



Memorandum

September 5, 2014

TO: Registrants of Metro-DC and Virginia State Referee Program
FROM: Patrick J. Delaney, Chairman, State Referee Committee
SUBJECT: Referee Feedback Program with WAGS and NCSL

All:

As has been presented over the last few general meetings of the Assignors, Administrators, Assessors and Instructors, the State Referee Committee has been developing a system to allow the data input and collection of feedback for, potentially, every match played in Virginia and DC.

At the January 2014 session, we demonstrated a version of "How is my Refereeing" at RefFeedback.com (<http://reffeedback.com/>) This Fall, the Washington Area Girls Soccer (WAGS) and National Capital Soccer League (NCLS) has asked to pilot the system. They understand that this is NOT a punitive system; rather, it is a professional development tool. With over 6,500 referees in the program, we need to leverage the eyes on the matches to help provide input the referee program evaluation and management, as well as protect our referees from an individual that wants to "Have his say" at a match. We will be able to identify what areas we are strong in as a program and what areas we need to focus on, based on the aggregated feedback. We hope this will also enable us to identify referees early in their careers who demonstrate potential for higher level matches. As we have said many times, we don't know what we don't know, until we try to collect the data. We are hoping this system will be one enabler in improving the Metro-DC and Virginia State Referee Program.

This system has been designed as a way to collect data on the performance of the referees to help manage the referee program. Also, it will not substitute the coaching mentoring or assessing initiatives throughout the state. The data will be given the value that it deserves. Continual biased and unprofessional feedback will be discounted or ignored. Only the SRC has access to the data and will not release it to WAGS or NCSL. This was agreed upon with the leagues. They are committed to helping the referee program in its developmental goals in any way they can, because they understand that they will see the benefits in the long run.

We will provide an update at the January 10, 2015 meeting of Assignors, Administrators, Assessors and Instructors of how the system is working and the information development on the referee program from the data collected.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. DELANEY
Chairman, State Referee Committee