. This is comprised of up to five (5) substitute players and up to four (4) registered Team Officials
- g) The referees may in their absolute discretion stop play to have any person removed from the technical area. Failure to abide by the referees instructions may result in a match termination and the result being awarded 3-0 to the non-offending Team.



## 8. Added Time

- a) Should a delay be experienced (other than the covered by Article 14), the Referee will continue to keep the official time of the match and blow full time when the match duration has expired. At this point the result of the Match will stand.
- b) Injury or Added Time will only be applicable in the Grand Final.

## 9. Matches Drawn at Full Time

- a) If a Match is drawn at the completion of normal playing time, GOLDEN GOAL will apply in extra time, beginning two (2) minutes after the completion of normal time.
- b) GOLDEN GOAL will consist of two (2) periods of ten minutes with an immediate change over in between each period.
- c) Once a goal is scored the Match is concluded and the result awarded to the scoring team
- d) If the result of a Match is still drawn after extra time, penalty kicks will determine the winner in accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game.
- e) Unnecessary delays to the start of any period may be deemed delaying the restart of play by the Match Officials

## 10. Ground Officials

- a) All Teams must supply one (1) Ground Official for all Cup Matches, who must be 18 years of age or older and must have their names recorded on the EMS. Failure to nominate Ground Officials may result in a fine for non-compliance as per Annexure 7 of the BDSFA Competition Regulations.
- b) All Clubs must supply two (2) Ground Officials for all Semi Final and Grand Final matches, who must be 18 years of age or older and must have their names recorded on the EMS. Failure to nominate Ground Officials may result in a fine for non-compliance as per Annexure 7 of the BDSFA Competition Regulations.
- c) All Ground Officials are to wear clothing that easily identifies them as Club Officials. (i.e. brightly coloured bibs).
- d) Clubs must ensure that individuals acting as Ground Officials have read and understood the document BDSFA Ground Official Guidelines prior to taking up this role.
- e) Failure by a Club to supply and identify Ground Official(s) for each Match may result in a fine as per the BDSFA Fines and Penalties and Annexure 7 of the BDSFA Competition Regulations.
- f) Clubs and Ground Officials who fail to comply with this section and/or the document BDSFA Ground Official Guidelines may be dealt with in accordance with the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- g) Ground Officials are designated for the control of Spectators and assisting Match Officials when requested. The Ground Official must not be in the Technical Area or Field of Play unless specifically requested by the Match Official.

## 11. Colours

- a) Clubs are required to have an alternative strip which is antithetical to their first-choice kit. E.g., a Club which usually wears a dark colour must have an alternative strip which is of a light colour.
- b) Clubs are required to wear their first-choice kit colours, submitted to the BDSFA at the time of nomination for the Cup, for all Matches unless there is a clash of colours, and the referee has determined one Team must change.
- c) During any Fixture, the Teams of the same Club must wear the same playing kit unless instructed otherwise by the referee to resolve a clash with the Match Officials kit.
- d) Unless already determined and communicated by BDSFA, the referee will be the sole decision maker of a clash of colours.
- e) In the case of a clash of colours of field Players the Home Team will be required to wear their alternative playing kit. In this instance only, the Home Team will be identified as the Club whose ground the Match is being played on; in the case of a neutral venue it will be the first Club listed on the draw.



- f) In the case of goal keeper's colours clashing with either the opponent's field Players, goalkeeper or the Match Official's kit, the referee will determine which keeper will change, always keeping in mind the principle that the Home Team should change.
- g) In the case of a combination of first choice and alternative kit colours of both Teams clashing with the Match Officials, the referee will determine the final colours to be worn by all Players and Match Officials
- h) Failure to comply with this article will result in a forfeit against the offending team.

## 12. Grounds

- a) All Matches are to be played on suitably roped-off or enclosed grounds as per the BDSFA Competition Regulations.
- b) The Referee has the authority to remove any person from the playing area which includes within the fence line or roped off area.
- c) By nominating teams, Clubs accept responsibility to ensure bathrooms, changerooms and first aid facilities are provided for all Matches. Clubs also accept responsibility for ensuring fields are appropriately set up.

## 13. Inclement Weather

- a) Should a ground be considered unplayable for any reason, the Home team will immediately contact the BDSFA Competitions Manager and a decision will then be made whether the match is deferred to another venue and/or time. The Competitions Manager will be responsible for notifying the opposition Club and Referees Branch.
- b) The BDSFA in its absolute discretion may determine a new venue and/or time for the match to be played.

## 14. Abandoned, Postponed or Terminated Matches

- a) When a Match is abandoned by a referee, for any cause whatsoever, the matter shall be referred to the Executive who will investigate the circumstances appertaining to the abandonment and shall be authorised to make determinations.
- b) When a Match is terminated because of violence, the Executive will investigate the matter and shall be authorised to recommend the case be heard by a GPT. Refer to the BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations.
- c) Teams causing a Match to be terminated before its natural conclusion through a mass "Walk Off," or refusal to allow play to continue shall be deemed to have committed serious Misconduct against the BDSFA Inc. Refer to the BDSFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations.
- d) Should a Team/Club, Team/Club Official, its Players, or Spectators be found to have caused the justified abandonment of the Match, the Match will be forfeited by that Team/Club to the opposition, and the offending Team/Club may be subject to sanction under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- e) Should both Teams/Clubs be found to have caused the abandonment of the Match, the Match will not be replayed, and no Match result will be recorded. Teams/Clubs may be subject to further sanctions under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations.
- f) If a Referee or the BDSFA has abandoned a Match due to no fault of either Club, including its Players, Officials and Spectators (e.g. inclement weather), when:
  - i. 60% or more of the normal Match duration has been played, and the scores are not level, the score at the time of the abandonment will be declared the final result
  - ii. Either the scores are level or less than 60% of the normal Match duration has been played (or both), the Match will be rescheduled by the BDSFA within two weeks of the original date.
- g) In instances where a Match is deemed to recommence under 14 f), the following principles will apply:
  - i. The Referee is the sole arbiter of elapsed time, and no protest may be lodged in respect of the elapsed time as recorded by the Referee.
  - ii. The score at the time when the Match was Abandoned will remain the score at the time when the Match recommences.



- iii. Only those Players who participated in the original fixture may participate in the rescheduled fixture unless a Player or Players has/have received a disciplinary Suspension in the interim.
- iv. If a Player has received a Suspension in a Match that took place between the abandonment and the rescheduling of the Abandoned Match:
  - a. The Player will not be eligible to participate in the rescheduled Match.
  - b. The Player will not be able to count the rescheduled Match as a Fixture served for the disciplinary Suspension.
  - c. The Player's Team will not be permitted to replace the Player on the digital Match Sheet.
  - d. If the Player was on the Field of Play at the time of the abandonment, the Player may be replaced by a substitute listed on the digital Match Sheet, as long as their Club has available substitutions as per the Regulations; and
  - e. If the Player was a substitute at the time of the abandonment, the number of available substitutes will decrease, as the Player cannot be replaced.
- v. No additional substitutes may be added to the list of Players on the digital Match Sheet.
- vi. Players sent off before the Match was Terminated cannot be replaced.
- vii. The BDSFA will endeavour to appoint the same Match Officials to the rescheduled Match, however it may appoint replacements should any or all of the Match Officials be unavailable or it be deemed unsuitable for Match Officials to continue.
- viii. If a Club fails to participate in a rescheduled Match, it will forfeit the Match.

## 15. Forfeits

- a) Should a match not commence within 10 (ten) minutes of its start time as per the match schedule, the match will be forfeited by the team that, in the BDSFA's opinion caused the delay to the start of the match
- b) Forfeits prior to 48 hours before the scheduled commencement of a match will result in a \$50 fine to the offending Club
- c) Forfeits less than 48 hours before the scheduled commencement of a match will result in a fine of \$100 plus relevant match official fees
- d) The time of a forfeit will be determined by the time the BDSFA received formal communication from the club either via a Dribl forfeit request or email to the BDSFA Competitions Manager

## 16. Withdrawal From Competition

- a) In circumstances where the team has not completed a match, their next Match will be deemed a forfeit.
- b) In circumstances where a team withdraws from the competition after having completed a Match the following will occur
  - i. In Round 2, and Round 3, the withdrawing Teams next scheduled opponent will be awarded a win by forfeit
  - ii. In the Semi Final and Grand Final rounds, if time permits, the withdrawing teams immediate past opponent will be extended an invitation to replace the withdrawn team. If time does not permit the previous opponent to rejoin the competition then the game will be deemed a forfeit.
- c) Withdrawal of a team after the completion of the draw for the first round of the Cup will result in a fine of \$500 per team



### **3. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION**

#### **1. Team Eligibility**

- a) The Cup will be open to All Age Men's Teams, including Men's Premier League, or Under 21 Men's teams participating in the BDSFA Winter Season in the year of Competition.
- b) Clubs external to the BDSFA may be admitted to fill vacancies after the nomination of BDSFA teams has been completed.
- c) There is no limit on the number of teams a Club may nominate for entry into the Cup pursuant to section 2 of these Regulations
- d) Men's Premier League category A and B squads may nominate up to two (2) teams for the Cup, noting in the nomination an A and B team for the purpose of seeding
- e) Men's Premier League category C squads may enter one (1) team for the Cup
- f) Where a nominated team did not participate in the previous season they will be considered based on their record in the current season
- g) Teams must nominate a minimum of 14 players for entry into the Cup
- h) Teams may nominate a maximum of 24 players
- i) A player from a lower division within same Club may be nominated as a member of a team if they meet the borrowing regulations within the BDSFA Competition Regulations
- j) A player may only be nominated for one team in each year of the Cup. Once a player has been nominated, they are not able to be nominated for or moved to another team, regardless of whether they or either Team have participated in a Match
- k) A player must play in at least one prior Match of the Cup to be eligible for the Grand Final

#### **2. Player Eligibility**

- a) Eligible Players:
  - i. An eligible Player is one that meets all registration requirements within these Regulations and is not ineligible according to any article of these regulations
- b) Ineligible Players include
  - i. means a Player who is subject to a Suspension,
  - ii. a player who has been expelled from a match but whose expulsion has not yet been reviewed by the Executive,
  - iii. a player that has been expelled from a Match earlier on the same day,
  - iv. a player who is required to stand down for receiving the required number of cautions,
  - v. a player not listed on the Team Sheet,
  - vi. any player who is subject to a Suspension issued by, or applicable under the rules and regulations of, FA, FNSW, a Member Federation, a Club, Centre, an Association Member, an affiliated association, or any of their clubs,
  - vii. any Player who is defined as "Ineligible" pursuant to the BDSFA Competition Regulations,
  - viii. a Player who is in breach of article 6.13 (Prohibition on Dual Registration) of the FA National Registration Regulations, or
  - ix. any Player who is otherwise ineligible to participate in a Competition, including unregistered Players and Players playing under a false identity.
  - x. any Player who participates in a match in breach of any relevant regulations, including but not limited to the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, BDSFA Competition Regulations or other regulations for Competitions administered by the BDSFA
- c) Any team that forfeits an Ineligible Player will automatically lose that Match on forfeit
- d) Additionally, the Club, Club Officials, Team Officials and/or the Player may be further sanctioned in accordance with the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- e) It is the Clubs absolute responsibility to ensure that it fields eligible players in any Match



### 3. Disciplinary

- a) All Disciplinary matters resulting from a Blacktown Cup match will be managed by the BDSFA under the Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- b) All sanctions issued in a cup match that result in a suspension will be served as per the BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
- c) For the purpose of yellow card accumulation, any yellow card accumulation will not carry over into the winter/Premiership/Championship competition.



## **4. TEAM SHEETS, RESULTS AND MATCH OFFICIALS**

### **1. Match Sheets and Results**

- a) The BDSFA will use electronic Match Sheets (EMS) for all Matches. It is the responsibility of each Team to ensure they have a Team Official who can access the EMS when requested at any time during the Match.
- b) In the case of the EMS not being available for any reason, paper Match Sheets are to be supplied by the Home Club. The sheets must be printed neatly, and a DNP marked next to any Player who did not take part in that Match. The Match Day Supervisor is responsible for the paper Match Sheets to be filled in correctly. All paper sheets are to be scanned and emailed to the Competitions Manager by 12pm on the day immediately following the Matches. Scores must be entered by the Home Club via the EMS when it becomes available.
- c) Player and Team Official Eligibility is as defined in the BDSFA Competition Regulations and BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations. It is the responsibility of the Club to be aware of the eligibility of Players or Team Officials.
- d) The Home and Away Club must submit their team no later than thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start time for the Match. Changes are still possible to the team sheet prior to opposition confirmation.
- e) No later than ten (10) minutes before the scheduled kick off time, the Home and Away Club must confirm the opposition team, at this time no more changes are possible. The opposition manager must immediately be informed of any discrepancy and given an opportunity to rectify the issue.
- f) All reasonable effort must be made by Team Officials to resolve an identity or eligibility dispute prior to the scheduled kick off time
- g) No protest will be accepted in relation to player eligibility or identity if a dispute is not raised via the Dribl match sheet prior to kick off and the team confirmed in Dribl.
- h) In the event of a club protesting the identity of a Player, they must lodge a dispute via the Dribl Match Sheet. The reporting Club will be required to provide appropriate proof (photo or video) that a breach took place by fielding an ineligible player or similar
- i) If a match sheet has not been submitted at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the match, unless authorised by the BDSFA Competitions Manager the BDSFA in its absolute discretion may determine the offending Team to have forfeited the match.
- j) Any player listed on the team sheet as playing is deemed to have played in the match regardless of whether they took the field
- k) At the completion of the Match, the Referee must enter the score, cautions, send offs, goal scorers and any relevant Match Reports
- l) The Home and Away Club are responsible for ensuring the records are accurate within 48 hours of the completion of the Match. Any discrepancies must be reported by the club to the BDSFA Competitions Manager.

### **2. Match Officials**

- a) The BCSRFB will be responsible for the appointment of all Match Officials
- b) Payment for referees will be as per the BDSFA Referee Payment Policy with fees split 50/50 between the Teams participating in the Match
- c) Match Fees will be set as per the fees for BDSFA Premier League 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Matches in the year of competition
- d) If a referee is not in attendance, in all Competition Matches, a substitute must be appointed with the following preference:
  - i. An official referee from any Branch
  - ii. Home Team Club Referee, this being the team listed first on the draw
  - iii. Away Team Club Referee
  - iv. Any other Club Referee
  - v. Any other capable Person.Failure to comply with 4.2.d) i-v may result in the Match being forfeit by the Home Team and awarded to the Away Team.
- e) It is not the responsibility of the Host Club when not participating in a match to provide Match Officials.



- f) Once a substitute is appointed, they shall assume all responsibilities of an officially appointed referee and shall make themselves aware of their obligations regarding submitting reports to the BDSFA. They shall be added to the Match Sheet by the Home Team under the official's section on the EMS as a non-accredited referee.