

United States Soccer Federation



PROFESSIONALISM AND ETHICS

Three Meanings of Ethics

- **MORALITY** - Universal rules of personal conduct
- **ETHICAL THEORY** - Branch of philosophy
- **PROFESSIONAL ETHICS** - Special rules of conduct followed by those engaged in a common pursuit - e.g....., law, medicine, **SOCCKER REFEREES.**

CONCEPT OF A PROFESSION

- BARGAIN WITH ITSELF
- BARGAIN WITH SOCIETY

BARGAIN WITH ITSELF

- Standards of Training
- Licensing
- Internal Code of Practice
- Code of Ethics

Examples of Bargain with Itself

- USSF Standards for Referee Grades
- Procedures for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials
- The Referee Commitment
- Standards of Dress and Appearance
- Code of Ethics for Referees

BARGAIN WITH SOCIETY

- Specialized Knowledge and Training
- Commitment to Service
- Provide Professional Judgment

Basis of the Bargain

TRUST

The Essence of Professional Ethics

**DO NOTHING THAT WILL
COMPROMISE THE
INTEGRITY OF THE
PROFESSION**

Consequences of the Breakdown of Trust

- Loss of Collegiality (Internal)
- Loss of Credibility (External)

Public and Private Relationships

PUBLIC

- Respect
- Accountability
- Structured /Formal
- What you do

**PROFESSIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS**

PRIVATE

- Love
- Security
- Informal/Relaxed
- Who you are

**FAMILY AND
FRIENDS**

CONFUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CAN LEAD TO ETHICAL DIFFICULTIES

REFEREE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- Other referees
- Assignors
- Assessors
- Coaches
- Players
- Referee in another role (coach, player, spectator, etc....)
- Club and League Officials
- Spectators

EXAMPLE

You are the referee of the game between the Bullfrogs and the Griffins. The Bullfrogs coach is an old personal friend, but the Griffins coach is someone you dislike. How should you handle your pregame meeting with the two coaches?

YOUR TURN

- Each group should identify one specific situation that raises a question of professional ethics.
- Describe one UNETHICAL and one ETHICAL way to proceed in that situation.

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