



# CenterCircle

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Special VYSA Workshop Issue

## Vergara Appointed FIFA Assistant Referee

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) announced on December 7, 1998, that George Vergara, a National Referee from Virginia, has been appointed to the International List of Assistant Referees for 1999. George is the first referee from the Metro DC-Virginia State Referee Program to be awarded a FIFA badge.



George graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1985. A former player, George received his Class "A" Coaching License in 1993 and coached several State Cup championship teams beginning in 1992. He received his referee instructor's badge in 1996 and his National Referee badge in 1997. He was recently appointed as the VYSA representative to the State Referee Committee.

George has been an active soccer referee at all levels of USSF soccer. A typical month during the summer will find him working youth matches in the Richmond area, amateur games throughout the state, and professional games both in Virginia and throughout the United States. He regularly travels to referee "A" league and "D" league professional matches and has been an Assistant Referee for Major League Soccer since 1996. In his new assignment, George will work as an Assistant Referee in international matches both here in the United States and abroad.

George and his wife Dianne live in Chester, Virginia, along with their two young children. All of us in the referee community are proud of George's accomplishments and wish him well in his new assignment.

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### Burns, McCallister Honored

Russ Burns, a State Referee and State Assessor, was selected as the Outstanding Assessor of the Year and Gil McCallister, a State Referee, State Assessor, and State Instructor, was selected as the Outstanding Instructor of the Year. Russ is the Area Assessor for the North and one of the most active assessors in the state. Gil is the recently retired State Director of Instruction. Both awards will be announced at the VYSA luncheon and the awards will be presented during the referee workshop sessions.

# Young Referee Development Program

The State Referee Committee recently announced the formation of a Young Referee Development Program to include a referee camp for youth referees. The program has three purposes: to develop young referees, to increase the retention of referees beyond ages 17-18 when the sport tends to lose most of them, and to aid in the selection process for young referees of the year.

As proposed by the SRC, the Young Referee Development Program will be a 10 month program involving up to 24 young referees who are nominated to be the young referees of the year. During the ten months, they will be assigned a mentor, attend a four day referee camp, get several developmental assessments, and have the opportunity to participate in premier tournaments and games such as Border Cup, State Cup, WAGS, etc.

As part of the program, young referees will be nominated by each area of the state in early March and selected to be in the program by the end of that month. During the spring season they will be assigned a mentor and will receive at least one developmental assessment. During the summer the referees will participate in a referee development camp and at least one major state tournament such as Border Cup. During the fall the referees will be assigned a different mentor, receive another developmental assessment, and participate in key premier tournaments such as WAGS and State Cup. Based on their performance, two of the referees will be selected as the young female and male referee of the year. All referees and their parents will attend the VYSA workshop the next year and be recognized during the luncheon.

Plans for the referee camp are still underdevelopment but, as outlined by the SRC, would include classroom instruction, field modules, and assessment of games. Depending on the time and location of the camp, games might be tournament games such as Border Cup, or friendly scrimmages between teams from the same league. Also under consideration is a plan to hold the referee camp in conjunction with an ODP camp and use those games for the scrimmages.

The Young Referee Development Program will be under the direction of the SRC Technical Staff (SRA, SYRA, SDI, SDA) with assistance from a committee to be formed. Anyone interested in serving on the committee or helping out in anyway should contact the SRA.

Young referees who are interested in participating in the program should contact the State Referee Program office, the SRA, SYRA, or any assignor. More information, including a nomination form, will be available soon. Watch for information in the next issue of the **CenterCircle** and on the web site at [vadcsoccerref.com](http://vadcsoccerref.com).

## From Those Who Would Strive To Be The Best -- To One Who Is

So read the plaque presented to Esse Baharmast, FIFA Referee and USSF Director of Officials, by SRA Scott Meyer, at the end of the Senior Referee Clinic held in Richmond during early December. Esse, along with Julie Illaqua, Chairman of the National Referee Committee, and Paul Tamberino, SYRA from Maryland and recently named Outstanding MLS Referee for 1998, were the instructors during the two day clinic. Their presentations included a new USSF video entitled "Myths of the Game" and Esse's moving story of his trip to the World Cup, the penalty kick call against Brazil, castigation by the world press, and finally praise once the famous picture was posted on the web.

Over 100 referees from seven states attended the two day clinic held in conjunction with the NCAA Final Four Men's Soccer Tournament. Watch the web site and future issues of the **CenterCircle** for more coverage of the clinic.