



CenterCircle

Volume 1, Issue 1 a publication of the Virginia-Metro DC State Referee Program July 1998



DC United Game and Referee Clinic

August 22 - 23

This August 22 and 23, the Virginia-Metro DC State Referee Program and DC United are sponsoring a Referee Nite and Referee Clinic. On Saturday, August 22, at 7:30 PM, DC United plays the New York New Jersey Metrostars at RFK Stadium in Washington, DC. All referees, families, and guests will sit together on the upper deck at a reduced ticket price of \$15 per ticket. Our young referees of the year will be honored on the field during the halftime ceremonies.

The referee for the game is Brian Hall, a FIFA referee from California who officiated the MLS Championship game last year. The two Assistant Referees and the fourth are all National Referees from Virginia – George Vergara, Todd Perry, and Dan Stead.

On Sunday, August 23, Brian Hall will conduct a referee clinic. George, Todd, and Dan, along with the match inspector from Saturday's game, will also participate. As part of the clinic, Brian will use the game film to discuss critical

continued on page 2

December Clinic in Richmond

December 12 - 13

Again this year, the Virginia-Metro DC State Referee Program will hold a referee clinic in Richmond during the weekend of December 12 and 13 at the Richmond Hyatt Hotel. Esse Baharmast, our FIFA referee at the World Cup in France and the new Director of Officials for USSF, will be the clinician. Alfred Kleinaitis and Herb Silva from the National Office will also be present.

As in past years, the clinic is the same weekend as the NCAA Men's Final Four Soccer tournament which is being held in Richmond for the final time in 1998. Tickets to the semi-final games on Friday and the finals on Sunday are available to participants in the clinic.

The clinic will be held Friday evening after the first round games, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning, ending in time to get to the finals Sunday afternoon. Cost of the clinic will be \$25. Tickets to the NCAA games are \$35.

To encourage more young referees to attend the clinic, the SRA is offering free tickets to the NCAA games to any referee who attended the clinic last year, attends this year and brings a young referee along with him or her.

Mark your calendar now and find a young referee to bring with you. Watch for clinic details and an order form on the website (vadcsoccerref.com).

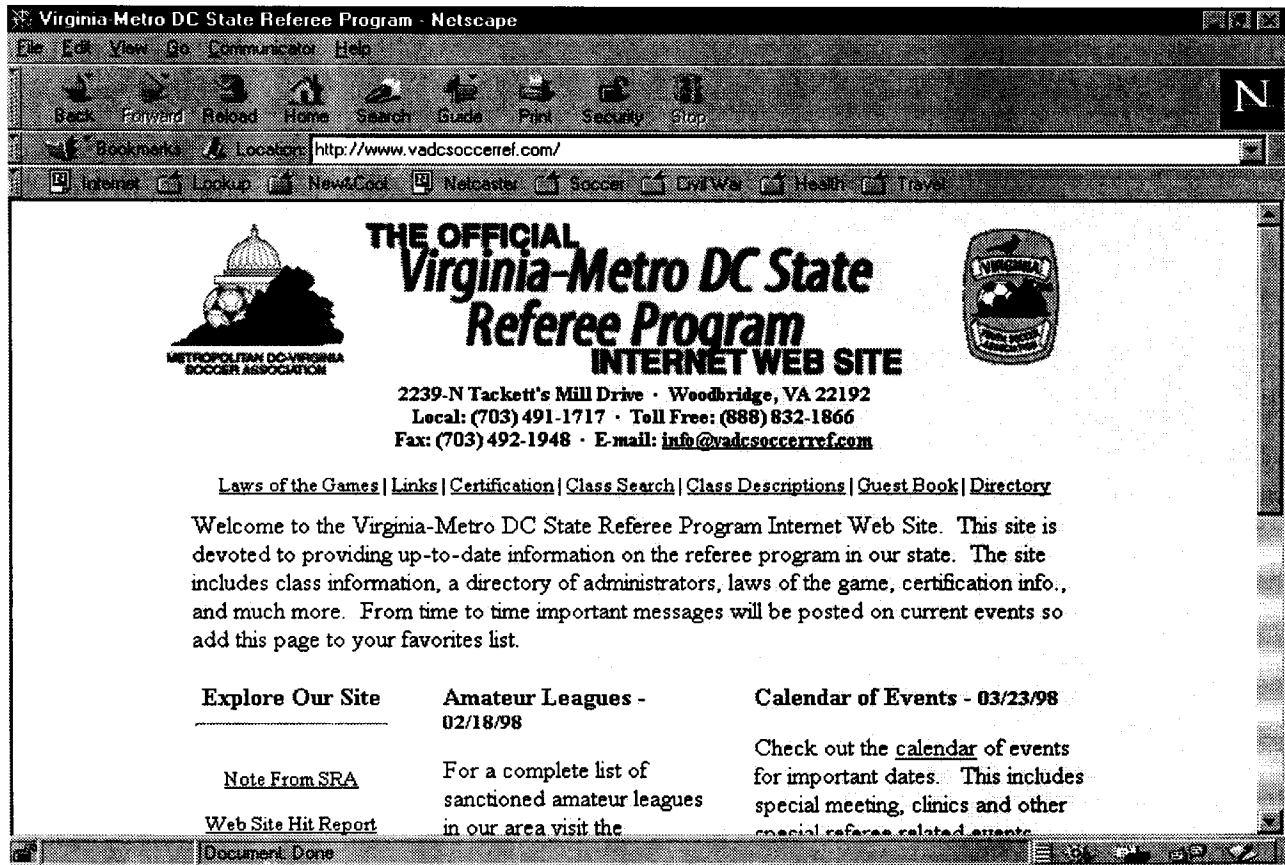
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 DC United Game and Clinic
- 1 December Clinic in Richmond
- 1 Lifetime Membership in USSF
- 2 Referee Website – vadcsoccerref.com
- 3 State Director of Instruction
- 3 Logo Contest
- 4 Help Wanted

Lifetime Membership in USSF

Anyone who has 25 years in good standing as a referee, instructor, assessor, or administrator is now eligible to become a Lifetime Member of the United States Soccer Federation.

If you know of a referee who meets these criteria, please send the person's name and background information to the SRA at the state office.



continued from page 1

game calls, why he did and didn't do certain things, player management techniques, referee communication, and other topics of interest. The other game officials and the match inspector will participate in the discussion.

The clinic is open to any certified referee and will be held from 9:00 to 3:30 at the Crystal City Hyatt Hotel. Cost, including lunch, is only \$15 for Virginia-Metro DC referees. Rooms have been reserved at \$95 a night for any referees traveling from out of town who wish to spend Saturday night at the hotel.

All ticket purchases for the game and reservations for the clinic must be received by August 10. Use the order form enclosed in this mailing to order tickets and to reserve a place at the clinic. Copies of the order form can also be found on our website (vadcsoccerref.com) or can be sent to you by calling the state office at (703) 491-1717.

Come and join us at this very special and fun event. Enjoy the game at a reduced price and sit with your fellow referees and families. Then attend the clinic, watch the game again and discuss with the referees their views of what happened on the pitch. Seating at the clinic is limited, so please send in your order forms as soon as possible.

VADCSOCCERREF.COM

If you haven't already found our website, logon to vadcsoccerref.com and add a bookmark to your browser. This is the official site of the Virginia-Metro DC State Referee Program and one of the primary means of communicating with referees in Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The site contains several sections that should be of great interest to referees:

- **Class Schedules:** all referee classes are listed as soon as they are scheduled. The schedule can be searched by type of class (new, re-cert, senior re-cert, instructor, assessor, etc.) and area of the state (North, Central, East, and West or ALL). Dates, locations, and points of contact are returned.
- **Whistle Talk:** this contains a series of articles of interest to referees that are updated and changed periodically. Any referee who wishes to contribute an article can do so by submitting it to the state office. All articles are reviewed and, if necessary, edited by the SRA, SDI, and Dan

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

Heldman, State Instructor, to ensure their accuracy with respect to the Laws of the Game.

- **Announcements and Notices of Upcoming Events:** notices of future events of interest to referees will be posted on the website. The August 22-23 clinic and the December clinic in Richmond, for example, are posted, as well as information on the search for a new State Director of Instruction.
- **Forms:** a collection of forms used by referees, instructors and assessors is posted. These can be downloaded by referees and printed.
- **Directory:** all members of the State Referee Committee plus all state staff are listed along with addresses where they can be contacted.
- **Links:** Links to other referee and soccer sites are posted. This section will continue to grow as new links are added.

This site is designed to provide you, the referee, with the information you need. Please provide us with feedback to help improve the site. Let us know what other information you would like to see. Feedback can be provided to the webmaster, Ben Jones, the SRA, or the state office from e-mail addresses provided at the site.

Logo Contest

The logo shown on the front cover of this issue of **CenterCircle** was created by using the logos of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association, United States Soccer Federation, and the Metropolitan DC -- Virginia Soccer Association. As referees in Virginia and Metro DC, we belong to USSF and serve both the youth (VYSA) and the amateurs (MDVSA) but we don't have our own logo. Isn't it about time we have a logo for the referees, maybe incorporating parts of their logos but also distinctively for referees?

If you have any creative talents, why not create a logo and send it to the state office. Don't worry about having a finished product. We can get a good graphics artist to finalize the idea. We are looking for creative ideas that will produce a logo the referees can be proud of that we can display on mailings, luggage tags, etc.

The winner will receive a pair of tickets to the Women's World Cup games held in Washington, DC next year.

State Director of Instruction

Mr. Gil McCallister, State Director of Instruction (SDI), has announced his resignation effective sometime between July 1 and December 31, 1998. The exact date will depend upon when a new SDI is approved. Gil has served Virginia well for the last ten years as the SDI and his resignation was received with great regret. We are going to miss Gil's leadership, organizational skills, and instructional expertise. Gil assures us that he will remain active as a State Instructor, State Assessor, and State Referee Emeritus. He also plans to return to coaching now that his grandchild is of soccer playing age. All of us in the soccer refereeing community wish Gil well and extend a hardy "thank you" for the many long hours of service to the game.

The State Referee Committee is now actively seeking candidates for the position of State Director of Refereeing. The requirements for the position along with an abbreviated job description are listed below. Anyone who is interested in the position and has any questions should contact the SRA, Scott K. Meyer, either by e-mail at sra@vadcsoccerref.com, by phone at (703) 591-6660 ext. 1101, or by mail at the Virginia-Metro DC State Referee Office, 2239-N Tackett's Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Applications, including a description of the candidate's expertise and experience, should be sent to the SRA by August 1.

State Director of Instruction

REQUIREMENTS: Must hold the rank of State Referee Instructor for a minimum of one year. (May receive acting appointment with lower instructor grade if actively pursuing the State Instructor's badge.)

COMPETENCIES: Planning, implementation, administration, instructional training, and knowledge of the Laws and procedures.

DUTIES:

1. Carries out the National Instructional Program
2. Has Budget and Fiscal responsibilities for the Instructional Program
3. Interprets the Laws of the Game in the State. Serves as a liaison between the State and National Associations.
4. Other duties as assigned by the SRA, SRC or National Director of Instruction

Help Wanted

At the June meeting of Instructors, Assessors, and Assignors, the State Referee Administrator announced four new projects for the coming year. Each of these need people to plan, organize, and participate in them to make them happen. If you are interested in working on any of these projects, please contact the SRA at the state office or via e-mail at the website (sra@vadcsoccerref.com).

- **Referee Camp for Young Referees** – a camp for young referees consisting of classes, field exercises, and matches. Every referee will receive a mentor for the camp and for the coming season.
- **Mentor Program** – many clubs and organizations have mentor programs that work. We need to build on the best of these programs and develop a state wide program.
- **“Operation Pull-Up”** – every senior referee commits to work with one referee at a lower grade and to “pull” him or her up to the next grade during the year.
- **Begin long range plan -- what do we need?** – what do we need to do in terms of recruitment, training, retention, and advancement to keep up with soccer in the state? What mix of referees? Where? Develop data on referees and matches to begin the process of developing a long range plan.

Re-Certifications

Watch the website for listings of re-certification classes this fall. Books and badges for all re-certifying referees will be given out at the classes to avoid the problems we had this year with late badges (as of this writing, the SRA still does not have his badge from USSF!).

Senior referees must re-certify at one of the senior classes before December 1 or wait until the *one and only one* make-up class in February. All requirements must be met before attendance at the re-cert class.

Upgrade Classes

A new 8 hour upgrade class for referees going to R1 (Grade 7) has been developed and will be given throughout the state this fall. A new 16 hour S2 (Grade 6) class has been developed and will be given at least twice in the state during the fall.

Attendance at these classes will be mandatory for anyone wishing to upgrade to R1 or S2. The class may be taken anytime within the year a person upgrades. Referees will then need to attend a senior re-cert class *after* the upgrade class and all other requirements have been met.

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Dumfries, VA
Permit No. 22

Virginia - Metro DC State Referee Program
2239-N Tackett's Mill Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192
(703) 491-1717 (888) 832-1866