

Alabama State Referees



Changes....Changes.....

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First and foremost, we all want to thank Bill Walker for his years as State Referee Administrator. Bill has served the State of Alabama for many years but was the SRA since 2008. His vision for the referees of the state allowed everyone to develop and improve through many programs he founded and supported....most importantly bringing high level referees and administrators into the state to further our referee knowledge. Thank you so much for a job well done!

Pat Miller will succeed Bill as the SRA with Ohannes Younianian moving up to the position of SYRA. Both Pat and Ohannes have served in their current positions since 2008. They both shared in Bill's dream of a stronger refereeing community and will continue to move our State in that direc-

tion. Klaus Staefe will remain SDA and Kris Bailey will continue as SDI.

This leaves us the open position that Ohannes vacated: State Assignor Coordinator. This position is responsible for the coordination of referee assignments by the referee assignors within the jurisdiction of the State Referee Committee. Must be a registered U.S. Soccer Referee Assignor within the first year of assignment. Must be a minimum of 18 years of age and knowledgeable about the levels of games being assigned to referees within the State Association.

If you would like to apply for this position, please provide your resume to Pat Miller, sra@alasooccerref.com, no later than March 15, 2015. Include your reasons for wanting to be

the SAC and what you wish to bring to the referees of Alabama!

There will continue to be changes in the refereeing community so make sure you check our website regularly, alasooccerref.com.



Special points of interest:

- The SRC is changing! Lead Story!
- Registration for Referees is changing! You must take note of these changes for this year if you have not registered and definitely for next year!
- Look for many refereeing opportunities!

Open Cup — Two Weekends in April

Once again, the Open Cup Tournament is this April in Decatur. The tournament has grown such that this year there is a Boys Tournament and a Girls Tournament.

The Girls week-end is 4/10-12 and the Boys week-end is 4/17-19. Once again the Boys

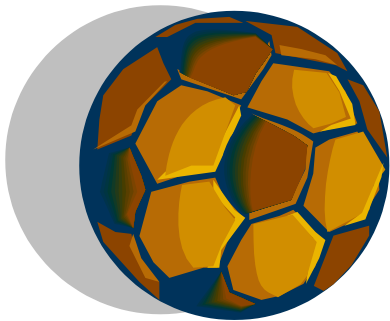
Tournament will include 8-10 International teams. This year the Girls week-end includes 7 NCAA women's teams.

This should be an exciting 2 week-end period for soccer in Alabama. Bill Walker will be assigning both events. We will also host Referee Academies

both week-ends. You will need to apply to referee with Bill, billwalker2495@gmail.com. You may also make a request to be in the academy through Kris Bailey, sdi@alasooccerref.com.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Changes to the Registration Process



United States Soccer Federation is in the process of changing the overall registration system. You will no longer be able to go into the old site and register or update your registration. From March 1 forward, you must access the following site for registration:

**http://
ussoccer.force.com/
referee/**

The full set of instructions

for accessing the site and setting up your account will be on our website, alassoccerref.com. The most important item you must be prepared for is that every referee must have their OWN email address. The email address is your user name so you have to have your own individual account.

If you have already completed your 2015 registra-

tion, you need to do nothing until the next registration year. However, if you have not registered yet, you will need to use the new site for your registration.

Please check the website for more detailed instructions because ussoccer.com/info will no longer be available.

State Referee Clinic — January 2015

**"I decided to become a referee when I was about 10 years old. The motivation arose after I experienced a referee who failed to make an effort to referee my soccer match."
Christina Unkel, FIFA Referee**

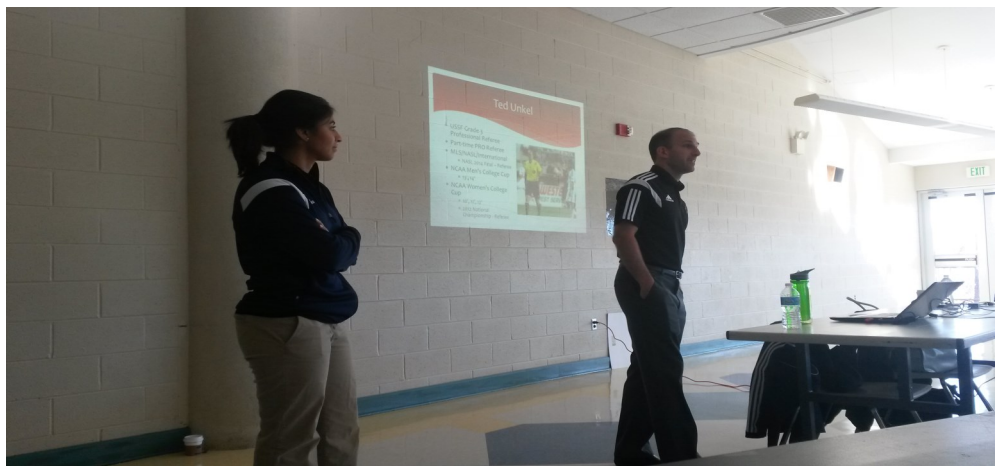
The State of Alabama State Referee Clinic welcomed Ted and Christina Unkel as our instructors. Ted is a PRO referee using his myriad of skills as a referee on multiple MLS matches. Ted shared many experiences while working with our recent World Cup Referee, Mark Geiger. Christina is a FIFA Referee who recently returned from an assignment to the Girl's Youth Olympic

Football Tournament in Nanjing during the summer of 2014. The Unkel's shared numerous of their own personal experiences but also outlined the future of refereeing from a professional level.

They provided instruction to all state referees on Saturday and then provided additional assistance during our first execution of the FIFA fitness test.

Christina was seen running with a group of officials!

After the fitness event, they assisted with the Grade 7 Upgrade clinic by providing additional insight. A great weekend was enjoyed by all.



Do You Want to Be Considered?

As we move into the Spring, the State Referee Committee must start considering people that could be selected to attend some of our premier events. Those events are: Alabama Youth State Cup (younger age groups), Georgia State Cup, Region III President's Cup in Louisiana, and the highest level event the Region III Championships in Little Rock, AR.

As always, the SRC has been observing referees during the Fall but if you wish to be con-

sidered for these higher level opportunities, you must make an effort to be seen. One of the best events for observation will be the Open Cup advertised on the front page of this newsletter. There will be numerous assessors and observers in attendance and you need to make an effort to attend.

These identifying events are critical to understand the next level of refereeing. If you have any questions about why you would want to attend one of

these events, contact one of the people who have attended these events in the past. An excellent source would be Cedric Thomas in the north; Michael Smith in the central part of the state, and Jonathan Sauers in the southern part of the state! These are just a few of the people who have attended these tournaments!

Please consider moving to that next level!



Recertifying Referees

We have had an extreme dip in our registrations this year. Our numbers are down by about 33%. This means that we will not be able to meet our contractual obligations for the remainder of the refereeing year.

We need each of you to con-

tact anyone you know that has not recertified and encourage them to come back.

Additionally, if you know why they have decided not to return, please let a member of the SRC know so that we can work on making the experience more positive for them so we

can have a better retention rate in the next few years.

We are offering recertification clinics to accommodate those referees that are late in registering. Each attendee must pay a \$25 late fee. Please encourage everyone to come back to help us out!

Alabama State Referee Committee

SRA: Pat Miller

SYRA: Ohannes Younananian

SDA: Klaus Staefe

SDI:: Kris Bailey

Don't forget the website!

Alasoccerref.com



This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Fitness Test — January 2015

The physical fitness test given to all grade 6, some grade 7 and a few grade 8 referees was a great success. It was a 40-meter sprint six times and the interval run of 150 meters followed by walking 50 meters for 10 laps. We had a 98% passing rate.

Make sure you pay attention to the new assessment requirements presented in the 2015 recertification to ensure you are ready for future upgrade opportunities.

