

MIDLANDS SOCCER OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Monthly Newsletter - November 2024

Note from the President:

Another Fall season is coming to an end. I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to a little R&R with Thanksgiving coming up and the Winter break. On that note, there are plenty of opportunities to continue refereeing locally. Both Dennis and Brian will need help covering post-season playoff games and the OPEN CUP in December (in Lexington). See the contact information below for the two assignors.



Now.... Here is what we ask everyone to do over the Winter break. **RECRUIT!** If you have friends, family, or teammates that are considering or wanting a good paying job, suggest refereeing to them. Have them visit <https://screferees.com/> for more information and to get registered. **For the first time in a long while, the Columbia Area is #1 in referees registered in the State of South Carolina!!! Let's push for 400 referees by the end of 2025!!!**

MSOA and South Carolina continue to work with US Soccer behind the scenes to actively address coaching and parenting sideline etiquette. However, I can't stress enough to the seasoned officials to address or NOT have "thick skin" when parents, coaches, or players come after you or your youth/green officials. I have heard and witnessed quite a few incidents of coaching and parental behavior that would even make baseball parents blush.

January training: We are proud to announce that MSOA will be sponsoring another on field higher level training seminar in January. Our hope is to offer training to better ourselves and instill confidence in you to make those critical calls or let the game play continue and later walk off the field with no regrets.

Assignors Corner:



Contact either Brian Paulen (Lexington Assignor), Dennis Cook (Columbia Area Assignor), or Sofia Hernandez (Adult League) to make sure they have your information and that you are ready to work in the Spring/Fall. Also, and this is critical, **UPDATE YOUR ARBITER availability weekly**. If you know you cannot work on any given weekend or weekday, block the time/day accordingly.

Brian ~ referees.lexsc@gmail.com (USSF)

Dennis ~ denniscook@aol.com (USSF & HS)

Sofia ~ admin@columbiascsoccer.org (Adult league for refs 18 years or older)

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Referee Spotlight: (To honor the hard work of two of our local officials)

October Referee of the Month

REFEREE SPOTLIGHT



Alberto Smith
Age: 27
Referee Start: 2022

"I am a Ph.D Chemistry student at USC. I decided to start refereeing in 2022 during the weekends. I love being part of the game, and learning every time I am in the soccer field. I enjoy refereeing both youth soccer and adult games. I have done State Cup finals and Central League finals. I have been playing soccer for more than 20 years. I play UPSL with Soda City and won the National Championship in the Spring 2024."

November Referee of the Month

REFEREE SPOTLIGHT

Brian Tomblin
Age: 53
Referee Start: 2023

"Started refereeing in NE Ohio when in high school once I realized that my current job as stock boy at a local department store was beyond awful. Was able to work my way up over a few seasons to head referee/assignor of a 2000+ player club league in East Cleveland. I played soccer in HS and then in college for Case Western Reserve. Graduated as a Mechanical Engineer and now VP of Engineering at Zeus which is a large local medical plastics company. I got away from the game for 20 years, didn't touch a ball or referee until my son Connor who plays for SCUFC got into soccer. While sitting at the fields waiting in the car for him to AR some random game I thought "Why am I sitting here?" I went through recertification in 2023 and here we are a long long time later. I thoroughly enjoy working games at any level and particularly remember those days in the Cleveland as a 20yr old working the international men's league in some pretty heated battles. If they couldn't fight the other team they would fight each other. LOL! That really happened a few times."

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Did You Know ?!?!? (Law 14)

During a PK, the goalkeeper touches the crossbar causing it to move which distracts the kicker who is running at the ball. What is the correct decision if the shot misses the goal?

The penalty kick is retaken and the goalkeeper is warned if it is their first offense.



Did You Know ?!?!? (Law 12)

An attacker is fairly challenged from behind by a defender inside the penalty area. The challenge is not considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force. What is the correct decision?

The referee allows play to continue because the defender did not commit a foul while challenging the opponent for the ball.



A defender (Team A) attempts to clear the ball out of the penalty area. The clearance is blocked by an opposing player (Team B), and the ball deflects off their foot to the Team B attacker in an offside position, who then scores a goal. What is the correct decision?

The referee disallows the goal and awards an indirect free kick to Team A. The attacker (Team B) is penalized for an offside offense because they interfered with play, having been in an offside position at the moment the ball was touched by another Team B player.

Upcoming events and training: (In the Midlands area only)

Visit the SCYSA.org website for other statewide tournaments

December : HS referee registration will be starting, Contact Dennis for more information at denniscook@aol.com

Dec 7-8 : Open Cup in Lexington, Gibson Road Complex
Contact Brian with your availability @ referees.lexsc@gmail.com

Nov 26 - Dec 11 : various playoff games for advancement in the area, check with Dennis or Brian for possible games, and **UPDATE YOUR ARBITER!!!!!!**

January will offer our MSOA on field training. More finalized information will be coming soon.

Send your responses/questions to : msoa.south.carolina@gmail.com

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As part of our commitment to supporting our refereeing community, we have our email setup for you to send your questions to regarding:

How to get registered to become a referee,

How to get recertified,

Accessing red card reports and where to send them to...etc. etc....

Thank you again for all your hard work!!!!

See you on the pitch,

MSOA Staff

Look us up:

Instagram: msoa_sc

Twitter : @SoccerMidlands

Facebook : MSOA - South Carolina (James Neary)