

TIPP CITY YOUTH SOCCER

OFFICIATING NEWS!

www.tippsoccer.org

April 2011

Dear Referee Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in learning how to become a referee in the upcoming **2011** 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 6**, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Tipp-Monroe Twp. Building basement at the corner of Third and Main Streets (4 E. Main St.). Enter the Third St. entrance. Free pizza and pop will be provided at lunch. Instruction/videos will continue through lunch.
 2. Outdoor Session on Sunday, **August 7**, 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 3.**

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 20**. The regular season ends Saturday, **October 1**, followed by tournament play. I have posted the [2010 Referee Report](#) on the TCYS website, which summarizes all the data from the previous Fall season. (Go to the [Referee](#) page.) This will give you an idea of the scope of the referee program.

There are two referees assigned to each game. 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.

As a first-year referee, you will be asked to attend at least one game as a spectator sometime during the first week of play. I or another experienced referee will go over some of the finer points with you. Then you can expect to be assigned to games in the Passers Division (6-7 yrs), unless you demonstrate the clear capability to handle the older age groups. Generally, a more experienced referee will be your partner. The number of games you are assigned will depend upon your test score, your general presence on the field (as judged by me and your veteran partners), your availability and dependability, and the number of referees that I have. I will try to observe you in action and provide feedback to you, or I will get information on your progress in understanding the game from you veteran partners.

I try to spread the number of game assignments evenly among the new referees. Of course, this depends ultimately upon your availability. Many of the referees also play soccer or have other fall activities to work around. It is important that you try to take advantage of each opportunity so that you can learn the art of refereeing more quickly. Refereeing has helped many soccer players appreciate the game even more.

You will also be given the **SAY Referee Test** 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. (No one has ever scored '100!') You must return the answer sheet and test booklet to me before you can request games. You should try to get a score of **70** or better, which is the minimum to meet the **Qualified** referee level, according to USASAY. USASAY permits anyone scoring <**70** to referee on **Probationary Status** at the discretion of the District Referee Administrator; TCYS chooses to allow these candidates to referee.

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 games to request to referee. I will then email you confirmation of your assignment. Prior to your first assignment, you will observe part of a game to view it from the perspective of a referee.

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 on '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 the Online Training, you will answer questions after each section. You will be given immediate feedback and can go back to review the material just covered for clarification. I don't expect new referees to remember all the material, but you will find this online course very helpful. **Please send me an email when you have completed this online course.** I also ask that you review the TCYS Course Outline that is posted on the TCYS website. It is the same presentation I will be covering at the Clinic.

In the meantime you can also visit another website that will assist you in gaining more information about the *Laws of the Game*: www.ussoccer.com. The one publication you will find most helpful is:

- **Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game, by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF)** – <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Resource-Center/Zone-1.aspx> - This document clearly explains and elaborates the laws of the game as the 'world' plays it. 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 involving substitutions and the Goalkeeper for the 6-9 year old age groups. That's why you receive a SAY Rulebook instead of the USSF Laws of the Game. As you read this 'Advice', keep your SAY rulebook handy for comparison. This is a great way to improve your knowledge and understanding of the game. These resources have helped me tremendously, and I know they will help you, too.

Three other very valuable resources on this site are:

- **Interpretations of the Laws of the Game and Guidelines for Referees** – <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Laws-of-the-Game.aspx> - Click on **2010-11** Laws of the Game - FIFA Version / page 55. Special considerations for each Law are covered.
- **Ask a Referee** – also under 'Laws of the Game' - Referees and coaches alike send in questions on the laws of the game and 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. I refer to both of these documents all the time.
- **Position Papers** – detailed explanations and clarifications on specifics of the LOTG and other topics

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. **You must confirm with me which clinic you will be attending by Wednesday, August 3.** I hope to see you on **August 6.**

Thank you,

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