



CenterCircle

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New National Referees from DCV Certified at USSF Camp

At the recent National Referee camp held in Houston, Texas, Mike Vogel and Ken Kaplan, State 1 referees from the Metro DC-Virginia State Referee Program successfully completed camp and were upgraded to National Referees for 2001. Mike and Ken join 11 other referees from DCV who were re-certified as National Referees for the current year. The camp marked the culmination of a successful year of training, assessments, and preparation for Mike and Ken. Congratulations to both of them for a job well done.

Mike and Ken join the following referees from DCV who re-certified as National referees this year: George Vergara (re-appointed to the International Panel of Assistant Referees), Paul Best, Chip Boatwright, Andy Chapin, Bill Dittmar, Patrick Delaney, Doug Engstrom, Tim Ehram, A.G. Gomez, Byungil Noh, Todd Perry, John Schmitz, Mike Stutt, and Steve Taylor. Chris Mulholland became a National Emeritus referee this year. Dan Stead, a National Referee for the past five years, was unable to attend camp and will return next year.

Virginia referees were first in both the 200 meter sprint and the 12 minute distance run. Kaplan had the fastest time in camp for the 200 meter sprint and Noh ran further in 12 minutes than any other referee in camp. Congratulations to both of them. Well done!!!

We have always been extremely proud of our National Referees. Not only have they represented Metro DC-Virginia well, both at camp and around the country, but also they have done it with an spirit and comradeship that is second to none. The following letter, written by Todd Perry, one of our senior National Referees, to me illustrates that spirit. The letter tells how they pulled together to help Todd get through camp this year.

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To Scott Meyer, SRA:

I know you are very aware of the special group of people that you lead and represent, but I wanted to inform you of something that happened this weekend in Houston. As you may be aware, I have been chronically ill for several weeks and unable to shake Bronchitis and an upper respiratory infection. I have attended every training session that we have had (even the ones in the snow in Northern VA and three at Falls Church HS with Paul Best and Steve Taylor), but I have struggled with my training. I was very upset about not being able to compete and perform in Houston. Steve and George Vergara and I had some very candid discussions and they convinced me that we had trained hard and that I could pass the fitness test.

On Sunday morning, I went to the track alone and focused on achieving my goal. All the other guys had passed their test on Friday so I was running a make-up test by myself. Everyone had gone to dinner the night before and (rightfully so) celebrated another terrific year and a great camp. From the stories, everyone had a great time and made new friends. I was very proud to see nearly everyone of our team show up at the track and cheer me on. Many of them took turns running with me, calling splits, and driving me to the finish line. Mike Vogel and Ken Kaplan proved they were as a part of this group as any member; even Mr. Noh was verbally cheering me on and ran with me for the last two laps. Prior to camp at all of our training sessions, the best I had done was 2620. On Sunday, I finished the distance with 15 seconds to spare and won every sprint.

The power of our team and the hours and sweat this group puts in every weekend through the holidays pays off and inspires great feats. You represent and are the leader for a truly unique group of guys. I just wanted you to know how special they are. I appreciate all they do for me and the thought that each of them are with me at every time I train, instruct, assess, or enter the pitch.

Todd Perry, National Referee

Every referee in the program should take great pride in these National Referees. Maybe some of us will never reach that level, but certainly every one of us can emulate

their spirit, their hard work, and their commitment to their fellow referees.

Referee Training Opportunities for the Year

By Bob Kuhnle, State Director of Instruction

For the first year of the new millennium, the State Referee Program has planned a training program designed to give every referee in the state the opportunity to increase his or her refereeing abilities. Details on each, along with application forms can be found on the Metro DC – Virginia State Referee Program web site at www.vadcsoccerref.com.

VYSA Workshop: Saturday, February 10, Richmond Convention Center. Two different sets of workshops will be held in conjunction with the annual Virginia Youth Soccer Association workshop. Aimed at adult and experienced referees, the first workshop will be led by Nate Clement, a USSF National Referee and member of the International Panel of Assistant Referees. Four workshop sessions will be held beginning at 8:30 in the morning.

The second set of workshops is aimed at youth referees and will consist of three sessions beginning at 9:45. George Vergara, a National Referee and member of the International Panel of Assistant Referees from Virginia will lead these sessions. Both groups will come together for the last session of the day for a field exercise. In addition to these, an assigners' class will be held throughout the day.

Instructor and Assessor In Service Training : Saturday, February 17, Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Fredericksburg. Assessors will meet from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and instructors will meet from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Regional Professional Clinic and Advanced Referee Training: Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, Maryland. The Maryland and Metro DC-Virginia State Referee Programs have combined to sponsor a two-day clinic. Angelo Bratsis (past USSF National Director of Referee Assessment) and Paul Tamberino will be the instructors. Both are former National Referees and past members of the International Panel with extensive international refereeing experience. Saturday's clinic is by invitation only and is aimed at those referees who will work professional games this summer. Both clinics will be held in Maryland. For more information, contact the State Office or see the referee web site.

Youth Referee Camp: July. This summer the State Referee Committee will hold its third annual Youth Referee Camp for 14 to 18 year old referees. Referees will arrive at the camp on Sunday afternoon and leave Thursday after a picnic dinner. During the camp, referees will get classroom instruction, physical training, field exercises, and will referee games played campers attending the soccer camp.

At this time, neither the date nor location is firm at this time. Keep checking the web site www.vadcsoccerref.com for

details. An application form and information on the deadline to apply will also be found at the web site.

Adult Referee Camp: Spring and Summer. Modeled after the very successful Youth Referee Camp but making allowances for the fact that most adult referees hold full time jobs, this camp will give adult referees a chance to get advanced instruction and lots of practical experience refereeing games. The camp will be held over several weekends, probably in different parts of the state.

The camp is aimed at adult referees with several years of experience who wish to advance in terms of the level of game they are refereeing. In particular, it is aimed at those referees wishing to referee adult and senior youth games. Details and applications will be on the web site shortly.

MLS DC United (June) and WUSA Freedom Referee Clinic: Again, the Maryland and Metro DC-Virginia State Referee Committees are cooperating to sponsor two clinics in association with United and Freedom. The clinics will give referees a chance to meet and talk with the referees who are assigned to work these professional games.

At this time, the DC United clinic is scheduled for Saturday, June 2. The game is in the afternoon with the clinic to follow. The clinic associated with the women's game has not yet been scheduled. Again, details will be posted on the web site.

Senior Re-cert: For those senior referees who have not already re-certified for 2001, two make-up sessions will be held on March 10 in Northern Virginia and March 11 in Richmond. Times will be posted on the web site. Referees who have not re-certified will be notified by mail.

Upgrade Clinics for Grade 7 and State Referee: Several years ago, USSF began requiring that referees who are going to upgrade to Grade 7 or to one of the two State grades (Grade 6 or Grade 5) must attend an upgrade clinic. This is in *addition to* attending the senior re-certification clinic. These upgrade clinics are designed to equip the referee to officiate games at a higher level. The clinics will be taught periodically throughout the state and can be taken any time during the upgrade process.

Additional Training: Throughout the year, additional training opportunities will be scheduled, both by the State Referee Program and by local clubs and associations. Only by attending as many of these opportunities as possible, can we referees ensure that our game keeps up with the advancements in youth and adult play throughout the state. Take advantage of these opportunities and become a better referee.

ASSESSVOUS

by Paul Rapalski, State Director of Assessments

I recently completed my annual report to the National Office on the state of the Metro DC – Virginia Assessment Program. In developing that report I reviewed our accomplishments and the problems that still need to be addressed. On the positive side of the ledger we have come a long way in documenting and standardizing the policies and procedures that support our program. Unfortunately, putting procedures down on paper don't make them a reality. Problems based on years of misunderstanding about the assessment program and the, "I thought I once heard it was done that way" syndrome still prevail.

Several steps have initiated to help everyone understand how the program works. A field evaluation module has been developed and incorporated into the Grade 7 referee upgrade class. We are in the process of developing a webpage for the State Referee Website that will address the upgrade process to include the field evaluation element. And, most importantly, there is a team of Area Directors for

Referee Assessment in place to assist you with the assessment process. These individuals know the current policies and are there to help you by ensuring you are aware of the requirements associated with a field evaluation or upgrade assessment, answering your questions, scheduling the assessor for your match, and in some cases, working with the assignor to get you the match you need for the level of assessment you are trying to obtain.

If you are a Referee Grade 7 or above, you will need an annual maintenance assessment at some point during the year. If you are thinking about upgrading to a higher referee grade level, you will need at least one assessment. Contact your Area Director for Referee Assessment early in the season to start a dialogue on your requirements and to project when you would like to have your field evaluation (i.e., assessment). Get to know your Area Director, he is there to help you through the process.

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Collaborative Program With The George Washington University

A significant "first" for DC/Virginia took place in January. With the cooperation of The George Washington University, in Washington, D.C., the Referee 8 certification course was offered for the first time to students for undergraduate college credit.

Through the efforts of the Department of Exercise Science, School of Public Health and Health Services, Dr. Pat Sullivan and USSF Referee Instructor, Dr. Harvey Snyder, worked with State Referee Administrator, Scott Meyer, to develop the concept and approve the program. One additional feature of the program is that in addition to the 16 hours of required contact time, supplementary materials are available through the distance education program of the university called Prometheus. Use of the distance learning tools available through Prometheus will enable students to access detailed course outlines, quizzes, presentations, film clips, and other digitized materials outside of the formal classroom. Field experiences will take place through arrangements with the recreational sports office of GW.

Students enrolled in the program are both undergraduates and graduates, some with prior refereeing experience and some who are new to officiating. Students come from as far away as Minnesota, Michigan, New York, and Maine, and their reactions have been quite positive. One comment by a student at a recent class reaffirmed the consistent content of the Referee 8 course throughout the country. Having been originally certified some years ago in Minnesota, the student was delighted to see the Laws of the Game being taught with the same consistency as in his home state. The availability of supplementary materials outside of the formal classroom was a very positive aspect of the course.

Should you wish to replicate the model of instruction at another university or community college, please contact Dr. Snyder at GW. You can reach him by e-mail at hsnyder@gwu.edu or by phone at 202-973-76

Gil McCallister Appointed to Chair State Referee Committee

Denise Edwards, President of Virginia Youth Soccer Association, and Wally Watson, President of Metro DC Virginia Amateur Soccer Association announced last week that Gil McCallister has been appointed Chairman of the State Referee Committee. Gil becomes only the second chairman of the SRC and takes over from Larry Monaco who resigned after serving in that role the last seven years.

Gil is no stranger to the State Referee Program. He served as the State Director of Instruction for many years when Bob Kuhnle was the SRA. In stepping down as the SDI's role three years ago, Gil didn't get much of a vacation. He was then appointed as the Area Administrator for the Central area that includes Richmond and the surrounding areas. Gil has remained active as a referee, an instructor, and an assessor. As a State Instructor, he has been responsible for teaching the advanced instructor training program in the state.

In taking over the position of Chairman of the SRC, Gil said, "We have a tremendous job to do in meeting the needs of our customers – the youth and amateur soccer players in DC and Virginia. I look forward to working with the State Referee Committee and all the referees in the state to ensure that we provide both the quantity and the quality of referees that we need to serve this great sport."

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