

Greetings from the State Referee Committee !

Spring Is Here — Soccer in Abundance — Alabama Open Cup!

Excitement was in the air over Decatur, Alabama, as the Open Cup kicked off April 9-10 and 15-17. This tournament brought together some of the finest referees in the Southeast Region. The Tournament Director declared this to be the “best group of referees” he had hosted in this tournament to date! Alabama offered Referee Academies both weekends.

During the first weekend Academy (the Girl’s event) Arkansan Steve Harvey, Region III Staff, was our Lead Instructor and provided guidance to our three mentors: Vanessa Rodriguez, Georgia; Delilah Wright, Arkansas, and Brooke Mayo, Tennessee. This team received rave reviews from the attendees. Tim Holt wrote, “Thought all the mentors were approachable, willing to share information, and made an effort to see everyone in their group, and provided some type of feedback”.

The Boys weekend welcomed Bob Heilman, National Assessor/Instructor from Georgia as Lead Instructor with the following mentors: Larry Pachon, Georgia; Nick Uranga, Georgia; Thai Huynh, Mississippi, and Brandon Cohen, Louisiana. Roni Canales, National Assessor, South Carolina, also provided on-field advice/guidance. Ryan Campbell provided this feedback, “I think it was great. I received very helpful information from my mentor as well as a few others. It was nice to be able to tell Nick <Uranga> what I was working on so he could help give me pointers in that area in addition to other things he noticed.

We had 56 referees signed up for the Academy and the feedback was mostly positive. It was suggested that we try to do more instruction to address areas of concern that were seen throughout the weekend and there was also concern about the level of games received. We will continue to “tweak” our Academy model to service our referees at the highest level.

The best part of the weekends was.....the weather! If you attended Open Cup in 2015, you know exactly what we mean!

Some Areas Noted During Open Cup — Every Game is Someone’s World Cup!

- * Referee with confidence; keep your head up, don’t drop it during dead-ball situations; you may need to see something
- * Establish positive eye contact with your referee crew especially during dead ball situations
- * Be very careful of flag mechanics to include only those signals in *The Guide to Procedures* and never clip your flag (hold on to the end) during substitutions
- * Stay in direct alignment with the second-to-the-last defender or the ball when serving as an Assistant Referee

* Don’t get involved in ball watching as an AR....your primary responsibility is Offside!



Top: Mentors-Delilah Wright, Brooke Mayo, Vanessa Rodriguez and Lead Instructor, Steve Harvey

Middle: Steve Harvey talking with the Referees

Bottom: Lead Instructor-Bob Heilman, Klaus Staefe, and Pat Miller





Kim Oberle, FIFA AR (Retired)
Referee Coach

Important Dates:

Spring State Cup, May 7-8, 2016,
Contact Tom Lawson if
you can help

Instructor Recertification, July
23, 2016, Location TBD

Recertification Roadshow, July
30-31, 2016, see Article

SRC:

Pat Miller, SRA

Ohannes Younanian, SYRA

Klaus Staefe, SDA

Coral Gubler, SAC

Kris Bailey, SDI



Recertification Roadshow – SAVE THE DATE – July 30, 2016

We are honored to welcome Kim Oberle, North Carolina, as our Guest Lead Instructor for the North State Recertification Roadshow. The Roadshow will be July 30-31, 2016. We will begin the first session in Huntsville, drive to Gadsden for our second session on July 30th with the final session in Birmingham on Sunday, July 31, 2016. Specific locations and times are still to be determined. Continue to check our website for details....alasoccerref.com! This is your easiest and best way to be certified for 2017!

We are so fortunate to welcome Kim as she recently attended the FIFA Instructor's Course in Florida. She has a wealth of knowledge and returned from providing Referee Coaching in Grenada. She is an excellent instructor and a personable advocate for the Alabama referees.

Because of the many soccer events occurring this summer, we are delighted that Kim said "yes" when she was invited. To receive this caliber of instructor and mentoring during our sessions is awesome!

Look forward to seeing you there! Make sure you prepare by downloading the latest *Laws of the Game* as there are a number of changes for our upcoming year! Be ready to hear the latest from Kim and prepare yourself to ask questions from the very BEST!

Why Do I Need to Check Player/Team Credentials?

There are several adult leagues forming in Alabama. Some of these leagues have been in good standing with the Alabama Soccer Association for several years such as the Huntsville Adult Soccer League (HASL). However, some of our start-up leagues have not registered with the state and paid the required fees. Now, why does that matter to the referees? Remember, we are independent contractors that can work for whomever we want. However, you want to keep the following in mind.....

If you work for sanctioned or recognized leagues, those with rosters and player passes, you can be assured that if there is some sort of incident that occurs on the field, you are covered by the USSF umbrella insurance. This could protect you from a frivolous lawsuit from an incident that occurs on the field.

The reason we require a certain number of recertification hours and a recertification test for our referees is to ensure that we meet all the requirements to keep our referees covered by that same insurance. However, you have a responsibility to ensure that you meet those requirements, attending a full-length clinic and passing the test with a minimum of 80%, as well as working for those leagues that "do things right". Of course, the decision is yours but you need to keep this in mind when someone offers you an assignment and says, "I approve you working here even though we don't have all the paperwork." If you have questions, contact any member of the State Referee Committee!