



April 23, 2026

Dear KYSA Members:

Thank you for your continued commitment to growing the game across the Commonwealth and the United States. Your leadership, dedication and passion are the foundation of everything we do to support, develop and elevate the game of soccer at every level.

US Soccer has implemented a national initiative called *#RespectTheCall* campaign to foster a more respectful and supportive environment for all referees, especially young referees. To further this initiative, US Soccer will be issuing Green Referee Badges to all referees under the age of 18 as a visible reminder to coaches, players and spectators that these referees are still learning and deserve patience, encouragement and protection.

You, as a leader in the local soccer communities across the Commonwealth, play a critical role in this effort. Club Directors and Directors of Coaching are responsible for reviewing this policy and informing their coaches of the seriousness of it. Your support in explaining the purpose of the green badge, sharing the message of *#RespectTheCall* and championing positive sideline behavior will make a lasting impact – not just on the referees wearing the badge, but the future of our game.

As you are aware, US Soccer, as part of this initiative, has issued the Referee Abuse Prevention policy (www.ussoccer.com/rap) that has been implemented in Kentucky. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and can't wait to see all that we can accomplish together in 2026.

Yours in Soccer,

Chad Collins,
State Referee Administrator for Kentucky

