



Flags and Whistles

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The Newsletter for Katy Youth Soccer Referee's

Welcome to Volume Two Issue number two of Flags and Whistles, the official referee newsletter of Katy Youth Soccer. Is it just another soccer season or do you, like me have a feeling that for referees it could be the beginning of better times??

A number of things happened during this past spring season that made me sit up and recognize that finally things are showing improvement for Referees. We had recognition from parents and coaches for our KYSC game performances, praise from many for our coverage of the Sunday PDF games and finally, but by no means least important, we attracted to our ranks several experienced referees who added their skills and abilities to the knowledge pool that is, KYSC Referees.

All this positive feedback reflects a change in attitude that is most welcome and this season I hope we can build on this still further.

The KYSC Board is determined to continue to implement the "zero tolerance policy" towards blatant criticism of referees during and after the game by parents, players and coaches alike. This approach has worked very well and is a major factor in helping to create a positive playing environment for all. It is the dissent and abuse in the "heat of the moment" that concerns me and which, if we believe the English Football Association, causes the greatest number of resignations by Referees from the game. The continued firm stance by both KYSA and KYSC Board members is most welcome and wholeheartedly supported.

Locally our numbers are growing and this can be attributed to the enthusiasm shown by our current referees and to the environment they work in. My hat comes off to all the Board members with their pro-active approach to Referee abuse and to the Coaches and Parents for getting the message so quickly.

Finally for this season can I just add that with the addition of more small sided games at U-11 it is important that we all understand the rules that exist for each age group. Take a moment to read the rules and make sure you apply them as appropriate. Don't be timid about blowing your whistle or raising your flag, be assertive and most important of all have fun and enjoy a great season!!!

How the KYSC Referee process works

Tell us you are available

Every Monday throughout the season an email will be sent out to the entire KYSC Referee group asking your availability to officiate the following weekend's games. If you wish to Referee on that weekend you must respond by email to this request stating that you are available in the morning (8-12) or afternoon (12-5) or the entire day. If you wish only to officiate small sided games or act as an Assistant Referee only please include this information in your response also.

Your game assignments

This information sent in by each Referee is used by the Assignor to allocate crews to each and every game. The details of the weekend assignments are sent out by email on Thursday of each week to all assigned Referees.

Got a problem?

If there is a problem with the games you have been assigned or something unexpected prevents you fulfilling your commitment it is important that you contact the Assignor or myself as detailed on the contacts page of this newsletter. If you fail to turn up for your assignments without prior notification on two occasions in a season you will not be assigned any further games.

No games assigned?

It maybe possible that on some weekends the number of volunteering Referees exceeds the number of game assignments. In this event the Assignor will give priority to those that have not been assigned for the following weekend to ensure a fair and reasonable game allocation throughout the season.

Why Standby Referee?

Each weekend we will be assigning a Referee as the official paid Stand-by Referee to cater for any unexpected problem. A Stand-By Referee should be prepared to officiate any age group game as either a Center or Assistant Referee. If the Stand-by officiates games they are paid the Standby pay plus the game pay.

Game Day procedure

It is important that each assigned Referee arrives at Katy Park at least 15 minutes before kick-off time. There needs to be sufficient time to check-in the teams and meet your other officials. Before proceeding to the first game every Referee MUST sign in at the Referee Schedulers table located alongside the Katy Park concession stand. Signing in informs the Field Co-Coordinator that you are present at the park and working your assignments. It is important that you sign for every game you are assigned to officiate at because this is the only proof the Assignor has that you worked these games. If you fail to sign for your game you may not get paid!

Referee Assessments

This season KYSC will continue using its cadre of senior referees to assess the performance of all referees and assistant referees. These assessments are completely informal yet will provide valuable and impartial feedback from a qualified and experienced referee. The number of Referees greatly outnumbers the number of available assessors that I have available so please bear with us as we work through you all. If you feel you have adequate experience to help us with the Assessment process please contact me.

The assessment provides me, as VP KYSC Referees, feedback on how well each official is performing and if they are ready to be offered a chance to move up to an older age level game and ultimately on to more competitive games. This approach gives referees and assignors a clearer understanding as to which level of competition each assessed referee is ready to officiate at and avoids situations where inexperienced officials are tasked with officiating games they are not yet equipped to handle.

My intention as VP KYSC Referees is to promote KYSC Referees for use by HYSA, TYSA, EDS2 and eventually EDDOA. In addition I would like to think that we could provide officiating support for local tournaments held at Bear Creek and Katy Park. This will in turn enable you as Referees to improve your skills, earn more money and develop your officiating abilities.

New Referee Pay Rates

Listed below are the new referee pay rates for the Fall 2008 season

Age Group	CR	AR
U7	\$20	
U8	\$20	
U9	\$20	
U10	\$20	
U11	\$26	\$13
U12 - U13	\$30	\$15
U14 - U16	\$36	\$18
U17 - U19	\$45	\$22.50

Referees are paid by check every other week and checks are mailed to the address we have on record for you. If you have moved house or had mailing issues last season that you think could be related to an incorrect or incorrectly spelt address please send any corrected or current details to me at the email address shown at the end of this newsletter.

Why I became a referee

Brief article written by Howard Webb an English Premiership Referee.

I never actually wanted to be a referee growing up as a teenager. It wasn't something that appealed to me. But when I realized I wasn't going to get to the heights I'd hoped for as a player, my father, who was a referee, made me aware of a referee's course. I thought I'd give it a go because most of the referees for the games that I'd played in seemed to be old men.

I honestly thought there was a need for some younger people to be involved. I also thought that younger refs might get more respect because they might be fitter and be a bit more in tune with the game. So me and a few mates went down and passed the course when I was about 19 years old. Even back then leagues were so desperately short of officials, so you got games straight away. And if you had an aptitude for it then you got pushed through the ranks quite quickly.

I got a lot of pleasure from refereeing right from the start. Every time you walk out onto the field, the FA are entrusting you with that particular game. For a young lad of 19, that gives you a feeling of worth. It made me feel quite responsible and that's the message I'm trying to get across. When the game goes smoothly, you get a good feeling of satisfaction; that you've managed 22 people for 80 or 90 minutes for a successful game of football. I got more satisfaction from that than being involved in a team that might have lost 5-0 on a Sunday morning. On top of that you get all the benefits of maintaining your fitness, a good camaraderie amongst the refereeing community and now it can be a full-time career. I never realized that when I started out.

At local level there is a lack of respect sometimes for those that have decided to become referees. You get people who would never do it themselves and would rather stand there and criticize from the sidelines. We have to try and educate people about the importance of referees. If we're short of referees at local level it will affect the quality of refs in six or seven years at the top level. There are so many games that are being refereed by unqualified officials which is doing harm to the game. I know from when I played there is nothing better than when a referee turns up who is neutral and qualified. It's just like having proper nets in the goal or having a decent ball; it's part and parcel of what you need to have a good game. I've never experienced any violence as a referee but then being 6'3" and 15 1/2 stone probably helps! Not that you need to be that. You need to have a strong personality and a belief in yourself.

Being a good referee is all down to the way you manage people and how you communicate with them. You need to be fit and you need to be dedicated. If you're a young person you need to aspire high but keep your feet on the ground and be prepared to learn and listen.

2008 certified?

For those of you just starting out as a Referee I hope that you will enjoy your first season with us and look forward to seeing you for many more seasons in the future. For those of you returning for another season, Welcome back! Please make sure that you display your new 2008 Certification badge on your Referee shirt for every game. **If you do not display a current 2008 badge you will not be permitted to officiate.**

Last season we had several occurrences were Referees turned up to officiate in non-standard uniforms, incorrect shorts, incorrect socks etc. KYSC pays each of you an allowance towards your equipment and as a result expects you to dress only in official referee attire. Please do not turn up in non-standard uniform. In addition please make sure you bring Flags, Whistle, Cards, Notebook and pencils as a minimum to every game as part of your standard equipment.

KYSC Age related rule changes

The last pages of this newsletter contain the KYSC Rule changes implemented for the small sided games for the younger age groups. Please take a moment to review the changes as there are rules here that are different to the standard FIFA rules that are applied on the full sized fields. The separate pages, when printed, can be folded three times to make a handy reference guide prior to each game. Getting the rules out mid-game will not instill sideline confidence in your understanding of the rules!!

Referee Officials contact information

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