

Alabama State Referee HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

2016

An outstanding year! You should all feel very proud of our accomplishments!

State Camp: Kari Seitz, FIFA Referee, was the Lead Instructor and provided some of the highest level training available. Honored Bill Walker for his many years of service.

Alabama Open Cup: Several referees recognized by Steve Harvey and Bob Heilman, Lead Instructors and members of the Region III and USSF staffs, as top performers to represent the state at higher level tournaments.

DA Showcase in Dallas: Michael Smith nominated to represent Alabama at the Showcase!

Paul Stanton Youth Referees of the Year: Treasure Adams and JP Archer

USYSA Region III Championships: Excellent Alabama representation with Austin Holt being sent to USYSA Nationals and Jon Sauers and Sam Bierster nominated to USYSA National President's Cup.

Alabama Roadshow: Kim Oberle, former FIFA AR, conducted three excellent sessions that assisted all levels of referees navigate the extensive new law changes.

Winter Showcase in North Carolina: Three referees, Austin Holt, Sarah Brannon and Diego Chulan, represented Alabama at one of the premier youth events!

DA Showcase in Bradenton, Florida: Three referees, Michael Smith, Jon Sauers, and Sam Bierster, were invited to this high level showcase with games including an international friendly between U17 USMNT and Brazil.

THERE ARE MANY MORE ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT THESE ARE HIGHLIGHTSSO PROUD OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE FINE REFEREES AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY ARE RECEIVING.....SUPPORTED BY ALL OF YOU!



*Dedicated to our friend and mentor
PAUL STANTON!*

Reminders

We have learned some good lessons during this last year! Everyone needs to make sure they control these controllables!

- * DO YOUR PAPERWORK! If you need to file a supplemental report, do it immediately! Don't wait. Make sure your entire crew files the needed paperwork! We were VERY BAD at it this year.
- * If you are the referee and you don't hear it (or a member of your crew doesn't hear it), you cannot act. You can mention it but if you didn't witness or hear it, you cannot sanction!
- * Make sure you get the players all the playing time they deserve. Don't let balls out of play delay the match; don't let substitutes delay the match; don't let unnecessary conversations (with players or coaches) delay the match! Do what is necessary expeditiously!
- * Referees are not in charge of parental behavior! When we hear something that shouldn't be said, get the coaches involved! They are the ones responsible!

Let's work harder at our jobs!

2016-2017 Law Changes

Wow! What a ride! In June 2016, we were notified that there were substantial laws changes being printed for our use in the Fall season!

As with any major change, it brought about concern! However, after talking to a number of the referees, it has actually been a rather easy transition. The changes most spectators noticed were the kickoff (no longer has to go forward) and the awarding of a free kick even if the foul occurred off the field.

For the referees, there were a lot more changes that were reflected on the annual tests. Many referees felt the tests were too hard but if we don't know the black-and-white law very well, it is very difficult to interpret the "spirit of the law". The good news is that many of the changes help us support that spirit.....things like no longer always punishing a DOGSO with a red card. Now, depending on the situation, it may only be a

penalty kick and a yellow card. If you have any questions on that, make sure you continue to study those materials housed on the USSF website. Constant review of our materials is critical to serving the game well and letting the players know we are doing our jobs to the best of our abilities.

Remember, if you haven't already recertified for 2017, you need to attend one of the remaining clinics shown on the website. If you wait until 2017, you will be charged an additional \$25 for the class! Study before you go! Make sure you study prior to the class...this will make passing the tests much easier! Success is yours if you put in the effort!

Referee Fitness

Are you refereeing to stay fit or are you staying fit to referee? Many of you are doing multiple games in a weekend. How are you feeling by the last game? Monday morning, are you finding it really hard to get up and out of the house because you worked too hard over the weekend?

You need to get into a fitness program that will help you physically prepare for your matches so you will consistently be mentally prepared.

We have a number of very good people who can share some fitness tips for you! Cedric Thomas, Northern ARA, and Jason Kuehl from the Mobile area are experts!

Finally, consider putting together a fitness group in your local area to make yourself accountable! It also supports that referee comradery! Let's get fit to support our players!

Advanced Clinics Announced!

Are you ready to upgrade? It is a question many referees ask themselves. Check out the requirements on our website; and if you determine that you want to upgrade either from Grade 8 to Grade 7 or Grade 7 to Grade 6, contact our SRA, Pat Miller, our SYRA, Ohannes Younanian, and our SDA, Klaus Staefe. You will need to send a check to Klaus for your assessments. Additionally, you will need to confirm your game counts. You will need to take a Fitness test commensurate with your grade; and finally, you will need to attend an Upgrade Class. The fitness test and the Upgrade Classes are being conducted, January 15th in Prattville. The fitness test will be conducted at the track at Prattville Junior High School and the classes will start immediately afterward at Prattville High School. Let Pat Miller know no later than December 22 if you plan to attend!



SRA — Pat Miller

SYRA — Ohannes Younanian

SDA — Klaus Staefe

SDI — Kris Bailey

SAC — Coral Gubler

ARA North — Cedric Thomas

ARA Central — Kris Rose

ARA South — Jon Sauers

Website: alasoccerref.com