To: National Referees
National Instructors
National Assessors
State Referee Administrators
State Youth Referee Administrators
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment

cc: State Directors of Coaching
Referee Committee

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Subject: **Violations of Law 14 (The Penalty Kick)**

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A series of incidents over the last three years, most recently on July 27 in a match during the National Championship Series U.S. Youth Soccer (Frisco, Texas), indicate that some referees remain confused about the correct way to handle violations of Law 14 (The Penalty Kick). Players are restricted in where they can be and what they can do during the taking of a penalty kick. If there are violations of these restrictions, the referee must decide what to do.

Law 14 was modified in 2005 -- an indirect free kick is now the required restart when the kicker or a teammate of the kicker infringes Law 14 and the ball does not go into the net. In 2006, the location of the indirect free kick was confirmed to be where the offense occurred.

Consequences of an Infringement of Law 14

Who infringed Law 14?	*What was the outcome of the kick?*	
	Ball goes into goal	*Ball **does not** go into goal*
Attacker (including the kicker)	**RETAKE PENALTY KICK**	**INDIRECT FREE KICK***
Defender (including the goalkeeper)	**GOAL (KICK-OFF)**	**RETAKE PENALTY KICK**
Both attacker and defender	**RETAKE PENALTY KICK**	**RETAKE PENALTY KICK**

*From where the infringement occurred

The following points must be kept in mind when applying the above decisions:

- "Ball does **not** go into goal" includes <u>any</u> result of the penalty kick other than the ball being kicked into the net (e.g., ball deflected over the goal line by the goalkeeper, ball kicked over the crossbar).
- The violations at issue include: the goalkeeper moving off the goal line; the kicker engaging in unfair tactics while taking the kick; and any player other than the goalkeeper and the kicker entering the penalty area, entering the penalty arc, or moving closer to the goal line than the ball (i.e., failing to remain at least 12 yards from the goal line).
- It is not required for the same player to perform a penalty kick which the referee has ordered retaken.

The exceptions to the above chart of decisions are:

- If an attacker other than the identified kicker takes the penalty kick, play is restarted with an indirect free kick for the opposing team where the attacker illegally entered the penalty arc or penalty area, regardless of the outcome of any kick that may have been performed by this attacker.
- If the kicker plays the ball backward (any direction other than forward), play is restarted with an indirect free kick for the opposing team at the penalty mark, regardless of any further play that may result from the kicker's action.

Referees must take care to identify who violated Law 14 and the outcome of the kick. The chart above summarizes the correct restart based on these two factors. Given the importance of penalty kick situations, <u>referees must take particular care to get these decisions right.</u>