



To: State Referee Administrators
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment
Grassroot Referees
Regional Referees

From: U.S. Soccer Referee Education Resource Center

Subject: Electronic Communication Kits

Date: July 6, 2021

The use of technology has been part of the referees tool kit for years. Electronic watches, fitness trackers, electronic beeper flags and electronic communication devices (headsets). Training for using electronic communication devices comes when Grassroot Referees upgrade to Regional Referee. There have been numerous instances in youth and adult competitions where the use of electronic headsets has contributed to an incorrect decision on the field of play.

Grassroot Referees are not permitted to use electronic headsets until they have received their Regional Referee License. If there is a split crew of Regional and Grassroot Referees, headsets are not to be used during a game.

The only exception is if the Competition Authority allows the use of the communication devices during the competition duration.