

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Quality Officiating Since 1956



Policy for Turning Back Previously Accepted Assignments

Referees who request and accept assignments from MWSRA assignors are expected to fulfill their professional commitment. However, MWSRA understands that circumstances change, and conflicts do arise occasionally. This policy is intended to establish clear guidelines for both assignors and referees when referees need to or choose to turn back previously accepted assignments.

Requests to turn back games should be *excused* and not penalized if:

1. The referee notifies the assignor by phone or email at least 72 hours in advance of the game or game set (presuming the assignment was offered at least one week in advance); OR
2. There is a documented emergency or serious illness (ex. a death of a family member, unexpected vehicle repairs, illness or injury the week of the games, etc.).

Enforcement:

For *unexcused* turn backs, fines will be applied to discourage turning back previously accepted games during the season on short notice:

- 1st Turnback Per Season – fined equivalent of lowest game fee of set
- 2nd Turnback Per Season – fined equivalent of highest game fee of set
- 3rd or More Turnback Per Season – equivalent of fined the two highest game fees of set

Assignors should communicate fines directly to the Director of Operations and Vice President for tracking and administration. Each fine is on top of the fact that the referees would not receive the game fee. The fine level resets each season for turn backs and is not be cumulative across multiple seasons. As with all fine revenues, funds will support MWSRA operations.

Monitoring & Tracking:

If the excuse is questionable but the referee is new, MWSRA should err on the side of education, warning, and documentation, but MWSRA should track this information and share this policy with the referee so they are clearly aware of it. Should assignors wish to no longer assign a referee, he/she should seek the guidance of the Administration and Professionalism Committee.