

# The Referee Group February Newsletter

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Topics:

- **2025 Referee Certification**
- **Referee Development Programming**
  - **Friday January 31 – THRIVE: Recovering from Setback**
  - **Sunday February 2 – Ismail Elfath – FIFA, World Cup and PRO Referee joins us 615p**
- **February Scheduling: State Cup, Academy, Winter WPL-RCL-NPSL Matches**

We'll be sending out focused communications about each of these topics.

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## 1. 2025 Referee Certification

If you are not yet certified for 2025, you've likely received emails from Duncan Munro, the WA State Referee Committee's **Director of Retention & Recruitment**. Duncan also serves in this role within our local referee community, supporting certification efforts and providing guidance.

To get certified, please follow [these instructions for 2025 Certification](#). You must complete your certification before officiating any matches in 2025.

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## 2. Referee Development Programming

**Sunday Night Mentoring Groups** will continue online via Zoom this winter, featuring:

- National guest speakers, including:
  - **Feb 2 - Ismail Elfath: FIFA World Cup and PRO Referee**
  - **TBD - Abbey Okulaja: US Soccer & PRO Referee Coach**
- Topical instruction and discussions
- Match debriefs and learnings from recent events

**Friday January 31 – 6p Mental Training Workshop -- Thrive: Recovering From Setback** focused on officials and our approach to match day performance hosted monthly by [Derrek Falor with Thrive.](#)

- Friday January 31 – Kick-Off session with Derrek at Lakeside HS 6-7:45

- These sessions are designed to prepare us as officials to prepare ourselves for the mental adversity that we face throughout a match with challenging decisions and confrontations that come our way through match management.

**2025 TRG Women's Initiative**, in collaboration with US Soccer's Women's Initiative, will host a conference in Seattle featuring a panel of inspiring local and national women leaders tentatively planned in March around one of our ECNL Girls Events.

**TRG Elite Referee Academy** will also debut with applications in route.

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### **3. February Scheduling**

February schedules are being finalized by clubs and should be posted online soon. This will include plenty of local officiating opportunities. While other regions may have already posted schedules, we'll upload ours as soon as we receive them.

Here's what to expect:

- **Academy Events in February: BIG weekend 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>**
    - Girls Academy: 1<sup>st</sup> (LFC GA), 8<sup>th</sup> (OR Premier)
    - ECNL: 2<sup>nd</sup> Girls (Crossfire), 8<sup>th</sup> Girls (WPFC), 9<sup>th</sup> Girls (PacNW), 15<sup>th</sup> Boys (Snohomish), 22<sup>nd</sup> Boys (PacNW)
    - Elite Academy: 8<sup>th</sup> Boys (WA West Surf)
    - Numerous State Cup preliminary matches
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We're looking forward to a productive and exciting winter/spring season. If you have questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

### **The Referee Development Team**

- Larry Metz
  - Peter Maunsell
  - Elizabeth Alexander
  - David Friend
  - Samir Yasa
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