

## Russ Turnbull

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**From:** Bruce Henderson [robbruce@soccer.on.ca]  
**Sent:** May-12-11 2:38 PM  
**To:** District Administrators  
**Cc:** OSA Board & District Presidents; Alex Chiet; Nicky Pearson  
**Subject:** Referees Officiating Games Involving Academy Teams

The OSA Manager of Referee Development, Nicky Pearson has received several queries from District Associations and referee appointers in which the question was asked whether referees may now officiate games involving academy teams.

The (Document link: Database 'Published Rules', View 'OSA Policies', Document 'OSA Policy: Section 7.0 - Policy 4.0')OSA's Referee Policy 4.3 reads:

4.3A referee may only be appointed to games involving:

- a) registered teams playing in sanctioned competitions,
- b) school, college or university teams,
- c) municipality sponsored competitions, subject to the approval of the District Association.
- d) Special Olympics teams in games sanctioned by the OSA, and
- e) two teams which are both operated by an OSA-recognized Non-Club Academy or an OSA-recognized Non-Club Academy team playing a team from out of province in an exhibition game approved by the OSA.

Consequently, a referee may only officiate a game involving two teams which are both operated by an OSA-recognized Non-Club Academy. At this time, there are no OSA-recognized Non-Club Academies. Consequently, referees are not permitted to officiate any games involving Academy teams. Any OSA-registered referee who violates this OSA rule is subject to disciplinary action as per the OSA's Misconduct Type 4.58 (ie., officiated an unsanctioned or unaffiliated soccer game) which carries a 30-day suspension for the first offence; a 3-6 month suspension for the second offence; and a 1-2 year suspension for the third offence.

With regard to Club Academies which are academies operated by a Club which is affiliated with a District Association, the OSA rules require that all the players on such Club Academy teams be fully registered with the OSA as a regular club team and consequently, the game would be eligible to have OSA-registered referees under Policy 4.3 a) providing that both teams are registered teams and the competition (exhibition game, tournament, cup, or league) is sanctioned by a District Association and/or the OSA, in accordance with OSA rules.

In some of the queries sent to Nicky Pearson, reference has also been made to a CSL Player Development League. The OSA is not aware of any CSL Player Development League and consequently, no referees should be appointed to any games involving teams claiming to be associated with a CSL Player Development League.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further clarification.

Bruce

R. Bruce Henderson . Director of Organizational Development . The Ontario Soccer Association  
. [Tel:905-264-9390](tel:905-264-9390) . Fax:905-264-9445