

TIPP CITY YOUTH SOCCER

OFFICIATING NEWS!

www.tippsoccer.org

May 2012

Dear Referee Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in learning how to become a referee in the upcoming **2012** Fall SAY Soccer season. After reading the information describing the *TCYS Referee Program*, complete the *Referee Application* on the TCYS website. In order to become a referee, you must attend the following training:

- **Introductory Clinic on the Laws of the Game (must attend both days)**
 1. Indoor Class on Saturday, **August 4**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Zion Lutheran Church at the NW corner of Third and Main Streets. Park and enter in rear on W. Walnut St. Free pizza and pop will be provided at lunch. Instruction/videos will continue through lunch.
 2. Outdoor Session on Sunday, **August 5**, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Kyle Park shelter/restroom facility near the Passers fields at the east end of the main parking lot.
- There is no charge to attend.
- **YOU MUST CONFIRM YOUR INTENT TO ATTEND BY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1.**

TCYS is a member District of the Miami Valley East Area of SAY, comprised of Graham, Miami East, Northwestern, and Bethel school districts. Opening Day is Saturday, **August 18**. The regular season ends Saturday, **October 6**, followed by tournament play. I have posted the [2011 Referee Report](#) on the TCYS website, www.tippsoccer.org/Referee_Information.html. This will give you an idea of the scope of the referee program.

There are two referees assigned to each match. Each will be paid according the following payment schedule:

- U8 Passers – \$10
- U10 Wings – \$18
- U12 Strikers – \$20
- U14 Kickers – \$20
- U18 Minors/Seniors – \$22

As I hope you already understand, refereeing is not just about money you will make, but it is also about providing a very valuable service to the kids playing the game. As a referee you will gain a perspective of the game that you will get in no other way.

It is my intent to help develop anyone who wants to referee and to assist any referee who wants to improve. I will take every opportunity I can to assess each referee's level of interest and apparent knowledge of the game. I will also assist any referee who wants to improve. However, if you decide after completing the training that refereeing is not for you, or you encounter too many scheduling conflicts, that's fine....just let me know.

Before you take the field I must be reasonably confident that you are interested in and capable of becoming a referee. One way I do this is via the **SAY Referee Test**, which you will be given to take home and return to me. **You will be permitted to use your SAY Rulebook and any other resource to take the test.** This is the best way to build your knowledge of the *LOTG*. You must return the answer sheet and test booklet to me before you can request matches. A minimum score of **70** qualifies a candidate to referee; those scoring **below 70** may be permitted to continue on **Probationary Status** at the discretion of the TCYS Referee Coordinator.

After the clinic and prior to your first match, you will observe part of a match from the perspective of a referee. I or another experienced referee will go over some of the finer points with you.

Matches are no longer assigned by the Referee Coordinator. Rather, referees select their own matches on a scheduling website. So, it is essential that you have access to a computer and an active email address for ease of communication. Prior to Opening Day, you will be assigned a Referee number and password that will give you access to the TCYS game schedule website. Here, you will find matches to request. I will then email you my confirmation of your match selection. Generally, a more experienced referee will be your partner. The level and the number of matches you will be permitted to select will depend in part upon your test score, your general presence on the field, dependability, and the number of referees vying for games.

During your first year you will referee only in the Passers Division (6-7 yrs), unless you clearly demonstrate the capability to handle the older age groups. I will try to observe you in action and provide feedback, or I may get an opinion from your veteran partners on your progress. Many TCYS referees also play soccer. There is no doubt that refereeing has enhanced many soccer players' understanding and appreciation of the game.

To prepare to be a TCYS referee and to prepare for the Introductory Clinic your first task is to go to www.saysoccer.org. Click on the 'Referee' link in the left margin, then click 'Online Training'. You will find an online SAY Referee Training Program that will take you through the LOTG at your own pace. As you go through each section, you will be given questions. As you answer them, you will be given immediate feedback and may return to the material just covered for clarification. You will find this online course very helpful. Also, I have posted the TCYS Referee Course Outline at www.tippsoccer.org that you may review before attending the clinic.

In the meantime you can also visit www.ussoccer.com which also provides much information about the *Laws of the Game*.

- **Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game** – <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Instruction.aspx> - This book in pdf is a must-read for all referees. It very thoroughly elaborates on each law. When reading it, keep in mind that the National SAY organization has modified only a couple of the laws for the betterment of recreational play, mostly regarding substitutions and play by the Goalkeeper in the *Passers* and *Wings* divisions. That's why you receive a SAY Rulebook instead of the USSF Laws of the Game. As you read 'Advice', keep your SAY rulebook handy for comparison. This is a great way to improve your knowledge and understanding of the game.

Other very valuable resources on this site:

- **The Laws of the Game – section on Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees** – <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Laws-of-the-Game.aspx> - Click *Laws of the Game*; the *Interpretations* section is towards the back. Special considerations for each Law are covered.
- **Position Papers** – <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Instruction.aspx> - Click *Training* - Here are more explanations and clarifications of certain aspects of the LOTG and other related topics.
- **Ask A Referee** – You have to type in "Ask A Referee" in the "Search" window – Here is an archive of many questions that Referees and coaches have submitted concerning situations they have encountered. An expert at USSF answers them clearly and succinctly. As always, the answer often comes down to the judgment of the referee. But at least 'he' explains the "why" behind the law in each situation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and **confirm with me by Wednesday, August 1 that you plan to attend**. I hope to see you on **August 4**.

Thank you,

Mike Mahan, Director of Officiating - TCYS, INC.
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